

Subject: [DPNeBlast] A response from Scott Gifford, DP hires lobbyist, an Ela Township Open Meeting

Date: Friday, February 20, 2009 10:58 AM

From: Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>

Reply-To: deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com

To: Scott Gifford <sgifford53@gmail.com>, <campaign.info@votedeerpark.com>

Cc: "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com>

Conversation: A response from Scott Gifford, DP hires lobbyist, an Ela Township Open Meeting

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009

Scott, thank you for your response (below) to our invitation to participate in a Presidential public forum. We hereby confirm receipt, per your request, although we do wonder why it took a month to develop. We are copying all interested parties on this email.

Just to keep the record accurate, the pro bono services to the village in developing the first brochure on Vehe Barn rentals (just one of the reasons you list for refusing to participate in the DPN Forum) were the work product of Wordspecs Ad Agency, not of Deer Park Neighbors. You, Scott, and I both run legitimate businesses here in Deer Park. Sometimes you or I might be acting on behalf of an enterprise, other times on behalf of the community. It's called wearing many hats.

As to Deer Park Neighbors making a profit from our web site or eBlasts--from your mouth to God's ears!

Finally, your interpretation that Deer Park Neighbors wants to influence the political agenda is interesting. If we were political, we would run for office. You announce that you are going to participate in the League of Women Voters' forum; their mission statement says:

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan **political organization** that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

That works for us!

What we think is that Deer Park Neighbors brings a far better knowledge of the local issues to the table than does the League. No disrespect to the League, but they do not send a representative to every public meeting in Deer Park. The League doesn't videotape meetings. The League doesn't provide regular, detailed information about what is happening in Deer Park, nor do they beg, plead and cajole residents to come to open meetings.

Scott, you really missed an opportunity to demonstrate your sincerity when you say that "residents should be given every opportunity to compare and contrast their voting choices." That's what we were offering: an opportunity to see the presidential candidates side by side—but with really, really tough questions. And you know that Trustee Bob Kellermann had already agreed to appear.

But above all, we are concerned that you might be unduly influencing the others on your slate. Shouldn't each one of them be able to make his or her own decision? Are you all joined at the hip, or can we count on four individual, independent public servants?

If you feel that our news service has too much impact on the results April 7, we would expect you to refuse to participate in any activities sponsored by the local newspapers. After all, they comment frequently—and to a somewhat larger audience—on every issue in the current campaign.

Scott, it is your privilege to cherry-pick your times and places. However, we think you both underestimate the intelligence of Deer Park residents and overestimate your ability to control the message.

We still hope that you and the other candidates on your slate will fill out the simple Candidate Profile we provided. Unique visitors to our web site's election page have increased tenfold in the last week alone. I cannot imagine that any of you can afford to pass up that much exposure.

At the very least, you could all provide contact information, so that our readers could—on their own and without any direction from DPN—contact you to talk about the future of Deer Park.

Signed,
Deborah Barry, PR/Secretary, Deer Park Neighbors, Ltd., in consultation with Al Barry

On 2/19/09 4:53 PM, Scott Gifford at sgifford53@gmail.com wrote:

TO: Al Barry, President, Deer Park Neighbors Ltd.
Deborah Barry, Secretary, Deer Park Neighbors Ltd.

In response to your request that we attend a candidate forum sponsored by Deer Park Neighbors Ltd., we respectfully decline. While we believe the residents should be given every opportunity to compare and contrast their voting choices, we also feel strongly that it would be inappropriate to participate in a forum sponsored by any for profit business located in the village, particularly one that (a) has already taken public positions on a number of campaign issues and (b) has performed services for the Village government, albeit pro-bono. Deer Park Neighbors has clearly established its intent to influence the political agenda in the Village and to profit from that activity. As a result, candidates who participate could have their independence questioned as a result of DPN's sponsorship, issue positions and endorsements. This is not an outcome that we are willing to accept. We strongly believe the Village elected officials should be clearly independent of and not inappropriately influenced by any political interest group or business.

As you know, on Monday, February 16 the Village Board of Trustees approved village sponsorship of a forum moderated by the League of Women Voters to be held at the Vehe Barn on March 8. We intend to participate in this independent forum. We hope that the residents will take advantage of this and other opportunities to learn about the issues and the candidates so that they can make an informed voting decision.

We would appreciate acknowledgement of your receipt of this message.

Sincerely,

H. Scott Gifford
Joyce Trost Beattie
William C. Koutsis
William P Michael

DEER PARK HIRES LOBBYIST

Per both Barrington Courier-Review and Lake Zurich Courier-R

“President Barack Obama signing the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Tuesday and Deer Park officials hope a lobbying firm can get

the village funds to help pay for its roads program. The Village Board voted 4-2 Monday to approve a \$60,000 contract with law firm Barnes and Thornburg LLP for lobbying services to attempt to get \$2.4-million to fund the first two years of Deer Park's 10-year road program. FULL STORY:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1437914,ba-deerpark-021909-s1.article>

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CITIZENS' FORUM ON ELA TOWNSHIP—TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

>From Barb Evans

Deborah,

This is a very new group that is forming to review the polices of our Township, and any votes we would like to make at the next Town meeting. I think every community minded citizen would find it a very interesting meeting. Please forward the following to your group.

Barbara

Join us...

Sunday Feb. 22, 3 p.m., Please RSVP

Every year, citizens are given the unique opportunity to vote into law the things they want in their township. It's called a township annual meeting, where residents can rule! This is where citizens can hold their elected officials accountable to the needs and demands of their constituency.

Here are the items the Ela Township Progressive Democrats will be discussing on Sunday, with an eye toward putting them on the agenda at the Township's April meeting.

- 1: Prohibit spending by township board members on personal items such as cell phones
2. Eliminate the Road Commission, since we only have 16 miles of township roads left.
3. Require Township functions to not discriminate by age, race or gender (balanced funding.)
4. Require Township budget to be posted online on their website
5. Require that all Township meetings be recorded and broadcast on cable
6. Put a freeze on Township salaries (except full-time employees.)

LOCATION: The home of Nancy Shepherdson
24444 Middle Fork Rd., Deer Park
(off Cuba Road, west of Ela Road. Turn right on Old Farm, then right again on
Middle Fork; first driveway to the left)
RSVP: Nancy Shepherdson, nancyshepherdson@hotmail.com

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President
847-867-1867 <http://deerparkneighbors.com>
Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com
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