

**Subject:** [DPNeBlast] Today's Forum; CN Complaints Already Rolling In!  
**Date:** Sunday, March 8, 2009 9:55 PM  
**From:** Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>  
**Reply-To:** deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com  
**To:** "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <DPNeBlast@deerparkneighbors.com>  
**Conversation:** Today's Forum; CN Complaints Already Rolling In!

host\_name

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Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009

Well, would you call it “ironic” or “iconic”? Today’s candidate’s forum was held in a downpour, with much of the Vehe property under standing water (and the windmill is looking a little off kilter). To say the forum was well attended would be a bit of a misstatement. It is fair to say the main room couldn’t have held any more people—but then it is very small with challenging sight lines and audibility. A few hardy souls took to the loft.

The crowd, however, leaned toward the Gifford slate; after three years, it’s easy to recognize the usual suspects. Those in attendance were either die-hard meeting-goers or related to a slate by blood or affection. John Lahr was unavailable for the forum.

The high score of the day has to go to Dale Sands, who arrived a few moments late after “the friendly skies were not so friendly.” Dale, who was returning from a long-planned volunteer commitment out east, was relaxed, confident and on point, in a situation where we would have needed a hot cup of coffee, a sandwich and some time to unwind. That’s poise, Dale!

At present, Dale, Bill Koutsis, and Keith Olson have submitted profiles to the DPN web site. We have the promise of one more, which we will post immediately, though the opportunity is open to all, right up to the day we vote. Hey, Scott, let your slate do as they choose. You have nothing to lose by sending a simple, generic document, the kinds of questions that are basic to getting to know a candidate. You succeeded in preventing your slate from participating in a DPN forum—where questions from the floor would be asked and candidates would question each other. So be generous on this point.

As to slates, we don’t like them. We have four votes that we will spend on who we see as the best people. And we hope that somewhere in this campaign, there is a chance for you to see each candidate not just with his or her slate, but as individuals, as neighbors, as

people of different backgrounds and skill sets and ambitions. Because we don't need a slate, we need hard-working, sincere, independent thinkers.

Sadly, there was such a rush to forum, this event could not be adequately promoted (even by leveraging the village's emergency notification system!) so that people would have time to arrange their schedule to be present.

The top issues were:

- are village finances in good shape or ill?
- is the roads program funded or not?
- can Vehe be "framed" as part of our parks system

Well, actually, that's about it. Pretty much everything boiled down to budget and roads and Vehe. But we did note, we couldn't help but note that, as we have always suspected, the Hotel tax, to begin sometime this summer, could well be directed to Vehe. The idea we heard kited by the Gifford slate was to expand the role of the events coordinator.

We did not hear anyone talk about developing additional attractions right there in the Triangle, where the comings and goings would naturally lead to shopping and eating in our two malls. What an oversight by both campaigns.

Now do you see, at least in part, what this election is all about?

Here were the questions—although since we were not permitted to record the event...

Oh wait. That's not true. We were told (only verbally, nothing was put into writing) that we were not permitted to record this event. But in fact, no one from the League of Women Voters who conducted the event had anything to say against our filming, and we feel, frankly, bamboozled. Had we brought our video camera, no one would have prevented anything except—and this is standard—using any of the images/recordings in any campaign advertising.

Well, we don't support candidates. We did try, as did other residents, to find the people in charge in advance. No success.

So here were the questions, from our handwritten notes, and yes, a lot of them were high, arcing softballs, but two of our questions were included (see red):

- How do you see the role of residents in making decisions or setting village priorities for projects?
- What is your long-term vision for Vehe and other parks in Deer Park?
- Would you advocate any changes to Village staff, if elected?

- What should the village do to help homeowners who back up to EJ&E, if the legal appeal to the CN acquisition fails?
- What additional development do you foresee in Deer Park?
- What is your position on the condition of roads and drainage?
- How would you meet State affordable housing requirements?
- **What is your position at to posting Agenda and financial materials on the village web site?**
- Do you favor the hiring of a lobbyist to get stimulus funding?
- Now that Deer Park has full-time fire protection and another fire house in the village, why can't we burn [garden materials] more frequently?
- What is your position in working with surrounding communities?
- **Would you support the appointment of an Ethics Officer and an Emergency Management Coordinator?**
- Will you restore "New Business" to the end of the Village meeting agenda?
- What do you see as the future needs of Deer Park?

As to posting Agenda items, we spoke to President Gifford after the event and told him directly that we would volunteer (as he had mentioned in his answer to that question) to upload materials to the village web site. He said it was up to the board.

**To the Board: Will you pull the trigger? Or was Scott's response just rhetoric?**

And so, two hours passed. Big picture:

- the Gifford slate pounded on being debt-free in 2010, having a million dollar reserve at that time, having had 77 events hosted at the Barn (in the last two years), the baseline for development is the standard set at Deer Park Town Center and Kellermann's having "cancelled" the roads program
- the Kellermann slate pounded on the village having dissipated the reserve from \$3.4 million down to \$1 million, the roads program had been presented for four months in a row but still not funded, the village lacks transparency in financial disclosure, and special interests rule the roost (that's not...OK, that is probably a Vehe reference, at its core)

For the most part, in our humble opinion, all the candidates acquitted themselves well enough, and yes, we will report on the answers to the above to anyone who is interested; we made extensive notes, but time here is short.

It seemed that the Gifford slate was more rehearsed, not as responsive in their answers—or you might say, they had prepared answers to give, regardless of the questions asked. The Kellermann slate had a greater breadth of conversance, were feistier, were not satisfied in the village's bottom line, more demanding of changes to the status quo, but were as a whole less articulate—but they were missing a member.

Even though we don't agree with hiring a lobbyist, we wish Gifford well on his recent trip to Springfield and his upcoming DC trip. And we hope the village gets the funds we all need.

At the end of the day, if the candidates are sincere, we will have not an Ethics Officer, but an Ethics Panel, New Business back on the agenda (although Gifford thinks your 5-minute public comment is sufficient), posted municipal materials and some kind of emergency response plan that goes beyond taped outgoing messages.

We regret that this one "debate" (although candidates could not respond to each other) was so early in the campaign. Still, for those in attendance, they have the basis for asking the hard questions when candidates come knocking on your door.

We still hope to develop the opportunity to put at least some of these candidates in a room where they can question each other in front of you, the residents. OK, we still can dream!

Biggest divergence was on the recent hiring of a lobbyist. Here, the Gifford slate had what certainly seemed to be prepared responses: "There was nothing immoral, illegal or unethical in hiring a lobbyist." That wasn't the question, you understand, but that was the response, times 4.

Whereas you, the residents, have responded to this decision along the lines of, "where did the village get \$60,000 all of a sudden?"

So there you have it, folks, our extreme disappointment that you did not turn out, and our needing to take some time to transcribe our notes. If you are interested in the outcome of this election, you must, must, must engage now. The election is only four week away.

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FROM FIGHT RAIL CONGESTION, and DPN asks you to remember, instead of giving the legal defense fund \$10,000, the village gave only \$5,000 on the same night that they spent \$60,000 on a lobbyist for Stimulus funds.

----- Forwarded Message

**From:** <administrator@fightrailcongestion.com>

**Date:** 8 Mar 2009 13:54:16 -0700

**To:** <wyngate150@sbcglobal.net>

**Subject:** CN Complaints are Already Rolling In!

Even before the redirected CN traffic flows, TRAC has been fielding freight complaints on our complaint registration form at [www.FightRailCongestion.com](http://www.FightRailCongestion.com).

From Frankfort, to Joliet, to Aurora, to Bartlett, Deer Park, and Lake Zurich, you are letting us know that the EJ can't possibly handle the volume of freight CN has planned for it. Registered complaints included:

WAYNE: The railroad crossing at Army Trail Road was blocked by a stopped train for almost 30 minutes. There is no posted phone number by the tracks to call the railroad. Several cars were honking their horns.

AURORA: Idling trains are causing our whole house to shake and vibrate. After sitting around for 20-30 minutes they lay on their horn and slowly vibrate their way down the line.

AURORA/NAPERVILLE: Last night on my way home I had to wait for 30 cars to make a left, at the Normantown\91st street intersection. I sat for 10 solid minutes. Then decided to make a right instead of waiting any longer. Then sat in another back up at Normantown\Keating Rd. Needless to say there is absolutely NO way around this huge inconvenience!!!! WE NEED OVER PASSES OR UNDER PASSES!!! THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

NORMANTOWN: Long, slow train choking the evening rush. The line of cars waiting was so long that other streets feeding into it were at a standstill. Residual delays were another 20 minutes. Why are these trains being re-routed before the overpasses are in place??? We are putting the cart before the horse here.

We urge everyone to keep vigilant and share your stories at the TRAC website – by doing so, you will let us know where the problems are occurring as well as help the STB understand that its environmental analysis on this transaction was fundamentally flawed. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE COMPLAINT REGISTRATION FORM IS MEANT TO ENABLE YOU TO SHARE SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL COMPLAINTS, SO DO NOT USE IT JUST TO REGISTER YOUR GENERAL OPPOSITION TO THE FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

You can find the form on the upper lefthand corner of the home page at [www.fightrailcongestion.com](http://www.fightrailcongestion.com). Make sure you bookmark that site and use it as often as necessary!

----- End of Forwarded Message

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