

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Citizen Endorsements: Finley, Diesen-Dahl, Kryska
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 1:58 PM
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Conversation: Citizen Endorsements: Finley, Diesen-Dahl, Kryska

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors
DATELINE DEER PARK, TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

Today we are sending three Citizen endorsements, to be followed tomorrow by more. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS. This enterprise, Deer Park Neighbors, is all about inclusiveness. We will publish and archive online any email endorsement sent by April 7.

Remember, all three of these Neighbors who have performed their civic duty by attending many village meetings, not only to negotiate issues of personal interest, but to see their village government in action. In effect, they are doing YOUR job for you, if you have not been to a Village meeting. We think that endorsements by those who observe the government directly carry great weight, and while we have encourage participation from all of you, no content in these endorsements has been suggested or provided by Deer Park Neighbors.

We have not altered a single word, simple unified type fonts and sizes for easiest reading; any emphasis is the author's. Remember to print out this email or the attachment to share with your Neighbors. The originals along with other endorsements are posted at our election page:

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/pages/election.html>

We will also create a new page just for endorsements at our web site. Look for that on Wednesday. And remember, you are permitted to bring into the voting booth any notes, articles, etc. that you desire to have with you when you cast your ballot, although you may not display or leave behind any campaign material. So feel free to print out the ballots distributed by the Pioneer Press or print out a sample from our web site, and make your notes. Don't hurry—remember, you will live with the results of the April 7 election for four years.

Following are these endorsements:

- Kari Diesen-Dahl, previous Village Administrator, Deer Park
- Rita Finley, whom you know for her marvelous coverage on Canadian National
- Jerry Kryska, resident of Deer Park Place (just west of the Town Center.

FROM RITA FINLEY

For over the past year, I have worked with many of you to make our voices heard regarding our concerns with the CN acquisition of the EJ&E rail line. I've done my best to keep you informed of this threat to keep us abreast of action needed. As I looked out for us then, I want to share my thoughts on the April 7 village elections now.

After reviewing campaign materials of both parties, attending the (dishonorable) ballot petition challenge hearing and attending the League of Women Voter's forum, I offer the following thoughts:

Scott Gifford is very well spoken and has given more than necessary years to our village government. Thank you for your service. It is time, however, Deer Park turns over a new leaf.

Facts in his campaign literature are misleading and playing to what people want to hear. For example, any politician in Deer Park that overemphasizes they want "no property taxes" is neglecting to acknowledge that it is us, **the voters**, that determine if we approve Deer Park assessing property taxes for the village. You may recall last February Scott Gifford was pushing us to vote for a village sales tax increase and the voters in the village turned it down (59%/41%; many didn't like the vague wording of the referendum that did not insure the revenue would go only to Roads & Drainage and not to the Vehe Farm).

We need a village president that will **lead change** and manage funds prudently thus avoiding the need for us ever having to vote on property taxes!

Actions Speak Louder than Words

Under Scott Gifford's watch, the village experienced repeated deficit spending at a time we had record sales tax revenue. What can be more disconcerting than the near **million dollar** overspend (over 50%) at Vehe Farm?

How about the bonding agent not being licensed or registered in the State of Illinois!! **RESULT:** it is highly unlikely that our Village will recoup any of the contract nearly **\$1M in overspends!** FYI, according to IL law (30 ILS 550/3), it is the responsibility of the village to secure the bonding company not the contractor.

The Vehe Farm Barn project has been a case study of a noble idea but poor decision making, lack of oversight and a failure to perform due diligence

I have seen nothing in the Gifford team's campaign materials that admits of this oversight.

Once a mistake, twice a fool

We are all human. We all make mistakes, but if we don't examine what went wrong, what's to guarantee it won't repeat? How can we be forward thinking without doing this first??

We need a leader that will be sincere, dedicated and truly transparent. We need competitive bidding for major village expenditures. It is for these reasons, I ask you to strongly consider the capable Bob Kellerman.

Village Board must be balanced

Deer Park Trustees work pro bono and are often faced with tough decisions and always faced with very lengthy board meetings. Hats off to anyone that has served as trustee. We need, however, people that more evenly represent the citizens.

I've sat in on board meetings. What I learned is that the board is stacked with trustees in line with Scott Gifford's agenda, such as unevenly supporting the Vehe Farm expenditures. I am not against the Vehe Farm as it has merits, but Roads and Drainage were pushed down in priority to fund the Vehe Farm overspends. (What is the square footage of your home? Multiply that by \$611, and that's how much your home would cost to rebuild if it cost as much as the Vehe Farm! Don't you wish, when you go to sell your home, you could get that much!?!)

Our 6 member village board currently has 4 members generally aligned with Scott Gifford's special interests. 2 of these members will remain on the board after the election. If Scott Gifford's entire slate is elected, the board will then be slanted 5:1 for the Vehe Farm and other Special Interests. I gather people passionately involved with the Vehe Farm project (*including* non-residents), are heavily campaigning for this to happen, such as putting yard signs at the entry of most subdivisions! It insures more money easily goes their way. You won't find this in the campaign literature!

I've examined the facts of all the trustee candidates. Dale Sands is by far the

STRONGEST. Keith Olson, CPA, has much to offer. Both are independent minded and would balance out the board. This would insure that all residents are heard and well represented.

It is for these reasons, I recommend Kellerman, Sands and Olson in the upcoming election for the best for Deer Park's future, fair representation and accountability. Please spread the word!!

Let me know of any questions.... Please vote anytime between now and next Tuesday!

Sincerely,

Rita Finley
DP Resident since 1997
fin5@comcast.net

FROM KARI DIESEN-DAHL

Endorsement of Bob Kellermann for Village President.

We have an opportunity on April 7 to vote for President as well as 3 Trustees for the next 4 years. We need to have people on the Village Board who have the interest of all the citizens of the Village of Deer Park at heart. We need to have an open dialogue – nothing hidden or excused – so the citizens of the village can have a voice in what is being done. The people who are on the board are supposed to represent all of the people in Deer Park, not to push their own agenda on certain projects only.

Another very important matter is the money situation. The road program has been pushed back in favor of the Vehe Barn restoration, as well as taking care of other village matters. The roads when not taken care of in time, will only deteriorate further causing more expenses and more extensive repairs.

The citizens of Deer Park were not contacted to voice their opinions about the Vehe Farm and its improvements which is causing us a lot of money. It is nice to have a community center – but it should not drain our budget so that nothing else is taken care of in a proper way and timing. The contractor who finished the outside of some of the buildings did a great job and it was done in a timely manner. They were on the job regularly and kept the worksite nice and clean. The background of the contractor hired to do the work on the inside was not checked, neither was the bonding company checked out. The worksite was a

mess and the work was done very sporadic with just a couple of workers at a time or maybe only one person there.

Then there is the \$60,000 that was recently given to a lobbyist at the drop of a pin. If we get any extra money back – it would be great – but there are several projects where that money could have been spent right here. What about the drainage and road conditions throughout the village? Yes, I realize \$60,000 is not going to take care of such an expensive item, but it certainly could give a start – for crack control for example. Then what about the village entrance signs? They have been needing attention for at least a couple of years – but the information was that there were no money available. What kind of impression are we giving to people who see our signs in such bad shape?

These are just a couple of things why we need to have responsible people on the Village Board. Please check for yourself the background of the people running for the positions. And come out and vote - for a much needed change.

Kari Diesen-Dahl

Village Clerk from 1987 to 1992

Village Administrator from 1992 to 2006

The very first resident of Hamilton Estates Subdivision - since 1981.

FROM JERRY KRYSKA

This is an endorsement of Bob Kellerman for Village of Deer Park President. This Village needs a change in a Big Way. We've lived in this town for 3 1/2 years and have been to several Village Meetings. During several of the Meetings it was stated there was monies due for the construction of the Vehe Farm. On one of the agendas at the Meeting to our surprise & amazement the majority of the Board voted on paying the construction company without an invoice. Bob Kellerman was the only one we noted to vote against paying the construction company without an invoice. If this were an upstanding town everything would be accounted for. This is absurd. You may have thought we wrote this incorrectly but we have not. **The Village of Deer Park Board of Trustees voted on and agreed to pay the company who performed construction work without the benefit of an invoice.** Bob Kellerman was the only trustee who voted against it. It is the fiduciary responsibility of the Board to oversee that everything is properly accounted for. Therefore it is our responsibility as a community to elect an honest person as a Board President. That honest person with integrity is Bob Kellerman. **Bob will bring transparency and open government which we do not now have.**

Bob will bring the Village of Deer Park into the 21st century with the help of

Keith Olson and Dale Sands. Currently the Village of Deer Park is not run as if it were in the 21st century. Currently there are no computerized records. We've been told many times that everything is on paper in the basement of the Vehe Farm. This is yet another example of the Village Board's fiduciary responsibility to the law abiding taxpayers of the Village of Deer Park. Once again the Village needs a change in a Big Way.

Deer Park needs professionals to run our government rather than amateurs. And that's what Bob Kellerman, Keith Olson and Dale Sands will bring to our community. On April 7th it is imperative that everyone living in this Village vote for these changes.

Sincerely,
Jerry Kryska
20555 Westpark Place
Deer Park, IL 60010

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