

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Chay's nomination; lobbyist update; committee assignments,
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 12:59 AM
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Conversation: Chay's nomination; lobbyist update; committee assignments,

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors
DATELINE, DEER PARK, MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009

We are glad to be back in full swing and have updated the collection of eBlasts archived at our web site. Between our eBlasts and the archive of Village minutes, it's very easy to catch up with where Deer Park is, officially (Board minutes) and unofficially (DPN archive of our emails).

http://deerparkneighbors.com/DPN_eBlasts

http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/BoardofTrustees/meeting_minutes_BOT.htm

FROM THE MAY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Have you see the new feature on the Village web site? Near the top of the page is a list of what (we presume the Village Clerk thinks) are the notable events of the meeting.

<http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/default.htm> <<http://www.village.deer-park.il.us/default.htm>>

And last Monday, everything was going so well! The social hour—the first of what we will hope will be a regular feature—was casual and warm and fun. Coffee and donut holes and conversation. Lots of hugs and congratulations to go around, with the newly elected Trustees awaiting their swearing in, and everyone behaving as though we were all in this together. As we took our seats, the “event room” was full to capacity—a great way to start off a new administration. We hope that these social hours will continue before every meeting—and if the meetings would be completed in a reasonable period of time, there would be an opportunity to talk informally afterwards.

But the pleasant atmosphere faded quickly. No sooner was the Pledge of Allegiance recited than the opposition was defined. When President Bob Kellermann brought his nomination of resident Richard Chay to the board for

consideration, one might have expected a thorough review of his credentials. We envisioned something like Senate hearings! However, instead of due diligence, we were treated to a diatribe delivered by Trustee Maureen Pratscher, which she characterized as an explanation for why she would vote “no.” Maureen assured us that she didn’t intend to be obstructionist, which is of course just what she was.

Joyce Trost and Dave Kizior toed the party line as well, but not until Dave had asked if the Vehe property was part of Parks (yes) or stood on its own (no). Even though the vote to reject Richard had already been cast, Pat Winkleman (President of the Vehe Farm Foundation) felt the need to pile on during public comments. Amazing how rude, how personal people feel they can be, forgetting that their words and tone of voice are captured on video and audio for all to hear.

As residents, you might like to consider Richard’s qualifications for yourself. What a shame to lose the services of so dedicated and qualified community volunteer:

http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODPsources/2009_CV_RichardChay.pdf

We think Debra Sands put it very well. “Richard was for the people before the people were for the people!” Debra and DPN remember when Richard stood against President Gifford to demand his right to record public meetings, to challenge attempts to stifle free speech, to demand transparency in governance and to predict the financial disaster the Barn renovations would create. How right he was.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSIGNMENTS

With the new administration, there are new committee assignments by the President:

- Finance – Trustee Keith Olson
- Roads and Public Utilities – Trustee Dale Sands
- Health and Sanitation – Trustee Maureen Pratscher (formerly Zoning)
- Planning and Zoning – Trustee Joyce Trost
- Public Safety – Trustee Dave Kizior (formerly Finance)
- Parks and Recreation – Vacant

Bob’s election to the presidency was by a landslide, by a margin rarely if ever seen in a contested election. Bob will, in time, put his stamp on this village and on its board of directors. We hope that all the board members can come

together and support the president. Give Bob a chance to set his own new direction. Because by frustrating Bob's intentions, you demonstrate nothing so much as your disdain for the people of Deer Park. If Dave and Maureen intend to stand for re-election in 2011, they should remember that what they do for the next two years is, in a sense, campaigning.

STIMULUS FUNDS?

The lobbyist hired by the previous board came to the meeting with updates. We heard a lot of name-dropping, but nothing very specific. Although he had been reporting verbally to President Gifford, he had not kept the board clued in with the weekly updates they expected. In fact, the lobbyist indicated that he wouldn't object if the board wanted to cancel their contract. When does an attorney ever offer to let a client out of an agreement? And why didn't the board jump at his very public offer?

Pioneer Press, 5/19/09 "Deer Park hasn't gotten any federal stimulus money yet from their use of a lobbying firm as of May 18, according to Village President Robert Kellermann." Full story

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1581813,lake-zurich-deerparklobby-052109-s1.article> <<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1581813,lake-zurich-deerparklobby-052109-s1.article>>

DPN has a lot of ideas for the \$30,000 that could be saved by ending the contract. First we could purchase additional microphones—so that each official had his or her own—as well as someone to reset the sound system so that one wouldn't have to swallow a microphone to be heard. That'll leave plenty of money to get a basic laptop for each trustee (imagine their having the municipal code and internet access to support their decision making). There would still be something leftover for an ad campaign to attract regional shoppers. As long as that \$60,000 was found with so little effort, let's put it to good use. It might even cover sweeping the Barn walkways of goose droppings and putting brighter light bulbs into the parking lot fixtures.

AND WHAT ABOUT THE BARN?

We heard there was conversation about the Vehe Farm Foundation gathering funds to restore the rest of the outbuildings—with a plan that they supervise that work. That takes a certain amount of nerve, asking for another chance when those loving volunteers helped made such a terrible mess of the Barn. We only wish that building were as beautiful and historically accurate and

appropriate for celebrations as we had all been led to expect.

And why are Vehe donors always anonymous? Why does no one want to put his name to a Vehe donation?

CONTRATULATIONS TO OUR AUTHOR NEIGHBOR

Pioneer Press, 5/18/09 “Novelist tells club about Native American life.” We’ve hope to arrange a more extended interview with our neighbor Jim Proebstle, but you can read about his book in Pioneer Press:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1580150,lake-zurich-rotaryauthor-051409-s1.article>

Visit the book web site

<http://www.intheabsenceofhonor.com>

IN THE NEWS

Pioneer Press, 5/19/09 “An exercise technique as old as the pyramids is being practiced at Deer Park's Vehe Barn, and participants say they find it challenging and soothing at the same time.” Full story:

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1581290,lake-zurich-rajeyoga-052109-s1.article>

NOTE: A portion of the proceeds from fees to Raje Yoga comes to the Village Treasury, in a form of rent. We hope that other vendors in the area who wish to work with local residents and/or businesses are aware of the opportunity to rent the various spaces with the Barn.

WHAT ABOUT THE BARN?

DPN’s belief is that local enterprises could utilize the spaces and keep the Barn jumping all week long, all year around. For example, the grounds would be perfect for a Farmers’ Market or Flower Market, Flea Market, Art Festival, Bike Exchange, Battle of the Bands, any number of warm weather, outdoor events. The property is fully accessible and could be jumping morning, noon and night; every weekend could be a wedding or bar mitzvah or anniversary party.

The Barn would also be an idea setting for a Senior Respite Care program and for an After School Homework Program. Your bridge club, Pilates class, book club, women’s organization—could be scheduled in the Barn, with ample parking. All it takes is the organizational will to keep the property in use, as intended originally. If we understood the Village Attorney correctly, municipal-owned property is “immune to the municipality’s own zoning.” That means, we believe,

that no one would have to worry about the Noise Ordinance or lighting limitations or any other potential code violations, giving the widest possible latitude for vendors, hosts and guests. Isn't that wonderful! For information, contact, Yvonne Keith, 847-438-0764, deerparkevents@comcast.net

After all, this village can no longer afford to run the Barn at a loss. Whether it ever shows a profit or not, surely no one intended the Barn to be a money pit.
<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1575997,lake-zurich-barnloss-051509-s1.article> <<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1575997,lake-zurich-barnloss-051509-s1.article>>

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLAN COMMISSION, Monday, June 1, agenda to follow

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 26 AND 27, GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPITAL, 10AM-5PM

The 35th Art in the Barn will have art work of varying media from over 160 artists, children's activities, pony rides, entertainment and refreshments are featured. \$5.00 admission, children 12 and under are free. No pets. Free parking. Net proceeds benefit Good Shepherd Hospital. Art in the Barn began in 1975. Inquiries: Faith Semla, Publicity, 847-381-2094, Dsemla@aol.com

SENIOR CITIZEN ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Are you aware of the program in Lake County to get an exemption that freezes the assessment on your property if your total household income is \$55,000 or less. If you or anyone you know falls into that category, there is assistance through the Chief County Assessor. At the web site below, you can download the application form, or call 847-377-2100. Please pay very close attention to the deadlines; your application must be completed in July:

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Assessments/TaxRelief/SeniorCitizenAssessmentFreeze.htm>

As always, if you know of public or governmental programs that would be of interest to your Neighbors, we are happy to spread the word.

UNOFFICIAL VOTING RECORD

Thank you to Teri Masino, a resident of unincorporated Ela Township and a genius at information organization. Teri will continue to map the voting record for this new administration, updating the documents after the official minutes

are published. The '07-'09 document will be completed shortly, and then Teri will begin a new chapter with the Kellermann administration, starting May09.

http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODP_Votes_May07-Apr09.xls
http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODP_Votes_May07-Apr09.pdf

http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODP_Votes_May05-Apr07.xls
http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/VODP_Votes_May05-Apr07.pdf

To investigate board activities further, refer to the MP3 recordings made by the village and the video tapes available on DVD at the Barrington Area Library courtesy of Richard Chay or Deer Park Neighbors. DPN is seeking a volunteer—perhaps a student of video or a video hobbyist—who can continue filming public meetings. This is doubtless just about the best preparation for any of you considering volunteer service or public office in the village. In fact, we'd like to see regular attendance at village meetings on the resume of anyone running for office in Deer Park.

TRANSPARENCY

One vital facet of transparency is easy access to Village officials. We request that the new administration, as soon as possible, make an official posting of phone numbers and email addresses, to be available to the public and to the press. These should be published at the village web site, on letterhead, in the newsletter and anytime Village meetings are announced. We hope to see those announcements made regularly in the local press.

And we expect the public to be very judicious in their contacts, during reasonable hours and allow officials a reasonable amount of time to respond, relative to the urgency of the information or request.

In the Gifford administration, residents were asked (actually required) to pass all communication first through the Village Administrator. DPN feels that the officials work for the residents and that direct contact is important to building relationships.

Finally, at DPN, we do not respond to or publish any communication that is sent anonymously; we would not be surprised if officials applied the same

requirement. All too often, a vague, unnamed constituency has been given great weight, while those who take the time and trouble to show up and speak for themselves in public have been ignored. Yes, the squeaky wheel should get the grease, and the time to squeak publicly has, thankfully, come to Deer Park.

REMEMBER, TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!

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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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