

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Meeting Monday; DPN on Facebook; Agenda fireworks?; Emergency Unpreparedness; Top 10 Deer Park?; scam update

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Conversation: Meeting Monday; DPN on Facebook; Agenda fireworks?; Emergency Unpreparedness; Top 10 Deer Park?; scam update

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE, DEER PARK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

We wish all our Neighbors the happiest holiday season, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and New Year. What a hopeful time of year, when we all get a fresh start, surrounded by family and friends.

MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009, 7PM AT THE BARN

In our opinion, even a cursory review of the Agenda, much less the full Agenda packet, makes it clear that Monday's meeting could be astoundingly bitter. We certainly hope we are wrong. Please note, the DPN posting of the Agenda is slightly edited—we have removed blank pages and rotate some pages for easier viewing. An asterisk on the Agenda itself indicates supporting material in the Agenda Packet.

http://deerparkneighbors.com/Meetings/BOT/2009_12-21_BOT_Agenda.pdf

http://deerparkneighbors.com/Meetings/BOT/2009_12-21_BOT_AgendaPacket.pdf

And the original 180+ pages:

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

Looking for some updates on Vehe? We have scanned the documents from the 11/09/09 Special Meeting on the Barn; the same packet was used for the second, much more decorous meeting.

http://deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/Trustees/2009_11-09_BOT_SpVeheUtil_AgPacket.pdf

NOTE TO VILLAGE. We cannot express how frustrating it is to have to scan photocopies of printouts of originals. For heaven's sake, buy a copy of Adobe

Acrobat for the office. Every single document—except for the wonderfully retro pen-on-ledger-paper notations of our current president—have been created on a computer. Simply “print to PDF” or “save as PDF” or require submission as PDF (as most businesses do today), then combine multiple documents into the agenda packet. At last, village documents would be SEARCHABLE—another step towards promised transparency.

NEW ON OUR WEB SITE:

MP3 recordings of village meetings, and a document listing the contents of our library. You will find all these, as well as the collection of meeting minutes, in one simple directory:

<http://deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/>

We hope to see the Village adopt our simple naming conventions and post these documents and many more on a new, improved village web site in the near future. NOTE: whoever is running the record, your paper-shuffling covers up others’ speaking. The recorded should be plugged directly into the sound system, with a microphone for everyone, including the Clerk and Treasurer. C’mon people, it’s almost 2010.

If, in the process of reorganizing our site, you have lost the link to a particular document, email us for guidance. That’s a free service to subscribers and sponsors.

DPN ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

Here we go, on the Social Network. Deer Park Neighbors is launched. Be gentle, we are new to this, too!

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000520763988&ref=ts>

We hope to reach out more often (and more in brief) by leveraging the power of social networking. You are free to comment, post, add and engage! And while we hope you will do so with attribution, the social network will allow you to be as anonymous as you choose. Just remember, we won’t respect your opinion if you sign don’t sign your own name—and worse, your opinion may assumed to be another’s.

Start here, with our photo album—and we’d love to add your pictures, too!

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=3345&id=100000520763988&l=30f1fa9cd7>

Then sign up for Tweets here:

<http://twitter.com/dpneighbors>

WILL THE BOARD MEETING BE CONTENTIOUS?

In very brief, here follows OUR OPINION on some of Monday's matters, but YOU should make up your OWN mind. Download the Agenda Packet and scroll through for yourself.

QUESTION: WHY AREN'T THEY WORKING. Again, neither Trustee Trost or Trustee Kizior has any items on the agenda. We cannot remember any significant effort since they were assigned to their duties by President Kellermann. Why did they run for public office?

Item 7ii Ordinance amending Village Code regarding **Recording of Public Meetings**. This ordinance strengthens the board's position on what we already knew: No more whining about YouTube. To quote, in part, the proposed ordinance:

"E. Any person attending, participating in, and/or speaking at such a public Village meeting should recognize the fact that, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.05, the Village must allow the recording of such public meetings and those in attendance and cannot prevent and/or control the dissemination, use and/or republication of such recording (s)."

Why filming a public meetings annoys some people is beyond us; do they think these meetings are their own private preserve? See one such example on our YouTube Channel—and we take responsibility for this and ONLY this channel. Isn't it about time the Village of Deer Park has it's own Channel, where it can broadcast, for FREE, all village meetings, an opportunity for this administration to meet its election promise of transparency. And did we mention it's free—although it takes some time and trouble to cut the meetings up into 10-minute segments, per YouTube policy.

<http://YouTube/DeerParkNeighbors>

Item 7iv Bateman on **Conflicts of Interest**. And about time. Transparency should be the DEFAULT SETTING for this village.

Item 8, Draft ordinance in favor of **eco-friendly detergents and fertilizers**. We ask the board to remember that this much needed ordinance is meaningless without real enforcement behind it. We know that residents and businesses alike will opt for eco-friendly

products, given sufficient education and opportunity. Why not sell such products at Village Hall?

Item 9Ai, Moving the **Barrington Area Library drop box** from Charlie Brown Park to the Vehe property. What a simple, FREE way to increase exposure of the Vehe property and solve the problem for book-holders who often get stuck in the snow at Charlie Brown. It's a longer drive for us, but a most welcome improvement. Or will some odd notion of an obstacle prevent this from happening?

Item 9Di **Proposed Groot Contract** Trustee Prascher has listened well to the desires of the residence and seen the opportunity for the village to share in the profits made from recycling. Residents get very worked up about their refuse bills.

Item 9Dii **Pratscher has resigned from Vehe Farm Foundation**, per Bateman's advice, and is now asking to be re-appointed. In our opinion, all ties between the VFF and the village should be severed—immediately--starting with having Trustees sit on the VFF Board in any official capacity. The quasi-governmental VFF—what else can you call a charity that operates only with vanity donations and municipals dollars out of the General Fund—needs to be completely separated from the village.

What's far MORE important—if there were any dollars for Parks & Recreation, there are a dozen other parks that have never seen a dime of public improvement. These should come well ahead of the Vehe Par. Only private and/or grant funding should be spent at Vehe, and then administered not by loving volunteers, but by **LICENSED AND BONDED PROFESSIONALS** who will assume fiscal responsibility for their actions.

Break the management contract, too, written when a previous, foolish board permitted one attorney to represent both sides in the deal. It seems a very one-sided contract to DPN and one that mires us in amateur administration. The Vehe Farm Foundation should take its place with all other non-profits, and pay to use the property.

Item 9Diii Pratscher is proposing an **Ethics Board**. It's never too late to get about the ethics train, but again, the Village should be guided by Ethics profesionas—of whom we have several among the resident—in how to set up an ethics review process. The trustees policing

themselves? We don't think so.

9Dv Pratscher is trying to set policy on **volunteering vs. vending**. Let common sense rule: If John Doe sits on a board, commission or committee, he cannot both sell his products/services AND vote to approve such sale. One or the other. But the Village SHOULD have a policy to offer ALL contracts to residents. It's just good business and good PR.

9G Trustee Barb Evans' agenda is seriously tipped toward Vehe Park—only 1 other item, but we do hope that she will close the loop of the two special meetings on Barn utilization. Still, we're worried. Will this flurry of nonprofit rentals prevent a possible long-term lease or sale? Where's the report of her conversation with Concorde Banquets who are indeed interested in talking about using the Barn? And Evans, who by her own admission doesn't always choose her words carefully, comes across as very aloof. "Let them use the porta-potties, I'm tired of hearing about opening up the Barn bathrooms." Or,"the money is gone, get over it," referring to the cost overruns at Vehe. Not the leadership this village is looking for.

As we've said before, "we're holding out for a hero." Dozens of great ideas were generated at the PARA meeting, Barb. Is the Library Drop Box idea executed because it's at Vehe? And when are you going to post PARA minutes for all the residents to see?

Item 13. Still looking for a **Village Clerk**. If you have the interest and—above all—some tech savvy for this part-time position, contact President Robert Kellermann. Let's hope we have someone approved by the January meeting; functioning without a Clerk puts an unfair burden on the Administrator and the rest of the staff.

ONLY 166 OF YOU NEED ATTEND AT ANY ONE TIME! SAVE THESE DATES

Resolution for 2010. CHANGE the meeting date from Mondays. This would permit more news coverage—our meetings conflict with those in other, larger municipalities—as well as give trustees a chance to see how other towns do things. There's something SO WRONG about holding meetings on national holidays—and on Football night! And remember, budget talks must be concluded before the Fiscal Year ends April 30.

January 18 (MLK Day)

February 15(Presidents Day)

March 15

April 19
May 17
June 21
July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20

SAY HELLO WHEN YOU SEE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Check out our front page to see photos of all the trustees! Neighbor to neighbor, we're all in this together!

<http://deerparkneighbors.com>

THE CLOSEST THING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD HANG-OUT

No, we don't own any stock, but we do feel real "ownership" in our time spent at **Caribou Coffee**. Imagine the delight when we stopped in the other day—a whole wall of envelopes with customers names on them, with a cute picture of the entire Caribou staff. Just their way of saying "we know you by name, we appreciate your business." In a very cold world of corporate IDs, Caribou gives us the warm fuzzies—and reserves a table for your meetings. Just give them a few hours notice.

Kelly Stam, Manager, 847-438-8396, SM728@cariboucoffee.com

IN THE NEWS

POLICE DEPARTMENTS UNDER SEIGE

12/14/09, Daily Herald "A top Wheeling police union official says the village is considering laying off five officers to cut costs in 2010, which he says could severely impede the police department's ability to fight crime." FULL STORY

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=343996>

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS? NOT IN DEER PARK, NOT IN ILLINOIS!

12/16/09, Daily Herald "The H1N1 pandemic should have come with an announcement: this is a test of the public health emergency system. If this had been a virulent virus, there's a decent chance you might have been dead before you got the vaccine."

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=343978>

The above story is alarming enough, until you think that an epidemic is just one of many disasters we here in Deer Park are not prepared

to face: tornado, power outages, hazards in our water supply, another 9/11. DPN has been looking to Public Safety chair Trustee Dave Kizior for an Emergency Management Coordinator, a EM plan, training for residents and staff alike and some confidence that this village can stand on its own in an emergency—health, weather or terrorism.

BEWARE OF TIFS BEARING SO-CALLED GIFTS

12/15/09, Daily Herald “Lake Zurich officials created the TIF district across the downtown area in 2002, and have been collecting TIF money and using it for redevelopment purposes. The village has spent more than \$32 million on the TIF district, but critics have complained that relatively little development has taken place.” Full story

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=344346&src=109>

WHY DON'T WE CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS AT VEHE?

12/14/09, Pioneer Press “Lake Zurich residents seeking visual relief from ice and snow will soon be able to look at a toucan riding a tiny pirate ship, a gaping-mouthed shark with golf clubs and five-foot-tall Tiki idols. Putt N' Play, a tropical-themed indoor miniature golf course with glow-in-the dark sculptures is slated for its grand opening at 463 S. Rand Road Saturday.

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1939744,lake-zurich-puttnplay-121709-s1.article>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON COOK COUNTY TAX REDUCTION

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/pioneerpress/1928977,pioneer-press-editcooktax-121009-s1.article>

AROUND THE TOWN

A neighbor reports that Five Guys will be moving into the former Cosi space in Deer Park Promenade (also known as the Dick's mall and Praedium—these people need a branding campaign!)

<http://fiveguys.com>

TOP 10 DEER PARK

This listing provided by Hampton Inn certainly represents a professional point of view on local attractions. What would be on YOUR Top 10 list?

http://hamptoninndeerpark.com/Visit_DeerPark/Deerpark/page15.html

Want to improve the bottom line in Deer Park? Give Deer Park Town Center gifts cards—and bring your online purchases back to the local stores. Saves shipping, and while you're there, you'll probably buy something else!

ELSEWHERE

12/16/09, Daily Herald. "Schaumburg officials are finding no shortage of bad financial news lately, and the 2010 budget for the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center is no exception." Full story

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=344603>

DOGGIE DOORS

Thanks to our brother in South Carolina who shared an adorable photo of a faun who followed a beagle home and right through the doggie door and onto the couch. See it at our web site.

<http://deerparkneighbors.com>

Another reminder to SECURE ALL ENTRIES into your home. Maybe you've left windows unlocked since this past summer? Do you have a bar to prevent someone entering through your sliding door? Are you careful to keep the garage doors closed at all time? Let's watch out for each other during this busy holiday season.

INTERESTED IN LAKE COUNTY ROAD PROJECTS?

http://deerparkneighbors.com/sources/LakeCounty/2020_LCDOT_PriorityPlan.pdf

Interactive map (nothing going on in Deer Park or, seemingly, planned for anywhere near us. In other words, "No relief in sight."):

<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Transportation/ConstructionProjects.htm>

UPDATE ON SCAM

We misconstrued the recent scam as happening at the front door. The incident we reported was accurate, but it happened in a nearby parking lot. A woman was approached in her car with a story: "I've run out of gas, and I don't have my credit card." Simply roll up your windows, lock the doors and—if you are genuinely concerned—call the non-emergency police number. In fact, you should program this into your phone:

847-438-6010 or, if you are afraid, call 911

We actually had a very similar scam at the Barrington Area Library after hours one summer evening. These guys wanted to borrow our cell phone, having

approached us as we left the car to put books into the drop slot. Frankly, we felt very vulnerable, and while our first instinct was to help, when we offered to make the call for him, the guy said he couldn't remember his mother's phone number. Just be careful out there, and remember these teachable moments to help your children be good, kind citizens, but always, safety first.

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Deborah Barry

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