

Subject: [DPNeBlast] Special meetings; Hotel Tax, DP moves on Ethics and Meeting Tapes; transparency makes the news; retraction

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Conversation: Special meetings; Hotel Tax, DP moves on Ethics and Meeting Tapes; transparency makes the news; retraction

host_name

Greetings, Neighbors

DATELINE DEER PARK, SUNDAY, JAN. 24, 2010

Last night, there was a wonderful event, the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce's Evening of Excellence, a gala held at Concrode Banquets. We were delighted to shake out our formal wear as guests of the Daily Herald. We saw Trustee Keith Olson there as well as Chief Robert Zujewski, Kildeer Police, who is on the Citizens Emergency Response Leadership Team, one of the award nominees. We didn't see other Deer Park business people (sorry if we missed you), and that's a shame. Deer Park needs to think beyond its own boundaries. While the village is active in BACOG, there are the LZ and Barrington Chambers and other business and networking groups throughout the area. No one person or business can belong to all, so let's pool our information.

If you belong to one of these, please share the news that you hear and the contacts that you make with Trustee Olson, keithdolson@comcast.net—or with the trustee of your choosing (see end of this email). This coming year, working together with other communities and organizations is going to be more important than ever.

By the way, there were wonderful performances by talented local young string musicians and dancers, and a great orchestra. It was a wonderful party, and Concorde did a wonderful job.

SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD

Thursday, Feb. 11, 7pm, @ the Barn

Well, the board is certainly meeting much more often, and DPN would argue that this board is, as a whole, working very, very hard. and even they all want to get home at a decent hour. This special meeting will cover, among other things, Trustee Keith Olson's

proposed Economic Development Committee, which will include professionals from retail, advertising, marketing, PR and media. If you are interested in volunteering, email keithdolson@comcast.net and, of course, attend this meeting.

You will want to read Trustee Olson's financial analysis on the Hotel Tax Utilization

http://deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/Trustees/HotelTaxUse_Compare_Olson.pdf

REGULARLY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Monday, Feb. 15, 7pm, @ the Barn—watch the village web site for the agenda.

SEE HOW EASY TRANSPARENCY REALLY IS

The word “transparency” was used at least a dozen times at last Monday's meeting. Good to hear. Now fit deed to the word. Each and every document that is presented, discussed or referred to in a public meeting can be available online in a simple to navigate directory.

We know that this is the goal of some upcoming village web site reforms, but we'd like to remind the board that once an agenda packet is posted, there's no reason to remove it or the link to it. Think of the staff time this can save.

Daily Herald, 1/19/10, “Mayor William McLeod said the information to be posted doesn't exceed what's required to be disclosed by the Freedom of Information Act, but reflects the new expectation that such public information shouldn't need to be specifically requested.”
<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=351981>

EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 5, 8:30am-12:30pm, Advocate Good Shepherd Health & Fitness Center, “Red Dress Day” in honor of National Heart Month. Vendor Bazaar, demos, tastings, Cholestech \$25 check, free admission for women 18 yrs or older. For infor

Carol Olbur, RN, BSN, 847-620-4561

Sat, February 27, 2010 8:15 am - 12:45 pm, Parent University, ***16th Annual Celebration for Parents Encouraging Parents***

Lake Zurich Middle School North – Hawthorn Woods
Just \$10, childcare available
ALL WELCOME

<http://www.lz95.org/parentu/parentuhome.htm>

IN THE NEWS

LZ Courier, 1/21/10, "Lake Zurich trustees voted 5-1 at Monday's Village Board meeting to authorize \$440,000 in general obligation refunding bonds to pay interest on a bond it already holds."

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/1999420,lake-zurich-bondissue-012110-s1.article>

LZ Courier, 1/21/10 "Community Unit School District 95's revenue has increased \$2.1 million dollars in the first six months of this fiscal year compared to the same period last year, and would have gone up even more if the district received state money, district staff told the Board of Education at its committee of the whole meeting."

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/lakezurich/news/2000752,lake-zurich-d95midbudget-012110-s1.article>

LZ Courier, 1/21/10 "A routine traffic stop for a possible expired registration last October led to Kildeer police officer Steve Lawrence receiving a letter of commendation from the FBI."

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/2000754,lake-zurich-kdwatchlist-011410-s1.article>

YOUTUBE

We are a little tired of Deer Park Neighbors' taking the heat on some satirical video postings from last year. On the one hand, those were not made by DPN, nor were they ever posted on the DPN YouTube channel. On the other hand, all the brouhaha has moved the Board of Trustees, at last, to have a meaningful and detailed ordinance that defends the rights of the public to record meetings and distribute those tapes.

Interesting, though, that the very people who scream the loudest about being made to look foolish on YouTube look foolish, once again, for being so careless with facts about others.

YouTube is an extremely effective tool, even without our getting tricky with the video. The simple, real-time truth is interesting enough. The Open Meetings Act disruption video on the DPN channel has attracted over 5,000 viewers—about 20 times our usual traffic--because the subject matter is compelling.

What's next on video for this village? To fund the official filming and rebroadcast

of village meetings, on cable, on the internet, on a computer screen in the lobby of the Barn. That's transparency.

Which trustee will bring that line item into the budget negotiations?

RETRACTION

Trustee Maureen Pratscher sent the following note after our last eBlast:

I have a sharp memory, and I have no recollection of ever proposing that Hotel Tax receipts be used for any programs or projects at Vehe Farm. I recall mentioning several times that the revenue must be used to promote overnight tourism within the Village, but not bringing up any particular process or plan. Unless you can provide me with a specific, dated videotape of such a comment, I am asking for a retraction in your next community email message. Sincerely, Trustee Maureen Pratscher

We retract our misstatement as we certainly don't have time to dig through all the old tapes. After all, sitting through the meetings the first time around is just about enough! And very soon, each of the trustees will state their opinion with their votes on use of the Hotel Tax. From the mail we get, we can certainly attest that the residents, in general, will not take kindly to any more money invested in Vehe.

But Maureen, why didn't you take us up on the offer of your using this forum or our Blogspot to tell us precisely how you do feel. After all, you are the only remaining trustee who has served on the Vehe Farm Foundation board.

OUR OPINION ON THE HOTEL TAX

Trustee Olson's analysis is a helpful way to begin to understand what's at stake:

http://deerparkneighbors.com/meetings/Trustees/HotelTaxUse_Compare_Olson.pdf

Some board members miss Olson's point: The Hotel Tax revenues are RESTRICTED; they can be spent only on tourism. But if that tourism results in increased Sales Tax revenue, that can be spent in UNRESTRICTED ways because those revenues go into the General Fund. It is a way of legally and ethically moving funds from one restricted bucket into another unrestricted bucket.

What kinds of things might be funded with the Hotel Tax? We'd love to see the village and local businesses sponsor a fee-based Dog Park somewhere in the Triangle. A new one was recently opened to great success in Glenview. We also

love the “win a weekend in Deer Park” campaign and a family Oktoberfest, just to get the financial ball rolling. There are limitless possibilities, but this village must start somewhere.

In time, as it is said, a high tide lifts all ships—even the Barn. But right now, there is a financial crisis in this village. There are only a few things that will erase the deficit:

- quick economic recovery (not likely)
- severe budget cutbacks (right now, that means doing less road work, cutting staff or breaking the police contract)
- property tax increase (no referendum needed)
- sales tax increase (needs a referendum)
- increasing sales tax receipts

Your opinion matters very much. Write to your trustees.

President, Robert Kellermann <<mailto:bobkellermann@sbcglobal.net>>, 847-526-7266

Public Safety, David Kizior <<mailto:kiz.family@comcast.net>>, 847-382-3125

Roads & Public Utilities, Dale Sands <<mailto:mdulesands@aol.com>>, 847-381-8353

Finance, Keith Olson <<mailto:keithdolson@comcast.net>>, 847-438-2274

Health & Sanitation, Maureen Pratscher <<mailto:mpratscher@aol.com>>, 847-381-2341

Planning & Zoning, Joyce Trost <<mailto:joycetrost@gmail.com>>, 224-456-5509

Parks & Recreation, Barbara Evans <<mailto:BJEVANSC3@aol.com>>, 847-540-7479

AND YOUR OPINION ON THE FUTURE UTILIZATION OF THE VEHE BARN/PROPERTY

We know that this spring, there’s a plan to move the BA Library drop box to Vehe, and to be able to pick up your reserved materials there, as well. What else would you like to see happen at the property, and how should it be funded?

Trustee Dale Evans and former Trustee Pat Ekstrom have been putting together a detailed survey to explore residents’ desires. Details are still to be worked out, but we think there will be a general distribution of the survey (DPN would be glad to help make that happen), with one-to-one interviews between each of the Trustees and a statistically significant and randomly selected number of households.

PLEASE SUPPORT DPN WITH YOUR 2010 SUBSCRIPTIONS

All this communicating doesn't happen in a vacuum or for free. Think of us as your extremely local public radio, and send us a few bucks—but those of you who subscribe every year, or every few months, please, sit out this subscription drive!

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

We think that any trustee who argues in public about what we publish should kick in, too!

And everyone should to get yourself set up for Facebook, Blogspot and Twitter to share ideas and events with your Deer Park Neighbors. All you need to get started is a free Gmail address. Create your account at <http://gmail.com>, and if you take the time to fill in your profile, you are likely to get more relevant organic (un-sponsored) results in your Google searches.

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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