

**Planning & Development Committee
Minutes of April 27, 2009
Council Chambers 7:00 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.
Evanston Civic Center**

Aldermen Present: S. Bernstein, A. Hansen, D. Holmes, L. Jean-Baptiste, E. Moran,
R. Rainey, E. Tisdahl, C. Wollin, M. Wynne

Staff Present: K. Cox, S. Flax, D. Marino, B. Newman, D. Spicuzza

Presiding Official: Alderman Moran

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Moran called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m., a quorum being present.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

The Committee voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the April 14, 2009 meeting minutes.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(P1) Approval for a Sidewalk Café for Type 1 Restaurant, Cozy Noodles & Rice

Ald. Bernstein moved approval of the sidewalk café. Ald. Wynne seconded the motion.

The Committee voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the sidewalk café at Cozy Noodles and Rice Restaurant.

(P2) Approval for a Sidewalk Café for Bennison's Bakery

Ald. Bernstein moved approval of the sidewalk café. Ald. Wynne seconded the motion.

Ald. Wollin asked that the City monitor the sidewalk café to be sure 6' is maintained for pedestrians, as she gets complaints that the chairs get pushed out over the 6' pedestrian area, making it difficult for people with strollers or canes to pass. She added that everyone loves sidewalk cafés, as does she.

Mr. Marino assured Ald. Wollin that the Property Standards and Fire Departments will monitor the sidewalk café sites.

The Committee voted unanimously 9-0 to approve the sidewalk café at Bennison's Bakery.

(P3)* Resolution 31-R-09 Authorizing Application to the State of Illinois for Neighborhood Stabilization Funds

Mr. Marino explained that this resolution would permit the City of Evanston to apply for \$3,000,000 of the Neighborhood Stabilization Fund, a program which was passed by the federal government in July of 2008. The City of Evanston would access the money through Cook

County. The money would be used to help municipalities and other entities acquire vacant foreclosed properties and possibly land banking and demolition options. He said Ms. Spicuzza and Ms. Flax, part of a 5 person team working on the project were present to answer questions.

Mayor-elect Tisdahl said that Rimland Services called her requesting help to obtain funds to open a group home and obtain a foreclosed property. She alerted the Committee and staff that there will be a great attempt by non profit organizations to obtain some of this funding. She said she will tell them no.

Ald. Rainey said she has not gotten any requests but that she shares Mayor-elect Tisdahl's concern of dispersing money to organizations that will pay no taxes to the City. She said she has gotten two complaints in the last two days against Rimland property in her ward. She said she has calculated that if the City were to give Neighborhood Stabilization funds to Mr. Davidson for his project, the Dobson project and the Reba Place project, it would use up the entire \$3,000,000. She concluded that she wants the City Council to be very careful about how the money is spent and for it to be very closely monitored.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste said it is a good thing to be able to access this money, but he urged the Committee to think of the consequences of becoming landlords. He asked that the Committee consider at what level the City needs to be involved in order to be successful. Ald. Rainey replied that neither the City nor the banks want to be landlords but the idea needs to be examined. She added that the dispersion of these funds is not going to be as easy as it looks.

Ald. Holmes said she agrees with both Ald. Rainey and Ald. Jean-Baptiste but she pointed out that the Committee has asked staff to be creative and innovative and they are doing so. She said the City will have to be a landlord to provide affordable housing, acknowledging that it is a bold step. She concluded that being a landlord would be a means to make sure that it goes right, which is the Committee's job.

The Committee voted unanimously 9-0 to adopt Resolution 31-R-09.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Newman