

From: deerparkneighbors@comcast.net
Subject: meeting notes and Parks forum
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PARKS MEETING, THURSDAY, OCT. 18. You simply must attend, if only to demonstrate that open forums are appreciated by the residents. In the Barn, 2-4pm, public comments 7-8. There will be displays to show what's currently in the village, as well as information on what might be developed. Trustee Rotter said that outside constituencies are communicating their wants and needs. Trustee Rotter specifically asks that if you cannot appear to speak, he wants your comments, but in writing. DO EMAIL HIM, dptrusteerotter@comcast.net.

Have young children? Bring them along, this is our community center, stroller friendly. Don't care about parks? Well, you should, as village amenities affect your property value. Don't think what you say matters? Maybe that's because you have been speaking in private instead of publicly.

MEETING NOTES. This is one DVD with a lot of drama; we don't want to characterize it. Ask us for a copy of the video.

President Gifford spoke at last month's meeting of holding forums for resident feedback. But he didn't schedule anything, and the vote took place Monday, in favor of placing a referendum on the Feb. ballot. However, not without amendments; the final language of the referendum will reflect up to a .5% increase (not the full 1% originally discussed) and language to indicate the proceeds would have to be used for infrastructure "like roads and drainage."

But what was NOT in evidence at the meeting was any solid financial forecasting. Obviously, if we increase our share of sales tax from the current 1% to 1.5%, we'll increase our receipts by 50%. But with debts being retired and work on the Barn expected to be finished—hold your breath—next week, why do we need an additional tax? Why not wait and see what the actual receipts are, while doing solid planning (not budgeting, but big picture planning) for what the trustees envision in the coming years?

Gifford keeps saying that the village is in good financial shape. On the other hand, he wants this tax increase. Which is it? Are we broke or flush, or something in between? Shouldn't that be discussed and documented thoroughly before they ask for more taxes? Why not let this tax increase be part of the village's 2009 election (when Gifford's term will expire), so that candidates in that election can address village finances and the voters can choose their leadership based on their policies and intentions?

The board already passed a hotel tax, and yet we have heard nothing about how

those “tourism” dollars will be spent. They just passed an ordinance so that they can collect smoking fines, but not what the money goes for. During Trustee Kizior’s agenda time, as CFO of the village, he kept saying, “Terri [Stade, village treasurer], you’re going to have to give me some help here.” Shouldn’t he have a handle on village dollars after six months in his commission?

Meanwhile, according to Trustee Kellermann, the Vehe project (or is it just the Barn, because the numbers are not clear) appears to be about \$400,000 over budget. Trustee Rotter spoke movingly of the need to “get to a number, one number on Vehe that we can all agree on.” We applaud Rotter’s stance. Yet Trustee Kizior says any such accounting seems to be only for the purpose of placing blame or meeting some political agenda. To what does he refer? His term doesn’t expire until 2011.

How hard can it be to pull together spending on legal fees and engineering and other consultants that might not have been distributed specifically to the Vehe project? Run all the numbers. Put them on paper. Back them up with documentation. And publish the results in the village newsletter and on the village web site.

Sorry we weren’t able to get our blast out Monday--we continue to have intermittent Comcast issues. In answer to that and to the difficulty many of you have receiving attachments, we will now post essential documents at <http://deerparkneighbors.com>; click on the glasses at the upper left.

Check out the Events page, too, where you’ll find meetings and things to do, like the Kildeer Police Halloween event on Oct. 27.

Some people who send letters to the editors also submit them to DPN for publication on our new Editorials page. We will publish YOUR letters as well, as long as they are signed

LONG GROVE ROAD between Rand and Quentin is under construction; work is being completed by United Land, under the supervision of Lake County Department of Transportation. Please drive carefully; the work should be finished by the end of October.