



**JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**FIFTH WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATE SELECTION**

**CITY HALL  
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
505 BUTLER PLACE PARK RIDGE, IL 60068**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M.**

**I. Call to order**

Chairman Reardon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The following committee members indicated their presence:

Chairman Reardon, Sue Knight, Judy Barclay (arr. 6:33 p.m.), Sal Raspanti, and Joan Sandrik.

Deputy Clerk Peterson recorded the minutes.

(Note: In the spirit of transparency, an audio recording is to be provided with the meeting information online.)

**III. Interviews**

Interviews were conducted by the Committee on the following applicants:

6:30 p.m.	Charles Melidosian
7:00 p.m.	Helen Barrett Fanning
7:30 p.m.	Eric Bangeman
8:00 p.m.	Steve Schermerhorn
8:30 p.m.	Anita Rifkind

Each applicant was scheduled for thirty (30) minutes. At the beginning of each interview, the candidate provided a three (3) minute summary about themselves, their interests, and the reason for which they applied. The Committee presented various questions to the applicants which included:

**FIFTH WARD ALDERMANIC CANDIDATE SUGGESTED QUESTIONS**

- 1) How often do you attend City Council or Committee of the Whole meetings? When was the last meeting you attended? Do you recall a topic of discussion at the last meeting you attended?
- 2) Are you familiar with the acronym HITA? Do you support this as a good guideline?
- 3) Explain your volunteer experience with the City, whether serving on a Board or Commission or other organization.
- 4) What is your motivation for wanting to serve as an Alderman? Define "successful Alderman."
- 5) What characteristics, qualifications and experiences do you have that support your candidacy?
- 6) What do you consider the five (5) most important City services, ranked in order of importance with the first being most important?
- 7) In your opinion, what are the top 3 issues facing the city? What are your proposed solutions?
- 8) What would your solution be to the Uptown parking problem?
- 9) How do you plan to keep residents of the 5th Ward informed on issues facing the city as a whole or specifically the Fifth Ward?

- 10) The City has a system in place to maintain transparency. Boards & Commissions are appointed by the Elected Officials. The Boards and Commission make recommendations to the City Council. However, some believe that staff may interject by inputting their own ideas, absent of those ideas or decisions presented by the Boards or Commissions. How would you address this issue to ensure openness, transparency and fairness to all? How will you support our Boards and Commissions and the jobs they do?
- 11) What do you believe are the time commitments of an alderman, and, will your professional and personal life allow you to fulfill them?
- 12) Identify your three (3) most significant contributions to the community in the past 10 years, ranking them in order of significance with the first being the most significant.
- 13) Identify the three (3) most pressing issues that are unique or of special significance to the Fifth Ward, ranked in order of importance with the first being most important.
- 14) What are your thoughts for tackling the City's budget issues?
- 15) What are the most important attributes of Park Ridge? What threatens these attributes most?
- 16) Would you support the creation of another TIF in Park Ridge; and, if so, where and why?
- 17) What would you do to assist existing businesses in Park Ridge?
- 18) In regards to business development and retention, provide your opinion how this should be handled by the City.
- 19) What would help Park Ridge be a better community in which to live?
- 20) What do you see as the important qualifications for a new City Manager?

Charlie Melidosian

20 year resident; believes in guiding principles of HITA; has an established working relationship with Elected Officials and staff; familiarity of many Ordinances and decisions previously made; described himself as being approachable and often a channel voice, responsible for implementing the video recording of meetings; recognized problem with traffic, parking, flooding, airport and construction; believes in being straight forward and providing honest answers; would like to improve the negative perception of City services; does not support handouts to businesses; would increase neighborhood gatherings; would consider another TIF but with eyes wide open; would run for office in two years

Helen Fanning

Resident since 2002; fiscal conservative; support safeguarding taxpayers money; modern approach to maintaining character of City; Real Estate Attorney; owns trucking company in quad-cities; supports HITA; community service provider; works from home; City needs clear and concise Zoning to attract new businesses; plan for the future - infrastructure, flooding, parking w/ retail on 1<sup>st</sup> floor; would consider re-appointment; TIF has its place but with more expertise; volunteer service with Mary Seat of Wisdom School Board including the budget process / served as Parish leader; communicate to constituents via emails and cards at events; important to preserve some history of the City

Eric Bangeman

Resident since 2008; works as managing editor from home; has served as a volunteer for Wilderness Scouts; Chicago Area Rugby, Midwest Rugby Society, and Board of Deacons; aware of flooding problems, O'Hare expansion, and aftermath of Uptown Development; supports HITA; communication through twitter, email, Facebook and community events; believes in checks and balances with Planning and Zoning / Zoning Board of Appeals; understands time commitment; attentive, prepared, bias free, good listener; New City Manager should have previous experience, leadership skills, take direction from Elected Officials, and has proven track record.

Steve Schlemerhorn

Impressed in City's growth over last 6 years; supports HITA; volunteer involvement with Rotary and Rainbow Hospice; State of Illinois finances threat to City; may be in favor of smaller government; less rules and regulations from City to local businesses but no business incentives should be extended; recognized parking and flooding problem; City on right path budgeting; City Manager should be people person and practice HITA; has not attended any meeting in years; would consider re-election; he does not find parking to be an issue but the City could use more parking; he has the quality of being a great listener; gather information and then make wise decision.

Anita Rifkind

Served as Maine Township Trustee; supports 2 Aldermen per ward; Planning and Zoning should hold developers to densities based on economics; interested in re-election for diversity; experience with politics in small communities; economic development should solicit businesses to vacant stores; City manager should represent staff in respectable manner; forty plus year resident; served as former Park Board member; background in Urban Planning and in commercial property valuation; in process of retiring; in favor of increasing Council to 9 members by adding 2 more Wards; Uptown TIF on right track; ongoing problem with staff/citizen communications; need strong leadership on top

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.