

Evanston's Future!

A Monthly Electronic Newsletter of

*Evanston's Energy Future
Evanston's Transportation Future
Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle
Evanston's Affordable Housing Future
Citizens Lighthouse Community Land Trust*

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All Network for Evanston's Future groups welcome new members, at any time and at any level of interest or participation.

Housing

(submitted by Sue Carlson)

At the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee of City Council May 23, movement took place, at last, on the Inclusionary Housing ordinances! Evanston's new City Manager, Julia Carroll, at whose behest the Inclusionary Housing ordinances have resurfaced, asked the Council to give her guidance as to what shape the revised ordinances should take. Of the six aldermen who expressed an opinion, there seems to be a consensus that our inclusionary housing ordinance cannot give developers any of the traditional cost offsets of increased density or height, reduced side lots, reduced city fees, or increased floor-area ratios for building affordable units. Nevertheless, most of the six aldermen gave Ms. Carroll the go-ahead to produce an ordinance that might give developers financial assistance to build units or that would make affordable housing a required aspect of the PUD process.

Other positive features of the meeting: (1) Ald. Bernstein came out strongly in favor of an ordinance, indicating that the city has "fallen prey to dense housing that doesn't give back to the community" despite having granted developers increased density, FAR, height, etc. He also expressed the idea that this should indeed be an "inclusionary" ordinance that would

encompass senior and disabled individuals and be located throughout the city. (2) Ald. Moran felt that the primary legal objections to the ordinance raised by Corporation Counsel Jack Siegel had valid and legal counter arguments. He is strongly in favor of a teardown fee to help subsidize, among other things, the community land trust. (3) Ald. Rainey said she would support the ordinance provided it didn't involve rental properties (largely an OK stance since most inclusionary units involve purchase). (4) Ald. Wynne wants to figure out a way to get developers to build affordable units but she doesn't want to trade any of the traditional offsets in exchange. (5) A representative from the North Shore/Barrington Board of Realtors presented a statement that was largely favorable about the proposed ordinances.

After the meeting, Donna Spicuzza, City Housing staff, was asked if she thought the staff could come up with an ordinance that fit the limited criteria expressed at the meeting. She said yes, the staff has already begun working on it (the positions of the re-elected aldermen were well known). She acknowledged that it was entirely due to Ms. Carroll's advocacy that this was moving forward.

All who signed EAHF's petition urging the Council to act will be glad to know that finally, after all these months, those petitions are in the hands of your aldermen. Thank you for your interest and advocacy. Watch for an opportunity for further advocacy when we come close to the final proposals, which Ms. Carroll indicated would be in the aldermen's hands in 60-90 days.

Contact: Sue Carlson sue@evanstonhousing.com

Energy: reThink/reDesign/reCycle

(submitted by Ross Vagnieres)

The AIA Chicago Young Architect's Forum is currently accepting entries for reThink/reDesign/reCycle, a two-phase juried competition that seeks proposals for an ecologically intelligent, urban recycling receptacle. reThink/reDesign/reCycle aims to generate new and outstanding responses to Chicago's public recycling challenges.

The City of Chicago, with the support of Mayor Daley, has developed a Green Initiatives Committee that advances environmentally positive and sustainable practices within the city. The City investigates recycling issues while exploring different types of recycling containers to inhabit the urban landscape and is open to ideas generated by entrants to inform new recycling endeavors.

Entrants should address complications present in Chicago's current recycling program. Operating costs, the source separation versus single stream collection debate, and the public's motivations for recycling are all issues to be considered.

Competition entrants are asked to re-investigate the process of recycling in its entirety, from the material manufacturing process to the consumption choices made by individuals to the existing recycling infrastructure and its role in the collection process.

reThink/reDesign/reCycle aspires to educate visitors and citizens about the process of recycling and help advance Chicago's Greening Initiative. The Chicago YAF proposes a challenge to the design community to submit innovative solutions that can be adopted by Chicago and implemented throughout the city.

Contact: <http://www.aiachicago.org/redesign>

Calendar

June 2: Evanston's Transportation Future Meeting. 7:30 – 9:00 PM (Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge, Room 3650) Contact: Rick Martin rmartin101@comcast.net

June 5: Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle Meeting. 3:00 – 5:00 PM (Friends meeting House, 1010 Greenleaf). Contact: Steve Perkins steve@cnt.org

June 7: Citizens' Lighthouse Community Land Trust Meeting (Evanston Civic Center, Room 2404). Contact: Betty Sue Ester: akjyskb@ameritech.net

June 22: Evanston's Energy Future Meeting, 7:30 – 9:30 (Call for location.) Contact: Joel Freeman 847/328-3555 ext. 216

Through August 14: Sustainable Furniture: Chicago Designers Respond. Chicago Cultural Center (78 E. Washington). Contact: Chicago Furniture Designers Association <http://www.cfdainfo.org/>

Sept. 17: Farmers' Market Non-Profit Day.

