

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present:** Burns, chair; Nieuwsma, Revelle, Reid, Kelly and Geracaris.

**Staff Present:** Nyden, Cummings and another city attorney (female)

**Start:** 6:45

**End:** 7:18

### **Public Comment**

Three stated that the City is not anti-gentrification. Two were concerned about the impact of the tree removal moratorium and questioned if the money would be better spent to help people. One stated that ARPA funds are being used to help the 5<sup>th</sup> ward but not all wards. Vasilko was concerned that the Beacon expansion might take property off the tax rolls and strongly stated that no city funds should be used for the project.

### **For Action**

P1. Property at 1214 Maple to be subdivided. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.

### **For Introduction**

P2. Beacon Academy would need a special use for using space at 1026 Davis St., which is in the D2 Downtown Retail Core District. There would be no parent drop-off or pick-up as this would be used for an art instruction. This was moved to the next meeting as there is an issue on selling cigarettes at Evanston First that needs to be resolved.\*

### **For Discussion**

D1. Displacement/Anti-Gentrification efforts. In August, 2021 Burns recommended that the City examine the issue and a task force, Here To Stay, was formed with electeds, staff and citizens. There will be presentation in the future. Kelly recommended that this should be extended to equity and empowerment.

D2. Environmental Board's Proposal for a one-year moratorium of private tree removal. Issues that came up were the financial impact on the home owner as a city arborist would have to inspect the tree to determine if it was healthy or might be a hazard; if either of those it could be cut down. If not, there may be delays in getting a permit if the removal was just to build additional structure to the property. There would be additional costs for the homeowner for purchasing a new tree - somewhere in the city, and may discriminate between wealthy home owners and those of modest means. Staffing would be a problem as no one with the needed skills are applying to be an arborist, which may delay getting a permit for the new/addition building. Nieuwsma stated the City should just get this started; Revelle agreed. Kelly suggested it go back to the Environmental Board for an ordinance. Nyden was concerned as the 2023 budget decisions are coming up soon.

\* There is a preschool operating this year in the same block, but east of 1026 Davis - but Beacon would have teenager students using this space.