

**Observer:** Sue Calder

**Aldermen Present:** Kelly, chair; Wynne, Reid, Nieuwsma, Burns (on line), and Revelle.

**Staff Present:** Flax, Stowe, Ruggae, one from preservation.

**Start:** 6:20 pm

**End:** 8:20 pm

Was scheduled to start at 6:11 on the close of A&PW

**Public Comment:**

Three commented: 1 opposed the inclusion of a north Evanston historic district in the new plan; 2 opposed allowing cannabis smoking parlors – mainly for health reasons but also that use of cannabis can impair driving.

**For Action**

P1. Review and place on file the Preservation Commission Annual Report and Preserve 2040.

This is a very detailed and action-oriented report which staff presented (15 minutes) and the chair added to his remarks. Noted by CMs that this would have cost thousands but was done by volunteers. Some concepts included: it recognizes that inclusion and diversity are needed (the search for 4 new members will focus on this) and that climate action needs to be put into the mix (think replacing windows), preservation is that “change should be managed”. There has been a change in the last 4 years to have many cases be administratively (i.e., staff) determined and significantly less volunteer time. Calls for resurveying all districts (ideally done every 10 years and needed for north Evanston) might cost about \$10,000 per district but could be less as there is outside funding available. A district may be “federally” designated but that has much less control than locally designated districts. Passed.

**For Introduction**

P2. Special use for an apartment hotel in R6 district at 1555 Maple (former King Home). In addition to the locals involved (Halim, his lawyer, and others) a representative from Wyndham Hotels was present. WH includes about 6 in IL, 70+ nationwide and its input includes training for all employees (Halim and family will be the day-to-day management and trained as well), at least weekly inspections by a support person. Their brand is for upper-mid scale units designed for extended stays. Halim stated he had paid \$20 M in 2017 for the property, put \$5M in current renovations and by joining with WH will need to put about \$5M more. The suites now are one-bedroom plus a sitting room and the kitchen will include a full-size refrigerator, stove top, microwave, DW, and washer and dryer. There will be a free breakfast bar and a full, upscale Italian restaurant with a patio. Room prices may vary depending on length of stay. Reid questioned the occupancy rate in the area and what WH/Halim would need to be successful. Nieuwsma moved to table this until 5/08/23; passed on roll call vote.

P3. Deleting DAPR from city code. DAPR is a now a staff committee and staff is drafting language to establish a “community design commission” which will be a citizen group supported by technical experts, operate under OMA, and report to Council. Applicants will receive all comments (including those from staff or the fire dept. etc.) at one time. It wasn’t clear on timing of an ordinance but the new commission should be easier for applicants to get input and permits. Passed on a roll call vote.

P4. Allow cannabis consumption lounges. Reid talked somewhat passionately for about 20 minutes on this item: Black/Brown people are impacted more by restrictions on use of cannabis since they are more likely to be renters and leases often do not allow smoking of cannabis; peoples can buy cannabis but now smoke it; would be an economic boon for the city; alcohol is worse than cannabis thus we should not be approving more places where alcohol can be served. The item should be voted on as there would be a 3 – 3 tie and then go to Council. When he was finished, Wynne said she was a strong no as she supports no smoking at public venues; Revelle supported that and stated she also was a strong no; Kelly would like more information, but now would be a no; Nieuwsma would vote against this because of how it would impact the public's perception of Evanston. Kelly then asked Burns if he would vote on this or recuse himself; Burns stated that she was questioning his ethics, conflict of interest and integrity. Kelly stated, as chair, she was just trying to get a sense of the number voting. Roll call vote was 4 nays and Burns and Reid voted aye. Motion died in committee.