



CENTRAL STREET NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: **Barnaby Dinges**

Ward: 6th Ward Resident

Voting Address: 2504 Thayer Street, 60201

Years you have lived in Evanston: 12

Campaign Website URL: www.dingesformayor.com

Campaign Phone: 312/545-2654

Best E-Mail for campaign purposes: info@dingesformayor.com

Other websites on which you post campaign statements or positions:

Campaign Chair: Charles Dinges **Treasurer:** Timothy Stodder

Campaign Manager or consultant(s): Jerry Green

No. of petition signatures filed: 977

Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates:

Press Secretary, Illinois State Comptroller Dawn Clark Netsch, 1991-1995

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate: none

What is your primary occupation?

President, The Dinges Gang (issue-advocacy consultancy)

Adjunct Professor of Marketing, Columbia College - Chicago

Briefly list your past civic activities. If numerous, list here the 5 most important.

- Pro-bono work for Northern Illinois Food Depository
- Inner-city school teacher and coach of baseball, basketball and soccer
- Investigative reporter on race, poverty and public education, Chicago Reporter
- American Wind Energy Association, member
- National Education Association, member

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

I have 25 years of experience working in business problem-solving, good government and professional communications. I have the skill set in finance, government relations and effective communications necessary to help Evanston through the challenging next four years.

What candidates have you supported? Please describe your specific role in any campaign.

I've contributed to the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton. I've contributed to the gubernatorial campaign of Paul Vallas. I managed media relations and issues for Dawn Clark Netsch when she ran state-wide for governor and comptroller.

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

Lester Crown; John Paxson; Kelly Amonte Hiller;
Hundreds of Evanstonians and dozens of businesses

Campaign budget: \$30,000 How much have you raised so far? \$25,000

How many people are on your campaign staff? 3 paid

How many volunteers are on your list? 50

1. How many of the following have you attended in the past 2 years? (approx.)

20 City Council meetings

1 Plan Commission meetings

1 Planning & Development Committee meetings

1 Zoning Board of Appeals meetings

Site Plan and Review Committee meetings

Other: _____

2. In recent years, the City undertook the Central Street Master Plan, the Downtown Plan, the Lakefront Plan, the West Side Plan, the Climate Action Plan, a Bicycle Plan, a Multimodal Transportation plan. and a blue-ribbon commission on pension funds. Please identify which you participated in, and your contributions.

3. Many Evanston residents feel they are not being listened to. Do you agree? If you agree, please give examples and state what will you do about it. If you disagree, please state why, and how will you combat the perception.

I think Evanston residents are being listen to; what's severely flawed is the manner in which City Council meetings are conducted. I'll be discussing the Council's "process problems" in depth at the forum.

4. Would you support any change in executive session or how it is used?

Yes. The process needs to be de-mystified, if for no other reason than to give residents and taxpayers more confidence that city business is being debated properly.

5. The City building code is not online. To see if their property meets "Code," a citizen has to go to the library or purchase a copy at the Civic Center. Would you support making all City ordinances available online for free? YES NO

6. Which of the governmental changes, if any, would you support:

Returning the Council to 2 aldermen per ward

Increasing the number of wards

Adding one or more at-large aldermen to the Council

Making mayor a full-time paid position half-time paid position

Making alderman a full-time paid position half-time paid position

Eliminating the city manager position; department heads report to mayor

Mayor-manager form of city government

Other: _____

7. Which of the following constituency communication methods will you commit to?
 + Answer all e-mails within 48 hours
 + Maintain my own mayoral website
 + Regular posts or blogs on community websites
 Monthly meetings (citywide or in wards)
 Regular but less frequent public meetings
 + Regular office hours at Civic Center
 Regular newsletter
 + Other: *Possibly establishing a storefront office on the south end of town for the mayor and alderman to create better communication and to make it easier for ALL RESIDENTS to contact Evanston government.*

8. What is your position on the Civic Center?
 + City should stay at Civic Center and repair it
 City should sell the Civic Center and build a new one elsewhere
 City should stay at Civic Center and remodel/expand it
If you checked "stay", should the City sell or lease part of its land at the Civic Center location to pay for repairs and/or remodeling/expansion? + YES NO
If you believe a new Civic Center should be built, please identify what location and cost level you would support:

9. Should the City of Evanston have an affordable housing plan? + YES NO
If yes, what should be the main components? If your answer is no, why not?

The new city council should re-visit this issue in May after the new council is established and the housing and banking markets have settled down. There is too much uncertainty at this point to specify a plan of action. My concern as mayor will be to ensure that housing is affordable for ALL EVANSTON RESIDENTS. At this point we are taxing many families and residents out of town. For too many it's too late already.

10. Scientists warn that the earth is at a critical juncture because of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. Do you agree? If so, what recommendations of the Climate Action Plan, if any, will you work to implement in your first year of office?

Yes, I agree. I take a pragmatic approach to such plans. I'd like to see progress on some "do-able" plans before we move on to the bigger challenges. As Mayor I'd emphasize the car-share programs, investigation of uses of renewable energy, and improving recycling and waste reduction at homes and businesses. I am a ferocious recycler and it bothers me whenever I see materials wasted or recyclables ending up in the garbage. I'd make it a priority to have large, wheeled bins serving every home as soon as possible. In terms of challenges, besides funding, I think it's important to avoid jargon and talk to residents and businesses about environmental issues in language that make sense to them. As Mayor, I'd work hard to be that green messenger.

11. Would you have vetoed the planned development ordinance for 1700-1722 Central Street? + YES NO Will you support or oppose another extension of time for the development of the site? YES NO

12. Has Evanston gotten equivalent value for what it has spent on consultants in the past 2 years? YES + NO What changes, if any, would you make in the use of consultants, especially for planning and development?

Until Evanston gets its budget under control, I'd cease any consulting contracts unless they involve engineering to get necessary projects shovel-ready for stimulus-package funded projects.

13. Is the current blend of City revenues sources fair? How would you change it?

I'd work to eliminate Evanston's punitive parking enforcement, thereby encouraging more people to visit and linger downtown and in our commercial shopping areas. If we fix the city's parking problem we'll increase sales tax revenue, which is nearly 20% percent of our income. I will also be a vocal champion of Evanstonians buying all their gas, groceries, gifts and other good right here.

14. What reductions in City spending would you support? Please identify specific measures, departments, programs, etc., and the amounts you believe would be saved.

The city spends \$17-million annually at City Hall for administration, human resources, and finance. I'd also find savings in parking enforcement and consulting contracts. In the current economy a raise of 1% is appropriate and consistent with other sectors of the labor market. I believe I can identify \$2-3 million in savings in these areas.

15. Are there any specific ordinances that should be repealed, modified, or enacted?

The ordinance limiting political speech through the placement of yard signs should be changed to prevent costly and unnecessary a lawsuit against the city.

16. What changes, if any, would you like to see the City make in how it has used tax increment financing (TIF)? If none, please state that.

None at this time.

17. What changes if any would you support in how the City regulates parking in north Evanston, including hours, permit parking zones, tickets, and towing?

Under the Dinges plan Evanston residents with a valid city sticker on their car will not have to pay meter parking after 5 p.m. EVER. I'd like to see how this works and if the results are positive I'd like to expand it. It might be, too, that we can get by with fewer parking enforcement personnel and vehicles, and that will save taxpayers money.

The goals of the plan would be to >>

- Sell more Evanston City Stickers*
- Reward residents who buy parking stickers*
- Create a better business environment*
- Increase sales tax revenue through increased shopping*
- Use parking enforcement as a credible deterrent ... not as a punitive force*

18. Check whether you support or oppose the following:

Support Oppose

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Oppose | Initial proposal for a 49-story building at 708 Church |
| | Revised proposal for a 38-story building at 708 Church |
| Support | Raising as-of-right height in the Central Core Dist. to 275'/25 stories |
| Support | Raising max. height in the Central Core District to 385'/35 stories |
| Support | Raising the West Traditional (Davis St.) district to 42'/88' |

If you oppose any of the above, state what you intend to do to about it.