

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF DARIEN
APRIL 4, 2016**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of the City Council of the City of Darien was called to order at 6:32 P.M. by Mayor Weaver.

2. **ESTABLISH A QUORUM**

Present:	Tina M. Beilke	Joseph A. Marchese
	Thomas Belczak (arrived 6:54)	Sylvia McIvor
	Joseph Kenny	Ted V. Schauer

Absent: Thomas Chlystek

Also in Attendance: Kathleen Moesle Weaver, Mayor
JoAnne E. Ragona, City Clerk
Michael J. Coren, City Administrator
Bryon D. Vana, City Administrator
Paul Nosek, Assistant City Administrator
Bonnie Kucera, Citizen of the Year Chairman

There being five Aldermen present, Mayor Weaver declared a quorum.

3. **REVIEW – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

There was lengthy discussion regarding the Citizen of the Year (COY) award.

An inquiry was made as to why a nominee may decline acceptance of the award; Ms. Kucera responded that the person may not want to be in the 'spot light' or that he/she feels what they have done is not above/beyond their daily life expectations.

Marketing the event - Ms. Kucera commented that numerous organizations are invited; few respond or attend. Also, many Darien organizations have members that are not Darien residents.

Ms. Kucera noted that the COY committee is often criticized for the nominee. She stated that according to established guidelines, a nomination must be submitted in writing and contain detailed information, the person shall have made outstanding voluntary contribution(s) to the community, be a resident of Darien, and not hold a paid or elected position within the city government. An item in the criteria states that once a candidate's name has been submitted, it shall always be a valid nomination; Ms. Kucera said that a past candidate could be difficult to consider because the committee would have to locate the nominator/candidate for updated information.

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Some suggestions for the COY event included: raising the cost per person; to have local organizations nominate from within their group; to include other organization recognitions – making it a community event; to broaden the nominations by including unincorporated areas (Hinswood, Farmingdale, those with 60561 zip code); to have the event less often, perhaps every other year.

A question was asked regarding number of paid attendees and complimentary tickets. Ms. Kucera stated that the number of paid attendees varies by year/nominee. In 2016 there were forty-two (42) complimentary tickets issued to: current Citizen of the Year and immediate family, past Citizens of the Year, Darien committee volunteers, a member of the clergy, and mayor.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee-of-the-Whole, it was moved by Alderman Beilke and seconded by Alderman Marchese to adjourn.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Beilke, Belczak, Kenny, Marchese, McIvor, Schauer
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Nays:	None
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Absent:	Chlystek
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Results: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Absent 1

MOTION DULY CARRIED

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Mayor

City Clerk

All supporting documentation and report originals of these minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk under File Number 04-04-16 Committee-of-the-Whole.