

Sowerby wants order at council meetings

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Reaffirmed as chief parliamentarian for the Farmington Hills City Council this week, city attorney Paul Bibeau is expected to bone up on Robert's Rules of Order.

Raising the issue Monday, councilman Paul Sowerby said: "It appears to me this council needs a parliamentarian. These meetings are going all over the map."

Sowerby called for a volunteer

layman or the city attorney to do the job, but added that he felt "the city attorney is the person who should do it."

He said Mayor Terry Sever, who presides over council meetings, has wrongly overruled councilman Aldo Vagnozzi "on several motions."

Sowerby said "procedures are not followed" and lack of a parliamentarian has added "to the length of the meeting."

When Sever said he didn't agree, Sowerby, appointed to the council in

March to fill a vacancy, shot back: "You're the worst parliamentarian on the council."

To which the mayor responded: "Our quickest and best meetings seemed to have occurred before the seventh person joined the council."

WHEN IT appeared some council members were treating his suggestion lightly, Sowerby said, "I don't see as much humor as others do. I think we look like buffoons."

He said council meetings should

be run "in a formal manner," with Robert's Rules of Order applying.

Vagnozzi agreed that the council "should have someone to make definitive rules" when parliamentary questions arise.

Sever said Sowerby was "way off base." He said he didn't think lack of a parliamentarian had anything to do with the length of council meetings.

"For six months," Sever said, "a lot of people were saying I was doing

a great job running a great meeting. Now all of a sudden, the last 2-3 months, people aren't happy. It doesn't make sense."

Councilwoman Jody Sorensen agreed that the city attorney should do the job. "Can we find a volunteer to sit with us for five hours every Monday?" she asked, not at all in jest.

Sowerby assured Sever his suggestion shouldn't be taken as "a personal attack on your abilities. It's actually an offer to help you," he said.



Paul Sowerby
city councilman

Resident upset by attention paid to peace march

By Casey Hane
staff writer

A Farmington resident is upset with publicity given to a proposed peace march and rally planned for mid-October and the requests being made by the event's organizer.

Dave Nitz said Monday he was upset by an Observer article in which resident Derwin Success outlined five requests to the city, using them as an apparent lever for disbanding his proposed march.

Success said if his requests were met, he would consider marching alone on Grand River and holding only a rally at city hall on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 15.

City officials say they have not yet received those requests. Nitz took the requests as threats.

"Are these comments meant to intimidate the city council or the city?" Nitz asked the city council Monday. "Those requests are totally ridiculous. As long as I've lived in this city, I've never seen racism.

"I was upset when I saw this article."

On Sept. 8, Success told the Observer and several other media he wanted: official recognition of Martin Luther King's birthday, Black History Month in the city, a bi-racial task force for racial harmony, an elementary curriculum that includes cultural diversity, and recruitment and hiring of a black city employee.

SUCCESS IS black and believes he is being persecuted because of his

race and because he is married to a white woman. The city's public safety department has two property destruction incidents on file for the couple's Shawwassee Street address, including a 1987 incident in which racial slurs were painted on the family's house.

Mayer Richard Tupper told Nitz the city is "on top of this thing daily," and stressed that neither he nor the city administration had received any request from Success outlining

his plan. Tupper had suggested Success attend Monday's city council meeting and present his plan; he did not attend.

Success, who formed Love Force United this summer, said in earlier reports he expected a large crowd for the march and rally. But in recent days, several people involved with the march have removed themselves from the organizing process. Others have said they will not march.

A representative from a Detroit-

area neo-Nazi political group has also said the Drayton Plains-based SS Action Group would like to hold a peaceful counterdemonstration on the same day.

City officials are preparing for Oct. 15 with caution, engaging support from other law enforcement agencies and talking with Love Force United and SS Action Group members to stay abreast of the issues.

clarification

Farmington Families in Action is planning a four-week series called "Are You Concerned?" relating to drug and alcohol abuse during October. Incorrect dates for the programs have run in several issues of the Observer.

The programs will each be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24, at Farmington Hills Harrison High School. Those interested may attend one or all of the programs, which will have independent themes.

Involved in the programs will be representatives from Maplegrove Alcoholism Chemical Dependency Treatment Center in West Bloomfield. The programs are offered free of charge to the community.

© O&E Classifieds work!

Publicity seminar deadline nearing

There's still time to sign up for the Farmington Observer's public relations seminar next week.

If you're in charge of publicizing club, sports, business, civic, municipal, entertainment or other types of community news, take note.

The Farmington Observer is a newspaper you should be familiar with. It's an efficient way to reach 19,600 households in Farmington and Farmington Hills twice a week.

HOW DO you submit information to the news staff in a way that's suitable for publication in the newspaper?

That's the precise question the Observer staff will try to answer as simply as possible at the public relations seminar 7:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, in the council chambers of Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty.

Come meet our staff and learn how to write and submit one of your group's most important tools: a press release.

We'll provide an overview, answer questions and present a handout for future reference. Refreshments will be served.

The deadline to register for the seminar has been moved back to Monday, Sept. 25.

If you're responsible for publicizing news about your community group, call Observer receptionist Rose Butler at 477-5450. Leave your name and your group's name. I hope to see you there!

— Bob Sklar, editor

Area Goodfellows to host meeting

Farmington area Goodfellows will host interested people and new members at a kick-off meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, in Farmington City Hall Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty at Grand River. Meet the various committee chairs.

Help is needed for the dress and

shirt drive, pack food and toys, send letters, paper sale, blue jean program and health box program.

The Farmington Area Goodfellows are based at 33201 Grand River, Farmington 48024. The telephone number is 474-3440.

14 Mile closing scheduled

Fourteen Mile, from Orchard Lake Road to Farmington Road, will be closed for 2-3 days this week to repair the major drain crossing under the road, 150 feet west of Club House Lane.

The repair work is scheduled to be done by Sept. 22, weather permitting, said James Cubera, senior engineer for the city of Farmington Hills.

● News that's closer to home ● News that's close

MEET SUE BLUE

Tuesday, September 26
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Livonia

Discuss your
postmastectomy
needs with Camp®

Consultant Sue Blue.

She is familiar with
your concerns and
can suggest the
proper Amiea®

bras, forms,

mastectomy bras and

Seascamp® swimwear

for you. For your

appointment, please

call 591-7696, ext. 218.



Jacobson's

VAKKO SHOWING

Leathers and suedes

Informally modeled

Friday, September 22

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Birmingham

Witness American style

just the way you

want it. Fresh and

innovative. Approaching

1990 with an unabashed

sense of spirit and

design. A truly

standout collection

of fall and holiday

suits, dresses,

jackets, skirts, and

pants in stenciled

leathers and suedes.



Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard®, VISA® and American Express®

Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.