

**Planning & Development Committee Meeting
Minutes of June 27, 2011
City Council Chambers – 7:15 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center**

ALDERMEN PRESENT: J. Fiske, D. Holmes, A. Rainey, D. Wilson, M. Wynne

STAFF PRESENT: G. Farrar, S. Griffin, B. Newman

PRESIDING OFFICIAL: Ald. Wilson

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Ald. Rainey moved approval, seconded by Ald. Wynne.

The minutes of the June 13, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously 5-0.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(P1) Ordinance 48-O-11, Provisionally Adopting, Enacting and Re-enacting Titles 4 and 5 of the Evanston City Code

Staff submits for review and consideration adoption of Ordinance 48-O-11 provisionally amending the following Titles to the Evanston City Code: Title 4, Building Regulations; Title 5, Housing Regulations.

Please note: Due to length, proposed Ordinance 48-O-11 with blackline revisions to Titles 4 and 5 will be posted to the City Council Agenda & Minutes Webpage with the Council agenda packet as a separate document. **For Introduction**

Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel, explained that the Operating and Law Departments had reviewed and evaluated the City Code. He noted that Titles 4 and 5 contain substantive changes which make sense for the Fire and Building Code. The super lien will give the City a tool to enforcement property standards. He explained that the revision clarifies the definition of a dangerous building which will be helpful in enforcement when a case gets to adjudication.

Ald. Rainey expressed concern about applying the administrative adjudication process to certain property standards violations, such as garbage, weed cutting and snow shoveling. She said it appears that we do not collect the money very fast, if at all, this way. She said she calls the City to collect garbage and the service is billed with the water bill. She asked why the City would wait for foreclosure when this is a quicker way to collect the money. She argued that for some cases that take up inspectors' time, this may be a better method of addressing violations.

Mr. Farrar acknowledged that she had a good point and agreed to review with Director of Community and Economic Development, Steve Griffin and report about the feasibility of her approach.

Ald. Fiske asked whether anyone in Evanston uses coal, to which Mr. Grant replied that it has become obsolete. Ald. Rainey mentioned that pole signs have been outlawed.

Mr. Griffin agreed that non-compliant signs are removed and if we do fine a party, we do not have an aggressive way to collect on the fine.

Ald. Wynne moved approval, seconded by Ald. Fiske.

The Committee voted unanimously 5-0 to approve Ordinance 48-O-11.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(PD1) Discussion of Public Art in Business Districts

Mr. Griffin explained that in December of 2010, the P&D Committee had asked staff to work with the Arts Committee to create a plan for incorporating art into public places in the City. Three concepts were discussed: 1) A single theme of art objects representing the City, to be placed all around the City (such as the cows were for Chicago, and such as lighthouses could be for Evanston); 2) Art placed on existing CTA, Metra and other viaducts and new station improvements; and 3) Public art in business districts in conjunction with new construction such as bike racks, in parking lots and small green spaces. A fund sources could be the Business District Improvement Fund (\$75,000 for FY11), and possibly the Façade Improvement Fund. TIF funds have been considered to be used for the Church and Dodge parking lot for green space with an art piece.

Mr. Griffin reported that after meeting with the Public Art Committee, staff met with the Business District Round Table Committee and the Economic Development Committee, who asked staff to engage Evanston artists to consider these improvements. The Business District Round Table favored the idea that when someone is doing improvements, they include an art piece at the time the work is done. They identified some under-utilized areas that could benefit from art and they are applying for a grant for a small plaza with a bike rack and art piece as the focal point. They also suggested that bike racks themselves could be enhanced. They embraced the art initiative as an opportunity to enhance the uniqueness of their districts and decided to “be bold and unusual” in their approach. As projects are presented to staff and the business districts, neighbors’ ideas and opinions will be considered.

Chair Wilson thanked Mr. Griffin. The Committee discussed the various ways art could enhance the City such as bike racks, citing the bike racks at the Levy Center, local art on the CTA wall, possibly done by local school children, which would define the neighborhood and bring pride to the residents, and viaduct art, since viaducts are the entry points to the City. The single theme of lighthouses painted by local artists was also embraced by the Committee. If they were eventually sold for auction, they would keep giving to the community, as suggested by Ald. Rainey. Lighted sculptures were also enthusiastically

discussed as utilitarian and beautifying. Ald. Fiske suggested that an artist who is familiar with working on concrete be consulted so the art will be properly installed and can possibly be removed/inter-changed.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Newman