Members Present:  Alderman Fiske, Alderman Braithwaite, Alderman Holmes, Alderman Tendam, Alderman Grover, Alderman Burrus

Members Absent:  None

Staff Present:  Wally Bobkiewicz, Erika Storlie, Michelle Masoncup, Joe McRae, Richard Eddington, Diane Davis, Kevin Brown, Gary Gerdes, Gina Harrison, and Janella Hardin

Presiding Member:  Alderman Braithwaite

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
Ald. Braithwaite called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF January 5, 2015
Ald. Burrus moved approval of the meeting minutes of January 5, 2015, seconded by Ald. Holmes. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 6-0.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
(HH 2) Police Complaints
Staff recommends acceptance of Evanston Police Department complaint reviews from January 2015 through March 2015.

Ald. Grover stated that there was bad behavior on the part of residents in the form of incivility and rudeness. She thanked all of the police officers who were responsive, responsible and polite. She stated her desire for residents to see how civil and respectful police are and encouraged officers to continue to set a good example.

Commander Davis thanked Ald. Grover for her comments and stated that there were 14 letters of complements. She agreed that complainants showed bad behavior and stated that most were repeat complainants. She closed by stating that staff worked to remain professional.
Ald. Holmes asked if complainants were notified that their complaint would be on the docket.

Commander Davis confirmed that the process was reviewed at the time people make the complaint and people were encouraged to check the website to see when complaints would be reviewed.

Ald. Holmes stated that she was thinking of a specific person.

Commander Davis confirmed that she was aware of the person and that staff did attempt to contact.

Ald. Braithwaite asked about the young woman who complained that there was no female officer present to frisk her. He requested background.

Commander Davis stated that this is a common complaint and that the person was a repeat complainant; she further stated that the incident never occurred and that there are strict guidelines officers adhere to.

(HH 1) Board of Animal Control RFP Response Review

The Board of Animal Control recommends the selection of SAFE (Saving Animals for Evanston) as the volunteer animal organization to operate the Evanston Animal Shelter in response to RFP 15-08.

For Action

Jill Cabbot, Vice Chair of the Board of Animal Control stated that the City received two proposals in response to RFP 15-08. She discussed the process for reviewing the proposals and the Board recommendation to choose SAFE. She highlighted SAFE’s qualifications and strengths. She further stated that, while TreeHouse is a well-respected organization, it has no provisions for sheltering or rehoming dogs and no dog integration plan. She also pointed out that there was no plan for onsite management or staff and no vested interest in Evanston.

Ald. Grover acknowledged Jill Cabbot’s expertise and the other members of the Board; she acknowledged all the hard work done by members and called for discussion.

Ald. Holmes also thanked the Board and asked about salaries for the Animal Warden and Assistant.

Ms. Cabbot confirmed.

Ald. Fiske also added her thanks, but stated that she was concerned about the comments made about the TreeHouse. She stated that the group has a strong interest in Evanston and hoped that representatives from both organizations could be present at the discussion. She also requested a fundraising plan from both organizations.

Ms. Cabbot replied that SAFE would provide a plan within 3 months of becoming the VAO. She also pointed out that there was a nice relationship between the City and TreeHouse, but TreeHouse provided no information on canine care and daily operations.
Ald. Fiske stated that TreeHouse was looking for a partnership with SAFE and requested that City staff get both groups together to see if there could be a partnership between SAFE and TreeHouse.

Ald. Tendam also thanked the Animal Control Board, but stated his concerns since the previous VOA appropriated funds. He asked about protections for the City and SAFE in the case of dissolution of the relationship.

Ald. Grover replied that any VAO or fundraising organization would have a contract with the City that would specify all terms, operational and fundraising.

Ald. Tendam asked if SAFE would agree to those terms.

SAFE Co-president, Alisa Kaplan confirmed that SAFE would welcome those terms.

There was discussion around the new model and fundraising options. SAFE representatives stated their fundraising background.

Ald. Tendam stated his interest in hearing from other interested groups and exploring the possibility of partnerships. He moved to put the issue on hold.

Ald. Holmes stated that other groups were contacted by the Board with no response. She stated that the Board did its job and the Committee should move forward.

Ald. Braithwaite clarified that two Aldermen requested to hold the issue and asked City Council if this was enough to hold the issue.

Deputy City Attorney Michelle Masoncup asked if a vote took place.

Ald. Braithwaite confirmed that no vote occurred and asked for specific concerns from Committee members.

There was discussion around the process.

City Manager, Wally Bobkiewicz, provided clarification on procedures.

Ald. Holmes suggested that the Committee accept the report and hold it in Committee.

There was further discussion around the process and Ald. Tendam’s motion.

Ald. Fiske asked to put Ald. Tendam’s motion on hold. She motioned to accept the Board Report seconded by Ald. Burrus.

Ald. Grover requested that staff provide more information about fundraising plans, canine care, financials, by-laws, and structure.

Ald. Tendam stated that he heard from other organizations interested in participating. He asked if other organizations, specifically the Anti-Cruelty Society, would like to partner.
Ald. Fiske expressed support for the Board and commended the hard work. She stated that it would be fiscally responsible to explore other partnerships. She expressed concerns over fundraising efforts.

Ald. Holmes stated that SAFE didn’t have the option to fundraise; fundraising wasn’t part of the job the organization was charged to do.

Ald. Grover stated that donation boxes were the only fundraising efforts. SAFE has no authorization to fundraise as a 501C3.

Ald. Braithwaite asked Ald. Tendam to restate the motion.

Ald. Fiske restated the motion to accept the report by the Animal Control Board, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

The Committee voted unanimously 6-0 to accept the report.

Ms. Kaplan provided more information around fundraising efforts and previous discussions with TreeHouse which were not successful.

Dianne Valetta commented that the benign neglect that previously occurred wouldn’t happen because the Board could now monitor activities to prevent neglect from occurring.

There was discussion around a timeline for assigning a VAO, further concerns from the Committee and discussion about fundraising.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that this issue would come back in a month and that staff could offer a presentation in May. He further stated that the City would reimburse or pay for operational costs over the next 30 days.

There was further discussion around the process and ways Board members can access funds.

Ald. Fiske requested that members of other organizations including TreeHouse and Anti-Cruelty Society be present at the next meeting.

Ald. Tendam asked about previous debt incurred and information about the structure of SAFE, including financials and by-laws.

Ms. Kaplan replied that the information could be found in the RFP, but that the organization has grown and the mission has expanded. She expressed hesitancy to restructure the organization without being the awarded VOA.

There was further discussion about the goals of the RFP process.

Ald. Tendam moved to hold the issue in Committee, seconded by Ald. Fiske.
(HH 3) Approval of Resolution 35-R-15
Staff recommends City Council approval of Resolution 35-R-15 authorizing The City Manager to enter into four (4) new agreements for the artist leases for spaces at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center (NCAC).

For Action
Ald. Braithwaite moved to recommend City Council approve Resolution 35-R-15 authorizing the City Manager to enter into four (4) new agreements for the artist leases for spaces at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center (NCAC), seconded by Ald. Fiske.

The Committee voted unanimously 6-0 to recommend approval of Resolution 35-R-15.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
(HH 4) Process for Naming Public Places and Honorary Street Name Sign Program
Staff will provide information on the process for naming public places, the honorary street name sign program and historical markers for discussion.

Ald. Braithwaite called for discussion.

Ald. Holmes asked about benches.

Deputy City Manager, Joseph McRae stated that memorial benches could be donated in the memory of loved ones. He further stated that all information is available on the City’s website and most people who are interested contact the City directly.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that this issue was brought before the Committee to see if more advertising or programing is necessary.

Mr. McRae discussed advertising attempts.

Ald. Braithwaite confirmed that the discussion needed to happen in the Human Services Committee.

Ald. Fiske confirmed and highlighted a situation with Bookman’s alley, stating the importance of plaques. She discussed the importance of reaching out to residents and discussed Northwestern’s program for benches. She closed by stating her approval that the City has a program in place.

Mr. McRae confirmed that benches are available along the lakefront and in other parks.

Ald. Holmes asked about information on benches including cost and size and information on plaques, and asked about the cost of the application fee.

Mr. McRae discussed the application process for bench and tree dedications stating that the application cost for a bench is less than $1,000. He closed by stating that Public Works handles the process.

Ald. Grover asked if the policies were clear to staff since information is located in several places.
Mr. McRae confirmed that staff understood the process, but that the process could become more streamlined. He offered to work with the Committee to get the information in a central location.

Ald. Fiske highlighted the difference between the honorary street name program and the trees and benches; she agreed that the process should be standardized.

(HH 5) Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center Update
Staff will provide an update on the current status of projects for the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center.

Mr. McRae provided a presentation on the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural center including background information, information about the space, and those interested in renting space. He suggested letters of intent for the kitchen and the studio space. He closed by reviewing the proposed plan for the space, landscaping options, and next steps; he estimated that the building would be available to the public by June 2015.

V. ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION
(HH 6) TBRA Quarterly Update
Staff recommends the committee accept the Quarterly Report on Tenant Based Rental Assistance and place it on file.

Ald. Holmes recommends the Committee accept the Quarterly Report on Tenant Based Rental Assistance and place it on file, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the report and place it on file.

(HH 7) Update on Human Services Funding
An update will be provided on the joint meeting of the Human Services Committee, the Mental Health Board and the Housing and Community Development Act Committee held on January 27th, 2015.

Erika Storlie, Deputy City Manager, reviewed several recommendations as approved by all involved Committees, One of the recommendations including a joint application which would be developed in May. Ms. Storlie stated that agencies would have the opportunity to review the joint application in June and the final application would be available in July. She closed by stating that staff would continue to keep the Committee updated.

Ald. Burrus thanked staff and the Committees involved, and stated that it would be good for agencies and residents.

(HH 8) General Assistance Report
Staff recommends the Committee accept the Quarterly Report on General Assistance and place it on file.

Ald. Holmes moved to accept the Quarterly Report on General Assistance and place it on file, seconded by Ald. Burrus.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the report and place it on file.
VI. ADJOURMENT

Ald. Fiske motioned to adjourn and the Committee agreed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Wingader
Administrative Secretary