Approved

MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday February 6, 2012
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Braithwaite, Holmes, Fiske, Grover, and Tendam

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Chief Richard Eddington, Douglas Gaynor, Kathryn Agonis, Wally Bobkiewicz, Bob Dorneker and Carl Caneva

Presiding Member: Ald. Grover

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Grover called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of DECEMBER 5, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Review of Police Complaint
The committee had no questions or concerns regarding the Review of Police Complaints.

Special Events Permit Policy
David Reynolds, 204 Davis
Mr. Reynolds does not oppose adding more low impact activities to the lakefront; however he asked the committee not to add an abundance of low impact activities because the lakefront is still being used by residents who enjoy the tranquility it provides.

Ald. Holmes moved to recommend to City Council allowing the four events currently on the waiting list to be added to this year’s events calendar. Moved and seconded a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

IV. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
Township of Evanston January 2012 Monthly Bills
It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston January monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.
The City Manager referred the Assessor Wilson to City Staff Matt Swentkofske for the Township inclusion to the City’s Office Depot purchasing contract.

**Annual Health Department Farmers’ Market Application and Fees**

Frank Jeffers, 613 Sheridan Rd

Mr. Jefferies is a Friends of Evanston Farmers' Market Board member and it is of their opinion the health fees structure is out of line with other area markets fees. He stated Evanston health fees are excessively high and that forces a lack of farmer’s participation which will negatively affect the commerce in Evanston.

Mr. Jefferies stated in “November 2011 a health department personnel came to at least one church sponsored market while in session, the day of the market, going from vendor to vendor collecting cash on the spot if they wish to continue to sell in the market,”

A letter was sent to the City with the hopes of waiving the winter market health fees as it was last year but alas it was not. According to Mr. Jeffers, Faith in Place and the farmers agreed to cancel this year’s winter market due to the high health department fees.

The Friends of Evanston Farmers Market made the following suggestion

1. The winter market fees should be considered a part of the annual fees instead of a one day event

2. The fees should be pro-rated for farmers participating in only the summer or winter markets.

He thanked the City for their support.

**Leila Shoushani,**

Ms. Shoushani is a representative from Faith in Place and she suggested a lower fee or waiving the fees for pop up markets such as the ones she organized because they are not as heavily trafficked as other markets.

**Dr. Sarah Lovinger, 1131 Oak Ave**

Dr. Lovinger asked the following questions and Mr. Bobkiewicz answered.

Q. Are the health fees collected used for health inspections?

A. Yes, it assists in recovering the cost of the health inspector’s fee

Q. Evanston, Skokie and Chicago are the only North Shore communities with a public health department; the others are county and state?

A. No, there are four certified health department, Evanston, Stickney, Skokie, and Oak Park.

Q. Would the other North Shore communities’ farmers’ market be comparable since they do not have a health department or fees?
A. Some of those communities do have environmental health professionals even though they are not a certified health department.

Junad Rizki

Mr. Junad Rizki stated “this gentleman said something very disturbing to me; he said the city staff was taking cash from the vendors and that sort of bothers me as far as recording keeping”. He was puzzled as to why the City does not have a flat fee and asked if the intake of cash at farmers market is properly documented. He is suspicious and concerned this practice occurs and requests an explanation.

Mr. Bobkiewicz said this was the first time City staff has heard this accusation, and it will be investigated.

Ald. Holmes noted during the last three years she has noticed the difference in the items offered at farmers’ market. It has changed from being produce from the earth to market to now include baked goods, meat, etc. She is highly in favor of the health inspections at the market to ensure no one gets sick. She also noted the fees assists with the cost of the inspectors.

The $105 temporary health fee is driven by the Cook County Consumer Price Index which is by ordinance.

Mr. Jefferies return to the podium to state that City staff knew about the cash collection in January. He feels the increases from the current fees to the proposed fees are high and that the low and high traffic temporary fees should have separate fees.

Mr. Caneva noted that for the first time this year the “cottage” food vendors, those who make their food at home, are exempt from health fees.

*It was moved and seconded to recommend to the City Council for approval the Annual Health Department Farmers’ Market Application and Fees. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.*

Update on Noyes Cultural Center and Harley Clarke Mansion

**Nora Dietrich**, 1929 Sherman Ave

Ms. Dietrich gave an update of the Arts Center
- A fund raising consultant has been hired
- They are working with an architect to find out what would suit the space needs of the art studio
- They have met with Adam Goodman who gave them good direction on community needs survey.
- The timeline for a report from the consultants has a three to four month window
- The Arts Board is “aligned” with moving from the Harley Clarke Mansion

*It was moved and seconded to recommend to the City Council for approval* to authorize the City Manager to: 1) negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Piven Theater Workshop leading to long term lease for a portion of the Noyes Cultural Arts Center and
proposed agreement pertaining to other issues for Piven’s occupancy at the Center; 2) continue working with a new Noyes Center Tenants Association on operational and space issues at the Center and potential amendments to 2012 leases as appropriate and new lease conditions for future years for City Council consideration; 3) continue working with the Evanston Arts Center on a new location to relocate its programs and operations within Evanston; 4) obtain a property appraisal of the Harley Clarke Mansion, 2603 Sheridan Road, with proposed subdivision of the property to allow for public access to the lakefront and other public uses in the area; and 5) return to the City Council no later than April 30, 2012 with a proposed plan for the solicitation of proposals for other uses of the Mansion beginning in 2013. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department