MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, June 6, 2011
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, Doug Gaynor, Chief Richard Eddington, Nicola Whyte, Evonda Thomas and Katherine Agonis

Presiding Member: Ald. Tendam

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Tendam called the meeting to order at 7:54 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of March 7, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 6, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Citizen Comment
Sharon Eckersall, 2519 Ashland, stated the furniture in the Assessor’s office was purchased approximately two years prior to the start of her tenure as Assessor. It is of her opinion that the furniture was still in good condition when she left office and does not feel it is appropriate to purchase new furniture with the current budget issues. Ms. Eckersall suggested freezing the Township salaries until the budget is back on track, and she does not support the proposed salary increase for the Deputy Assessor.

Belen Ayestaran, 1501 Maple Ave, is a member of the newly created Evanston Parks Coalition which supports the redevelopment of Gray Park. According to Ms. Ayestaran the park’s namesake Charles Grey contributed greatly to Evanston. Mr. Grey gave Evanston a plot of land for the first library and a painting that was sold at Sotheby; Mrs. Grey was also a member of the Women’s Club of Evanston.

Junad Rizki questioned the operations of the City’s Water Department and felt due to the lack of fixtures/plumbing at the golf course the water bill should be around $4,000.00 instead of $12,000.00. He is not in favor of closing the Golf Course.
John McCarron, 1425 Noyes St., volunteers his time at the Golf Course by planting flower boxes, removing trash, and repainting yardage information signs because he enjoys doing it. He urges the Committee to work with the Golf Course not against it to keep it viable.

Cassie All, 1211 Grant St., is a member of the golf team and asked to keep the Golf Course.

Carl Bova, 1322 Rosalie St., questioned the repercussion of Section 3 of the Resolution as written for the Golf Course; he supports retaining the Golf Course.

John LaSasso, President of the Evanston/Wilmette Golf Course Association, stated the Association is experiencing financial difficulties and the golfing industry has had a downturn, which has contributed to them being two years behind on their water bill. Mr. LaSasso appreciates what the City is trying to do with the Resolution, which keeps the water on and defers their balance for a later date. Mr. LaSasso realizes changes have to be made and new partners have to be recruited to continue their presence in the community. He thanked everyone for their support.

Michael Matchen, 3900 Lake Ave., Vice President of the Wilmette Golf Association Board stated the Wilmette Board is owed $8000.00 by the Evanston/Wilmette Golf Course Association and they will be tackling a similar resolution as Evanston.

Richard Miller, 2338 Bryant Ave, has been supporting the Golf Course for over 40 years by picking weeds, mowing and planting; he supports the Golf Course.

Staphany Creamer, 2345 Bryant Ave, supports the Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course.

Betty Sue Ester 2031 Church St, commented on the pamphlet that was distributed for the Mayor’s Safe Summer Summit which was held at the Levy Center on June 4, 2011. Ms. Ester felt the information contained in the pamphlet was not cohesive; it included information on youth, adult and curfew. It is of her opinion that there should have been two pamphlets targeting youth and adults separately.

She also inquired as to the involvement of the City’s Youth Coordinator and the cost of preparing the pamphlet.

Madeline Ducre, 1929 Foster St., stated “on behalf of a group of colored people who believe in the network for equality and fairness. Our mission is to help people be aware of the facts that pertain to the inequality and the unfairness in our communities.” She thanked the Mayor for bringing the community together during the Safe Summer Summit. She further stated “CNF as a whole believe we must work together to solve the many problems within our community. We must face these issues head-on and we must be honest and open of the causes and effect of the problems.”
CNF would like the Human Services Committee to establish an open platform or roundtable of community members to discuss the race relations problems.

In response to Ms. Ester and Ms. Ducre’s citizen’s comments the Committee requested at the next meeting a report from the Mayor’s Taskforce on Homelessness and the Mayor’s Safe Summer Summit. Also suggested was a possible town hall meeting on race relations.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Update on Citizen Review of Police Complaints
The Committee did not have any questions or concerns regarding the Citizen Review of Police Complaints.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
Resolution 36-R-11 Supporting the Proposal of the Evanston Parks Coalition to Conduct a Visioning Process for the Design and Redevelopment of Grey Park
It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 36-R-11 Supporting the Proposal of the Evanston Parks Coalition to Conduct a Visioning Process for the Design and Redevelopment of Grey Park. A voice vote was taken and Resolution 36-R-11 was approved 5-0.

Resolution 37-R-11: Expressing Legislative Findings Regarding the Status of the City’s Sublease with the Evanston Wilmette Golf Curse Association for the Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course
It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 37-R-11: Expressing Legislative Findings Regarding the Status of the City’s Sublease with the Evanston Wilmette Golf Curse Association for the Frank Govern Memorial Golf Course. A voice vote was taken and Resolution 37-R-11 was approved 5-0.

Ald. Fiske requested clarity on the billing procedures for the Golf Course.
- City Manager Bobkiewicz stated the Golf Course is not assessed a sewer fee; they are billed for usage only.

Ald. Fiske asked if the Golf Course and Northwestern University are billed the same way for water.
- City Manager Bobkiewicz did not have that information but will forward a reply of his findings to the Committee.

Ald. Fiske asked City Manager Bobkiewicz to research Wilmette’s billing rate for the Golf Course.

Ald. Fiske would like to forgive the Golf Course’s past due water bill as a payment for the volunteer services provided by residents.

Ald. Grover stated the City is not in a position to maintain the property the Golf Course now occupies and she is not in favor of forgiving the past due water bill altogether. She proposed amending Section 4: Further, the City will not seek immediate payment for any water service charges incurred by the Association from the effective date of this Resolution through December 31, 2011, but expressly reserve the right to do so.
Ald. Tendam proposed amending **SECTION 3:** The City Manager and Corporation Counsel will report to the City Council on or after between September 1, 2011 and October 31, 2011 his findings with respect to the Association’s obligations under the sublease.

Ald. Fiske proposed holding the item in Committee until the information she requested is provided. She is not comfortable voting on the Resolution without the additional information.

Ald. Grover pointed out the intent of the Resolution is to give the Golf Course time to recover and pay their debts in the future and holding the item in Committee would not be beneficial for them.

It was moved and seconded to approve amendments to **SECTION 3:** The City Manager and Corporation Counsel will report to the City Council on or after between September 1, 2011 and October 31, 2011 his findings with respect to the Association’s obligations under the sublease.

and **Section 4:** Further, the City will not seek immediate payment for any water service charges incurred by the Association from the effective date of this Resolution through December 31, 2011, but expressly reserve the right to do so. A voice vote was taken and the amendments were approved 4-1 (Ald. Fiske voting no).

**Township of Evanston Monthly Bills**
It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the monthly bills were approved 5-0.

**Township Budget**
Ald. Grover asked if the Township’s lease requires the approval of the Trustees. That question was recently sent to the Law Department for review; at the time of this meeting a conclusion was not yet reached.

Ald. Holmes does not support the pay increase proposed for the Deputy Assessor.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Township Budget. A voice vote was taken and the motion failed 1-4. (Ald. Braithwaite voting yes)

It was moved and seconded to forward to City Council without Recommendation. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

**Resolution 2T-R-11 - Township Identity**
The Illinois General Assembly requires each local and state government agency to adopt an Identity protection Policy by June 15, 2011.

Ald. Grover suggested grammatical amendment to the policy which legal will correct for submission to the City Council.
It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2T-R-11. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department