MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, March 4, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Ald. Grover, Tendam, Holmes,

Members Absent: Braithwaite, Fiske

Staff Present: Joseph McRae, Chief Richard Eddington, Commander Diane Davis, Henry Ford, Douglas Gaynor

Presiding Member: Ald. Holmes

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of FEBRUARY 4, 2013
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 3-0.

Citizen Comments
Larry Distasi is the Co-Artistic Director for the Actors Gymnasium Circus and Preforming Arts School located at the Noyes Center is not in agreement on the proposed Piven plan.

Maggie Weiss does not agree with the proposed Piven plan.

Fay Kaiser urged the Piven Plan for the Noyes Center to not overlook including minority within the plan; the current plan is focused on Caucasian middle class.

Julie Phelan felt the plan should reconsider the theater plan of taking over so much space from artists. Suggested the Piven Theater and the Arts Center should be separated.

Greg Allen with the Evanston Arts Council suggested slowing down to formulate a more unified plan for the community.

Jimmie McRaith, 1107 Colfax St. is concerned with the risky financial partnership

Albert Gibbs felt the police tried to intimidate and bully him as he looked on while they are interacting with residents.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of Police Complaints
The report was accepted by the committee 3-0.
Chief Eddington staff will follow up with Mr. Gibbs on his complaints so a formal process can be followed.

Dr. Thompson has been asked to return in the Fall 2013 for training on deescalating of situations and also to hold an evening forum to meet with the community.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Township of Evanston February 2013 Monthly Bills

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston February 2013 monthly bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0.*

**Assessor Bonnie Wilson report**

The County Assessor is currently open for 2013 Evanston assessment appeals until March 25, 2013. Any change in your assessment takes effect on the 2013 second installment payable in the summer of 2014.

A 2013 notice from the County Assessor with a reduced assessment from 2012 DOES NOT guarantee a lower property tax bill next year. The Assessor encouraged every property owner to file an assessment appeal this year both to the County Assessor and to the Cook County Board of Review later this summer to ensure they pay the lowest possible property taxes next year.

Cook County Assessor Joe Berrios, Cook County Commissioner Larry Sufferdin and the Assessor will be hosting a reach out to provide Evanston property owners with information on filing 2013 appeals. It will be held Thursday, March 7th at the Civic Center in the Parasol Room on the fourth floor at 6:30pm.

Last month the Assessor’s office provided seniors with assistance on filing 375 senior exemptions and 185 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze applications for 2012 taxes payable this year. Additionally, we welcomed six new Homeowners to Evanston. There will be a reminder card sent to previous Senior Citizens exemption recipients who haven’t replied to the initial senior exemption mailing from the County Assessor. Contact the Assessor’s office to ensure that you receive the exemptions that you are entitled to on the 2012 second installment payable this summer.

In February, 26 taxpayers received corrections for previously missed property tax exemptions totaling $28,414.39. This brings our fiscal year total of money returned to Evanston taxpayers to $405,055.58 for 11 months!

The Assessor’s Office can be reached at 847-332-2465 to make an appointment.

**Ordinance 28-O-13 Amending City Code Title 2, Chapter 12, Section 1, Adding a Term of Appointment for ADA Advisory Board Members**

*It was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance 28-O-13 Amending City Code Title 2, Chapter 12, Section 1, Adding a Term of Appointment for ADA Advisory Board Members. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0.*
2013 Special Events Calendar for City Parks
It was moved and seconded to approve the 2013 Special Events Calendar for City Parks. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0.

Ten Thousand Ripples Public Art/Peace Project
It was moved and seconded to approve the Ten Thousand Ripples Public Art/Peace Project. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 3-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mental Health Board Logo
The Committee requested the Mental Health Board delay their search for a logo until the rebranding of the City is completed. It was suggested the City’s logo could be modified for the Mental Health Board logo. Ald. Tendam is not in favor of Boards, Committees and Departments having a separate logo.

ADJOURNMENT
It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department