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

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Nicola Whyte, Carl Caneva, Kathy Agonis, Wally Bobkiewicz, Douglas Gaynor, Evonda Thomas, Commander Aretha Hartley

Presiding Member: Ald. Tendam

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Tendam called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of APRIL 2, 2012
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Review of Police Complaints
No questions from the committee

City of Evanston, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey have partnered to study closures at the Evanston Beaches and develop a model to predict water quality.

Carl Caneva, Environmental Health Division Manager shared a PowerPoint presentation on what is coming to the Evanston beaches for 2012 with a new model to predict water quality. Evanston beaches are tested daily by a Health Department staff; Northwestern University retrieves their own water samples and drops it off at the Health Department for testing. The beaches are closed for many reasons including high levels of E. coli, rip or lateral currents, unsafe winds creating visibility problems, excessive waves, thunder, fog, seiche effects (water level change due to barometer changes), Wilmette’s locks opening (24 hours), biological or chemical waste, lightening, tornado, and waterspouts; however, the water samples are tested for levels of e. coli.

The new beach water testing model will produce results, which are specific for each beach closure. The model will be tested the summer of 2012 and implemented next summer 2013.
Lake County has a similar model already implemented and their data has an 85% accuracy rate.

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Township of Evanston April 2012 Monthly Bills**

Ald. Grover noted the cost of prescription drugs related to chronic disease was one of the greatest expenses under the Township’s medical report; the pending federal qualified health clinic is needed.

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston April 2012 bills. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.*

**1T-O-12 an ordinance proposed budget and appropriations ordinance for town purposes, for year ending March 31, 2013.**

Ms. Vance, Township Supervisor gave a summary of the budget
- Equipment replacement has been included in the budget
- There will be a decrease in the property tax levy and the use of Town funds
- Grants given to General Assistance clients will be increased; there has not been an increase in three years

*It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston proposed budget to City Council. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.*

**Update on Harley Clarke Mansion**

City Manager Bobkiewicz reported on the status of the Harley Clarke Mansion. He proposed a subdivision of the land thereafter selling the plot of land occupying the coach house.

Ald. Fiske and the other committee members were not in favor of selling the land. The consensus of the committee was if the lake front property is sold it would be nearly if not improbable to get back. The committee asked City Manager Bobkiewicz to look into the possibilities of selling or leasing the structures only; the City should maintain ownership of the land.

The following items were discussed;
- The appraisal of the Mansion is in its final stages
- Cost of relocating the Arts Center is unknown
- Leasing would assist in preserving the structures; however, it does not help with financially relocating the Arts Center
- A fundraiser would be necessary to assist in funding the Arts Center relocating

Nora Dietrich Director of the Arts Center would like the Center to be relocated to an urban environment; they are prepared to fundraise to help with the move.

*It was moved and seconded to forward the Request for Information to City Council and make the adjustments as indicated by the committee. A voice vote was taken and the motion was passed 5-0.*
Citizen Comment:
Madelyn Ducre had the following concerns;
- It is important for residents to have a forum to voice their opinions and concerns. She hopes the Human Services Committee would extend a welcome to those residents because they do not feel comfortable speaking at City Council.
- The increase of the water rate is weighing heavily of residents especially those on a fixed income.
- The August due date for taxes is soon upon us and some residents are not prepared or unable to pay their taxes.
- Residents have mentioned to her that the Community Clinic in partnership with Erie Health Care has been tabled. It is her opinion the health center is needed.
- There has been several homes purchased by one entity and it is unknown to the community the purpose of those purchases. The community has a right to know what or who is in their community.

Ald. Holmes is aware of the home purchases; three homes located at 1826 Foster, 1934 Brown and 2100 block of Dewey are slated for group homes. Ald. Holmes believes the community should be aware of who is entering their surrounding and felt the owners should at least inform the ward Alderman of their intentions/plans.

COMMUNICATIONS
Commander Hartley reported to the committee that the Police Department has started its spring campaign to educate cyclist on handling their bikes on the sidewalk. Enforcement will be stepped up the week of May 7th. The fines range from a minimum of $50 with a maximum of $500, depending on the number of occurrences for the cyclist, their history and if there is a court appearance involved.

ADJOURNMENT
It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department