MEETING MINUTES
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday November 7, 2011
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: Joseph McRae, Chief Richard Eddington, Douglas Gaynor, Nicola Whyte, Kathryn Agonis, Robert Dorneker and Godwin Chen

Presiding Member: Ald. Fiske

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of December 6, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written 5-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Township of Evanston October Monthly Bills totaling $137,024.16
It was moved and seconded to approve the Township of Evanston October monthly bills totaling $137,024.16. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

Citizens Comment
Madelyn Ducre an Evanston resident does not support the elimination of the Township of Evanston. She also suggested adding a large fine to the Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana”.

Betty Ester, 2031 Church St, does not support the Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana.” She equated the proposed notice of violation of Section 8-16-2 to a parking ticket and felt this was not the correct message to convey to young people. It is her thought there should be further punitive consequences for possession of 10g or less of cannabis.

Dickelle Fonda supports the Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana.” In July of 2011 the Reader published an article with data from the Cook County Circuit Courts which showed Evanston ranking 4th in marijuana arrests and primarily those
arrests were African Americans. If this ordinance is passed it would allow those African American men that are “stopped and frisked” a chance in life without a record taking them in a downward spiral, she stated.

Jersey Hosier a Northeastern Justice Scholar gathered information on arrests for marijuana via FIOA, which covered a 16 month period, these are her findings:

- Majority of arrests in Evanston occurs around the high school and on Howard St.
- There are very few arrests in Northwest Evanston
- There were no arrests for possession on the Northwestern campus
- African American females are targeted more so than Caucasian females
- There were four times as many African American males arrested than Caucasian males
- Caucasian males are not targeted

The Reader article listed Maywood, Cicero, Chicago and Evanston arrests for marijuana possession primarily African Americans. There were two other cities listed one being Logan Square whose targeted population for marijuana possession arrests were Latinos.

Vernon Clark, Associate Principal Educational Services, Evanston Township High School does not support or took a position on Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana.” Evanston Township High School’s (ETHS) policy on drug possession is as follows; any student found in possession of small amounts of marijuana are school disciplined sans police involvement. The police are notified if any student is found in possession of a large amount of marijuana. The passing of this ordinance would not require a change in the ETHS drug policy.

Mr. Clark further stated drug activity and drug dealing at or surrounding ETHS is not tolerated. Learning is impaired when a teenager is under the influence of drugs and that influence could lead to risky and dangerous decisions that could seriously affect those around them.

To summarize ETHS stance

- ETHS will not take any position on the proposed Ordinance 92-O-11.
- ETHS will continue to prohibit drugs.
- ETHS does no criminalize for small amount of marijuana, the same quantity as the proposed ordinance.
- ETHS will continue to teach the dangers of drug use and enforce drug use is against ETHS rules.
- ETHS will continue to focus on drug education and prevention strategies.

Mr. Clark stated the statements he made also included statements from Dr. Eric Weatherspoon Superintendents of ETHS.

Jacquelin Loris, Student Assistance Program reiterated Mr. Clark’s remarks. Approximately 85 students were caught with drugs during the 2009-2010 ETHS school year and 35 students have been caught to date for the current school year.
Maura Mooney, Evanston Substance Abuse Prevention Council read a statement which promoted drug education.

Rev. Richard Mosley, Jr, Pastor, Hemenway United Methodist Church, supports the Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana.” He believes instead of gaining a criminal record it would give people a chance to find a job and advance in life.

Kate Mahoney, Executive Director, Peer Services supports Proposed Ordinance 92-O-11 Amending Certain Provisions of Title 8, Chapter 16 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Marijuana” and applauds the Mayor for her efforts in assisting youths find jobs.

Ms. Mahoney asked the following questions and or concerns
- She would like the committee to slow down and talk about the goals of this ordinance
- How can the community assist with those goals?
- What ordinance changes would be required to support those goals?
- How to employ young people and what they have to do to keep their jobs.
- What will happen to those offenders who have multiple marijuana tickets?
- She fears this ordinance might increase the use of marijuana which in turn will increase the gang strong hold.
- Would parents be notified when a minor is issued a ticket?
- Is this ticket similar to issuing a parking ticket?
- Other communities send offender for counseling

Ms. Mahoney also demonstrated the discrepancies between the size of a joint smoked by Caucasians and a blunt smoked by people of African decent. She stated a joint is within the ordinance 10g limit but the blunt would exceed the limit thereby placing those smokers in the criminal system.

Albert Gibbs an Evanston resident shared with the committee that he is a recovering drug addict who started at the age of 14 with marijuana and progressed to stronger drugs. He does not believe Ordinance 92-O-11 will help kids make the right decision and also feels that further discussion of this ordinance is needed.

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl stated the conversation was started the Safe Summer Summit. People 18-25 years of age has the desire to work but due to the bad economy, lack of training and a criminal record jobs were hard to attain.

This ordinance would not penalize wrongdoer with 10g or less of marijuana and would save the tax payers money spent on court costs, and fewer arrests, which would allow the police to go after “criminals”. There are three options for those caught with 10g of marijuana or less: pay a fine, enter drug counseling, or community service. Also, the students at ETHS told the Mayor they felt their relationship would improve with the police.

Recently the Cook County Board enacted a similar ordinance to incorporated areas of Cook County and the Commissioner told the Mayor the ordinance gives offenders a chance to straighten up; it gives the sheriff’s office the flexibility in charges filed, and saves money.
Jim McHolland, Principal, Chute Middle School response to the discussion is that parents along with the schools should continue to reiterate what is right and wrong to their kids. He does not believe making Ordinance 92-O-11 a law is going to deter kids from drugs; it’s about education at home and school.

Sam Pettineo, Safety Director, Evanston Township High School, stated ETHS policy of what is considered a small amount of marijuana is 10g or less.


Individuals arrested for possession of marijuana is sent to either Administration Adjudication or Skokie Court depending on history, circumstances or other charges. In FY2010-98 citations were written and year-to-date FY2011-76 citations have been written.

144 arrests have been made with 17 for possession of over 30g, 127 less than 30g, 50 for 10g or less, and 8 juvenile with 10g or less. Possession of 30g or more is a felony.

Police Chief Eddington would prefer to notify the parent or guardian that their child is in the custody of the Police so they are informed of the situation. He also inquired about procedures for collection on non-compliance of tickets issued; this year only 33% of tickets written for cannabis have been collected compared to last years 34%.

An amendment was made to Section 8-16-3 (B) to have an additional option of drug counseling, treatment and/or community service.

It was moved and seconded to forward Ordinance 92-O-11 to City Council for approval. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

Proposed Ordinance 56-0-11 Enacting a New Subsection 1-17-4-3 of the City Code to Require Replacement of Sold or Leased Park Land

Larry Raffel, 3509 Central Street spoke for the Parks and Recreation Board. Since the September 2011 meeting the Board has clarified the language to the proposed ordinance which would add subsection 1-17-4-3

1-17-4-3: SALE OR LEASE OF PARK REAL PROPERTY AND/OR FACILITIES:

(A) Before the City Council may authorize the sale of City-owned real property and/or facilities designated for park use in Title 7, Chapter 10 of this Code, the City shall acquire other real property and/or facilities, substantially similar equal or greater in area to the City property and/or facilities to be sold, that the City Council determines is suitable for park use purposes. When making such a determination, the Council shall consider the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board. Said acquisition shall be at no cost to the City. In the event that such a sale and subsequent acquisition yield a net profit for the City, said profit shall be deposited into the Parks and Recreation Fund, established hereby, which can only receive and expend monies dedicated to the creation, preservation, maintenance, and improvement of City parks, beaches, and recreational facilities.

(B) Before the City Council may authorize the lease of City-owned real property and/or facilities designated for park use in Title 7, Chapter 10 of this Code, the City shall acquire or lease, for a term equal to the term of the lease of City-owned property, other real property and/or facilities, similar equal or greater in area to the City property to be leased, that the City Council determines is suitable for park use purposes. When making such a determination, the Council shall consider the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board. Said acquisition and/or lease shall be of no cost to the City. This Subsection (B) shall not apply to the lease of a portion of space within a structure located on City-owned park land or a lease whereby the City authorizes a third party to operate a park facility on the City’s behalf.

Held in Committee.
Proposed Ordinance 81-O-11 Amending Title 9, Chapter 4 of the Evanston Municipal Code entitled “Dogs, Cats, Animals and Fowl” to regulate Problem Pet Owners


It was moved and seconded to approve the amendment to the title; a voice vote was taken and the motion was approved 5-0.

It was moved and seconded to approve Ordinance 81-O11; 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 9:25 p.m.

Ms. Ester spoke to the committee after adjournment regarding the request for driver’s license and date of birth on a complaint form. She feels it is not required by the State of Illinois and should be deleted from the Evanston Police Complaint Forms.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department