Minutes of the Human Services Committee  
Monday, October 04, 2010  
7:00 P.M.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Council Chambers

PRESENT: Ald. Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Mark Tendam, Judy Fiske, Delores Holmes and Jane Grover

PRESIDING: Ald. Judy Fiske

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Kenneth Cox, Assistant City Attorney; Doug Gaynor, Director, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Sol Anderson, Youth Coordinator; Nicola Whyte, Health Department: Richard Eddington, Police Chief; Sergeant Angela Heartsglass, Police Dept; Patrice Quehl, Youth Advocate;

TOWNSHIP OF EVANSTON: Bonnie Wilson, Township Assessor; Rosemary Jean-Paul, Township Executive Director; Pat Vance, Township Supervisor; Nick Pavletic Deputy Assessor

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Call to Order  
*Alderman Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

APPROVAL OF September 7, 2010 MINUTES  
*Ald. Jean Baptiste moved approval, Ald Tendam seconded; approved 5-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Township of Evanston Monthly Bills totaling $195,985.95  
*Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Ald Holmes seconded: approved 5-0.

Township Presentation on General Assistance  
Pat Vance reported to the committee on General Assistance (GA), the presentation included the Township's responsibilities and how it pertains to GA along with answers to questions the committee asked at the September’s meeting.

If a client does not comply with the requirements of being on GA a sanction as dictated by law is applied.

Each client is assess and placed on a work program; however, there are exceptions i.e. if the client is on social security or currently in school.
Bills are submitted to the Illinois Health Care and Family Services formerly IDPA on a regular basis. Clients are referred by other agencies and word of mouth.

**Citizen Comments:**

Betty Sue Ester, 2130 Church St, felt the school districts already address truancy and asked why the City’s involvement is necessary. She is not in favor of this ordinance. Ms. Ester asked if the collected fines will be shared by the school districts and why the proposed ordinance does not mirror the State’s requirements of a truant being 7 to 17 years.

Madelyn Ducre stated she has spoken to several parents regarding the truancy ordinance and they are not in favor of it. They felt this ordinance will put their child on the police’s radar. She asked the committee to reassess the need for the proposed ordinance because the reason behind a child being truant could have various reasons i.e. lack of money for school clothes.

**Truancy Ordinance**

Ald Holmes requested at the October 8th City Council meeting to send this proposed ordinance back to staff for changes. She felt the focus should be on the parents and schools not the police and City government. She does not support the proposed ordinance; however, she supports the concept.

Ald. Grover supports the proposed ordinance; she asked about the repercussion of a truancy police record and if the record of violations goes away when the child returns to school.

Chief Eddington stated this administrative judgment does not have a long term impact; it is not integrated into the juvenile court system.

Ms. Quehl stated the ordinance would assist in obtaining the parents involvement when the school’s procedures to stop truancy failed.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste suggested removing the component that allows the police to issue a citation to a truant from the proposed ordinance.

**Committee requests:**

- Representation from the school districts at the next meeting
- Including the intergovernmental agreement in the next packet
- Amending the proposed ordinance to make the parent culpable instead of the truant
Update on Citizens Review of Police Complaints  
*Ald. Holmes moved approval, Ald Grove seconded; approved 5-0.

Township Organization and Efficiencies  
Ald. Fiske brought this item to committee to evaluate if there are any areas which needed improvement in the Township operations.

The committee did not make any suggestions for improvement nor did they inquire to Supervisor Vance if any improvements were needed.

Ald. Grover will be attending the Township Officials of Illinois Conference in November; she will report in December on her attendance.

Tree Preservation Ordinance  
John Kennedy, President of the Preservation League would like a provision included in the ordinance to protect “very large trees”. Anyone who would like to remove a tree over 20 inches would need to get approval from the City.

Lake Bluff’s ordinance was the model used for the draft ordinance.

Ald. Holmes asked for clarity on why this ordinance is being amended. Ald. Fiske stated the historical trees along Kendal College block has been a neighborhood concern, along with the trees on Hinman Ave that were compromised by the Mather construction, they were the genesis of amending the tree ordinance. She would like the amendment to address the trees as a whole instead of as the situation arises.

Ald. Tendam felt applying restrictions of trees on a homeowner’s property may be an infringement on personal rights.

Peer Services Update  
Megan DeCarlo Prevention Program Coordinator at Peer Services gave a PowerPoint presentation on the result of their 2010 Drug Perceptions and Use Survey.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicola Whyte  
Evanston Health Department