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


Members Absent:

Staff Present: Nicola Whyte, Katherine Agonis, Douglas Gaynor, Chief Richard Eddington, Wally Bobkiewicz, and Robert Dorneker

Presiding Member: Ald. Fiske

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Chairman Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES of AUGUST 1, 2011
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved 5-0.

Citizen Comment
Jeoff Cochran the new Chair of the Mental Health Board introduced himself to the committee.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
Township of Evanston August Monthly Bills
It was moved and seconded that the Township of Evanston August 2011 monthly bills totaling $106,485.15 be approved. A voice vote was taken and the bills were 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
A motion was not taken for discussion; held in committee by consensus of the members for further review.

Larry Raffel, 3509 Central Avenue, a member of the Park and Recreation Board suggested the following amendment for section 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 in area or greater in suitability for park purposes to the City property and/or facilities to be sold, that the City Council determines is suitable for park use.

The Park and Recreation Board would like to have a voice as to the type of property being accepted/swapped if ever there was a sale of park land. The Board would like it to be written into the ordinance that the Board can offer recommendation to the City Council.

Three of the five committee members voiced their disapproval of the proposed amendment to the ordinance.

**Resolution 51-R-11, Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for Independent Contractor Services - Interim Library Director**

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 51-R-11, Authorizing Execution of an Agreement for Independent Contractor Services - Interim Library Director be approved. A voice vote was taken and the Resolution 51-R-11 was approved 5-0.

The proposed Interim Library Director Donna Dziedzic recently retired as the Executive Director of the Naperville Public Library; the Chair extended a warm welcomed to Ms. Dziedzic.

**Authorization for the Township of Evanston to enroll in the Coast2Coast a free prescription discount card program was forwarded to the City Council for approval.**

Township Supervisor Patricia Vance gave a summary of the Coast2Coast prescription discount card program. There is no cost to the Township for distributing the card and after 1700 qualified prescription has been filled the Township will receive fifty cents back thereafter. CVS is a participating pharmacy in Evanston and the cards will be advertised on the City’s website and is open to all resident with or without insurance.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Relocation of the Township of Evanston to the Civic Center**

Since the municipality and the Township are coterminous there could be a cost saving if the Township was abolished, this information was shared at the Rules Committee by Cook County Commissioner Larry Sufferdin.

Moving the Township into the Civic Center would be a minimum savings of the cost of leasing the offices; however, relocation is dependent on the following: with the pending Community Health Clinic will there be enough space; the lease expires in September 2013 could the lease be broken without penalties; and if subleasing was an option how would they recruit the lessee.
Questions were asked in search of what is needed to dissolving the Township; if closing the Township is the best cost saving measure would a vote of the Township Trustees accomplish the task or is a referendum vote needed? Also, if a referendum is the correct course of action what are the procedures to accomplish it? The committee agreed to continue this discussion at the September 19th Township meeting regarding their budget.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Amendments to the Dangerous Dog Ordinance**

Ald. Fiske worked with the Legal Department on the amendments for the dog ordinance and shared the final document with the committee.

Ald. Burrus thanked the committee for their due diligence to the dangerous dog amendments. She shared an incident that occurred in the ninth ward, during the weekend. A resident was walking his dog around Washington School when a pit-bull chased and attacked his dog. The resident freed his dog from the attack dog and as a result had to get stitches to lacerations he received during the altercation. The resident and his dog fled home only to be followed by the dangerous dog that proceed to growl and bark in the resident courtyard scaring the other occupants. The police was called and the attack dog was shot during its attempt to injure the police officer; the dog fled home after being shot.

The attack dog was owned by a homeowner with three dogs; the owner has received numerous tickets since 2008 for various infractions, which included his dogs biting.

Chief Eddington felt the ordinance is narrow in its authorization to police to seize an animal demonstrating dangerous behavior and this weekend dog attack highlighted that restriction. He suggested also allowing securing an animal from its owners who have multiple tickets relating to animals and that all expenses related to housing the animal until a resolution should be paid by the dog owner. At this time the police is only authorized to seize an animal if it can be proven it is dangerous and at large or a dangerous dog that is being trained to fight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicola Whyte
Executive Secretary, Health Department