HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
7:30 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Council Chambers

Members Present: Alderman Fiske, Alderman Braithwaite, Alderman Holmes, Alderman Tendam, Alderman Burrus

Members Absent: Alderman Grover

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, Erika Storlie, Sargent Melvin Collier, Joe McRae, Henry Ford, Kevin Brown, Evonda Thomas-Smith, Jessica Wingader

Presiding Member: Alderman Burrus

I. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
Alderman Burrus called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2014
Alderman Tendam moved approval. Alderman Holmes seconded approval. A voice vote was taken to approve the August 4, 2014 minutes and it was approved 5-0.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Citizen Comments
HH 5 - Sydney Evans spoke in support of Career Pathways
HH3 - Lou Harms spoke in support of Harley Clarke
HH3 - Barbara James spoke about Harley Clarke
HH3 - Linda Damashek spoke about Harley Clarke
HH3 - Junad Rizki spoke about Harley Clarke
HH3 - Jean Lindwell spoke about Harley Clarke
Madeline Ducre spoke about several items including HH1, HH6, HH7, the proposed medical marijuana dispensary, Township property tax review and the potential new YOU headquarters.
Peggy Tar spoke about Revolution Spin and concerns with Evanston Police Department.

HH 1 Human Services Funding Summit
Alderman Burrus stated that the meeting will take place on Monday, November 3, 2014. It will replace the Human Services meeting.
Wally Bobkiewicz stated that the meeting would take place at 6pm.
Alderman Burrus agreed and confirmed that all interested parties could attend.

V. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
HH 2 Police Complaints and HH 6 Citizen Police Academy Admission Criteria
Alderman Burrus called for HH2 Police Complaints and HH6 Police Academy Admission Criteria.

There were no questions or comments about HH2 Police Complaints.

Sgt. Collier reviewed the criteria for admission in the adult Citizen Police Academy and the Juvenile Academy. He stated that background checks are performed for adults through LEEDS and for juveniles through the James B. Moran Center for Juvenile Justice. Sgt. Collier also stated that all are admitted and no one is denied admission, regardless of a criminal record. He added that only two participants in the history of the program were not allowed to participate. The first individual threatened police officers and had a history of inappropriate behavior. The second individual was also mentally unstable.

Alderman Holmes stated that people were unaware that background checks were performed.

Sgt. Collier clarified that the background check for juveniles was limited to talking to the Juvenile Detective Bureau and Youth Services to understand who is accepted into the program.

Alderman Tendam asked if the information was available on the application.

Sgt. Collier replied that it was and that the information was also listed online and on Facebook.

Alderman Burrus called for other questions. She stated that she participated in the program and that it was fantastic.

Sgt. Collier closed by stating that it was a very positive program.

**HH 3 Harley Clarke**

Wally Bobkiewicz discussed progress with plans for the Harley Clarke mansion. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) made a presentation in January and has been negotiating for use of the property. The focus of the discussions has been on the conditions of the mansion and included multiple assessments and studies. The State is prepared to provide a full restoration that will cost $5 to 6 million. The State indicated a willingness to purchase the mansion and the coach house because it will be easier to get funding for the proposed projects if the State owns the buildings. Mr. Bobkiewicz reiterated that any sale of the property is not something that the City will consider. The City has proposed the sale of the mansion and coach house with a long term lease of the property. Evanston would retain land ownership. Without an official ordinance or direction from Council, Mr. Bobkiewicz is unable to provide final terms. The State has requested permit parking similar to that used by the Evanston Art Center currently. Restoration would serve the building well and the building would be used for conservancy efforts and no other. Language would be drafted between the State and the City to insure that those uses remain for the purposes of conservation only. Mr. Bobkiewicz offered several options for negotiations and language, and stated that Council would review any proposals and have final say in any negotiations. IDNR does have a relationship with Illinois Historic Preservation officials – another group that is concerned about the building. The City has been very transparent. Mr. Bobkiewicz asked that the Human Services Committee recommend action to adopt resolution and send to City Council and asked for any questions.

Alderman Fiske asked about funding and why it would be easier if the State owned the building.

Mr. Bobkiewicz replied that, in order to obtain the funds necessary to complete renovations, additional revenue sources were needed; those sources would be easier to access if IDNR owned the building.

Alderman Fiske asked if the revenue sources were public or private.

Mr. Bobkiewicz replied that they were public.
Alderman Tendam stated that the purchase price should be settled and funding streams transparent. He is concerned with State funding, but would like to remove the liability of the property. He would also like more information about benefits to Evanston residents including classes; he would additionally like to keep spaces open for public use.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that there would be a limited amount of public space for events. IDNR has no interest in renting out the space for private functions, but the space would be available for community gatherings.

Alderman Tendam asked about preservation meetings and meetings around lake issues.

Mr. Bobkiewicz replied that IDNR is open to further discussions, but is sensitive to timing, and would like to execute deal. Mr. Bobkiewicz proposed a separate letter of agreement or memorandum of understanding. The State would like to conclude this deal in the next few months.

Alderman Fiske asked about any increase in park land available to citizens. She believes that selling the building is not in the City’s best interest, but still supports leasing the building. She would rather dismantle the building and increase park land and beach land.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that the City would need to move forward quickly if deconstruction is still an option. The estimates to deconstruct varied and the City would need to budget and contract with a firm soon. To have the building sit empty as of January would not be good. There is not another entity that will do this.

Alderman Holmes asked about any other entities interested in leasing the property.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that the only other others are for commercial use.

Alderman Holmes stated that she is comfortable with the sale of the building, not the land. She trusts that the Law Department will include all the necessary language and covenants. She further made a motion to move this to City Council.

There was discussion around the procedures for selling City property and the public nature of this building. There was further discussion about the classes IDNR would like to offer.

Alderman Burrus requested more information and input from a representative of IDNR. She closed by calling for a motion.

Alderman Holmes motioned to move the issue forward to City Council to allow the City Manager to negotiate the sale of the building and its adoption of the ordinance. Alderman Tendam seconded.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 3 to 2 with Alderman Fiske and Alderman Burrus not in favor.

**HH 4 Antibiotics in Farm Animals**

Jessica Fujan with Food and Water Watch discussed the importance of resolution 62-R-14, included in the packet, which she hoped the Committee would recommend to City Council. She listed local and federal supporters, similar measures in other countries and their effectiveness.

Alderman Holmes stated that she move to take staff recommendation to adopt the resolution. Alderman Braithwaite seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion passes 3 to 2 with Alderman Fisk and Alderman Tendam not in favor.

**HH 5 Career Pathways**

Kevin Brown recommends approval of the third agreement between the City of Evanston and the Youth Job Center. He stated that the program has been successful and he introduced the new Executive Director, Karen Tollenaar Demorest. Mr. Brown further stated that the pilot program’s successful results have been consistent with national models, 80% of participants
considered high risk, 70% completed the program, 60% retained employment and certification or credentials. Of the 23 participants who enrolled in the second group, 100% completed the Job Readiness Training Program and 19 participants have been placed in internships.

Alderman Burrus thanked Mr. Brown for his report and called for a motion to accept the report.

Alderman Braithwaite moved approval. Alderman Holmes seconded.

VI. COMMUNICATION
HH 7  General Assistance Report

Alderman Burrus called for questions.

Evonda Thomas Smith stated that she was available to answer questions. She offered additional good news about a recent partnership with Oakton Community College. Oakton now provides GED courses. 10 participants were tested and all will start the program.

Alderman Tendam asked if there had been inquiries about Assessor’s services and referrals.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that Administration & Public Works put information in e-news which has over 37,000 subscribers and that people are making appointments and receiving services.

There was discussion around how the City is advertising services and how this information is disseminated to residents. Alderman Holmes expressed concern that residents who didn’t have access to the internet weren’t receiving information or services. Ms. Thomas-Smith stated that she took flyers to surrounding businesses and concluded that people also learned by word of mouth.

Alderman Braithwaite asked if the City Manager had any plans to work with Larry Suffredin in terms of Assessor’s position.

Mr. Bobkiewicz replied that the offices work together every day and that Madeline Ducre’s daughter is a staff member. Mr. Bobkiewicz confirmed that services remained the same and that the processes were well established.

Alderman Holmes and Alderman Braithwaite asked about several items that were not listed in the budget. Specifically, Alderman Holmes didn’t see an area or category for veterans flags, west end market, rental assistance and assistance for mortgages and utilities.

Ms. Thomas-Smith explained how the items in question were included in the budget. There was discussion around the items and the way they were labeled. Ms. Thomas-Smith concluded by stating that the items in question would be made into separate line items.

Mr. Bobkiewicz discussed the differences between the General Fund and the General Assistance fund.

Alderman Burrus called for other questions.

Alderman Holmes stated that she is concerned that some programs will get lost if funding isn’t specified.
Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that he has similar concerns and that Council must decide where the money should come from. The General Assistance account is no longer tied to township law so the money will be used at the discretion of City Council.

Alderman Holmes stated that the Committee was responsible for providing services.

Alderman Burrus stated that it would be good to discuss this at the upcoming Human Services Funding Summit.

Alderman Holmes pointed out that people in the community hold the Aldermen accountable for providing services.

Alderman Braithwaite stated that part of the reason the Committee didn’t support dissolution was because there was concern that services would be lost.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated vehemently that that is not what is happening. Council can create a smaller fund, but the City is not trying to change services. The City is trying to make sure that the budget and services remain the same. The Assessor’s services are under the general fund, but if Council wants a separate fund than that is possible.

Alderman Burrus stated that a separate budget is something that Council is trying to avoid. Council no longer wants to look at things in a piecemeal way. She agrees that services aren’t going away and that people are getting better services. She thanked Ms. Thomas-Smith for her leadership.

Alderman Holmes agreed, but stated that she was relaying public opinion.

Mr. Bobkiewicz suggested that a separate Human Services fund be created as a way of reassuring the community.

Alderman Holmes agreed that maybe a separate fund would make things more clear.

Mr. Bobkiewicz stated that staff is working hard and can create a Human Services fund that will come from the General Fund.

Alderman Braithwaite agreed that a separate fund would reassure people.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
Alderman Burrus called for a motion to adjourn.

Alderman Holmes moved to adjourn. Alderman Tendam seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Wingader
Administrative Secretary