Planning & Development Committee Meeting
Minutes of October 14, 2013
City Council Chambers – 7:15 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center


STAFF PRESENT: M. Masoncup, M. Muenzer, B. Newman

PRESIDING OFFICIAL: Ald. Wynne

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM
A quorum being present, and Chair Wynne called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
Ald. Holmes moved approval of the minutes of the September 23, 2013 P&D meeting, seconded by Ald. Grover.

The minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously 7-0.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(P1) Ordinance 112-O-13, Granting Special Use for a Private Educational Institution at 622 Davis Street
The Zoning Board of Appeals and City staff recommend the adoption of Ordinance 112-O-13 granting a special use permit for the operation of a Private Educational Institution, Beacon Academy, a Montessori High School, at 622 Davis Street.

For Introduction

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend introduction, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

Steve Friedland of Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen, representing Beacon Academy, explained that Beacon Academy, a Montessori High School, proposes to occupy the 2nd through 4th floors of 622 Davis. He introduced Danielle Loevy, Chair of the Board of Directors of Beacon Academy.

Danielle Loevy thanked the Committee for their consideration and expressed excitement about being a part of Evanston’s vibrant art, culture and entrepreneurial and educational community, as it was a clear choice for their Board. They also intend to be an asset to the community.

Jeff Bell, Headmaster, said he recently moved to Evanston. He explained that Beacon Academy proposes to open in the fall of 2014 and recently received their first
application. He said they plan to do minor design changes, but the space is beautiful
and move-in ready. They have formed partnerships with the Piven Theater
Company, Evanston Arts Center, parts of NWU, the YMCA and other organizations
and they plan to have 20% of their curriculum off campus to create a real world
collegiate environment. He assured the Committee that the students will be able to
handle the responsibilities of being off campus and will be accompanied by staff to
the various sites. They will start with 9th and 10th grade and in 4 years plan to have
full enrollment of 9th through 12th grades.

At Ald. Holmes inquiry, Mr. Bell explained that there will be 120 students and 15 staff,
of which two of the four staff members that have been hired so far are Evanston
residents. He said they have had interest from students from Hyde Park to Lake
Forest, to Naperville.

Ald. Rainey clarified that in this case, private education institutions in a D2 zoning
district, are a permitted special use. Mr. Friedland confirmed that the proposal is in
compliance with the conditions of the special use, as listed in the Ordinance.

Ald. Fiske asked how many times parents would be picking up students, saying it is a
busy, narrow, street. Mr. Bell said the school will open early in order for parents to
drop off students before they go to work but they may also ask the City to hood one
of the parking meters during certain times to allow for drop off in a parking space. He
added that many of the students will be taking public transportation, and that a high
school student can exit the car more quickly than a very young child. The students
will exit the school at staggered times. Ald. Fiske confirmed that the students could
be dropped off before the businesses open.

The Committee voted by a majority of 6-1 with Ald. Fiske opposed, to
recommend introduction of Ordinance 112-O-13.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
There were no items for discussion.

V. COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ald. Grover moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Rainey.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Newman