

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 5, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Ald. Donald Wilson, Ald. Delores Holmes, Ald. Mark Tendam, Ald. Jane Grover, Ald. Ann Rainey and Ald. Brian Miller

Absent: Ald. Judy Fiske and Ald. Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Delores Holmes for Ald. Fiske

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager and Ylda Capriccioso, Assistant to the City Manager

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Holmes declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:11p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 6, 2015:

Mayor Tisdahl moved approval of the July 6, 2015 minutes. Ald. Wilson seconded. Minutes approved.

Ald. Rainey noted she had said at the last meeting that she would come up with a Preservation Commission applicant and failed at doing that but will would on it.

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES UPDATES AND 2014 ANNUAL REPORTS:

Ylda Capriccioso, Assistant to the City Manager reported since last year staff has taken steps to improve communication between the Boards/Commissions/Committees staff and the City Council. Liaisons from the City Council have been assigned to each boards and commissions. In addition, the Committee Liaison has been asked to ensure that every board and commission and group member was receiving e-news and associated e-news letters from the city so they were up to speed and full capacity in relation to the area that they cover. They have been provided with an electronic version of the board and commission handbook and also provided some onsite training to cover various open meetings acts, the general role of the board and commission, and any other legal requirements that they are required to fill out. That particular training was videotaped and is available online for any board and commission member that was unable to attend the training. Also included in the packet tonight is the annual report that each of the committees submitted. It was a good exercise for each of the committees to go through. The last thing is staff is in the process of scheduling meetings with the City Manager and the board chairs. There was an initial meeting last week with some of the members and will have another one tomorrow evening as well. That is just sort of an annual check in with the City Manager and staff to take anything back to the liaisons and to continue to improve the process.

Ald. Grover asked if the meetings for the chairs will happen regularly. Ms. Capriccioso replied they will meet annually. Ald. Grover noted she has always been really impressed with the number of the people from the community who serve on these boards and commissions and asked what the total number of people might be. City Manager Bobkiewicz replied between 350 and 400. Ald. Holmes asked will the staff person assigned to the board and commission contact the Alderman Liaison when there is going

to be a meeting? Ms. Capriccioso said they will have staff notify Aldermen when there is a meeting. Mayor Tisdahl noted the document says "in August 2015, staff will begin coordinating meetings with the Mayor and the chairs of the appropriate standing committees" is that something that is being worked on? Ms. Capriccioso said that has not been done yet and they will continue to do that before the end of the year.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated the reality is they have probably 10% of Ms. Capriccioso's time to coordinate and facilitate the work just described. It has been difficult to apply additional staff time, just the sheer number of boards and commissions, and trying to coordinate meetings of the city staff that coordinate the boards and commissions is a difficult task. They certainly could be doing better and with the departure of Ms. Capriccioso at the end of October staff will make sure the work continues to get done. Just want to be honest that it is difficult giving the amount of staff resources available. Mayor Tisdahl suggested staff let her know when the meetings are with the chairs of the board and commission and she will attend. City Manager Bobkiewicz said again just trying to be respectful of time and schedules they will be happy to do that in the future.

Ald. Holmes suggested they again talk about combining some of the boards and commissions because there are a lot. Mayor Tisdahl, Ald. Grover and Ald. Miller agreed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated staff periodically checks in with other communities of like size, and like communities engage and he doesn't know that they have found a community with more than 20. So Evanston is more than double Palo Alto, Pasadena, Madison and Austin and those other communities we like to look at as being engaged and active. We've yet to find anyone quite to the level and extent of what Evanston has. There has been some small progress this past year, the Arts Council and the Public Art Committee merged together. So there are certainly opportunities to do more of this. The Mental Health Board and CDBG Committee are working together with their allocation process and every indication is that that is going well. Again those boards remain separate. Since the Rules Committee has jurisdiction over the boards and commissions staff would be happy to come back with some ideas.

Ald. Holmes said she just wants to keep the thought on the table because it is absolutely a lot of boards and commissions. Ald. Grover suggested keeping consideration of consolidation of some of the boards and commissions on the agenda for future business. Also when looking at the website with the links to those boards and commissions it is nice to have that separate column with a link to whether each or individual boards or commission is accepting applications for new members. Ms. Capriccioso said they will make sure to update the webpage.

City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that several board and commission chairs are present this evening. The following introduced themselves; Diane Williams, Chair, Preservation Commission; Sue Calder, Chair, Housing and Homelessness Commission; Charles Smith, Chair, Ladd Arboretum Committee; and Jane Wickenkamp, Chair, Commission on Aging. Jim Ford, Chair, Plan Commission stated that the staff that support them from the Economic Development Department are really good and they love them greatly.

Ald. Holmes, on behalf of the whole Council thanked them for all of their service.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Manager Bobkiewicz reported that the Chicago Cubs are going to be in the post season. Several Aldermen have heard from residents concerned that the games are going to only be on cable and there are some longtime residents who do not have access to cable and have expressed what the City

can do to be helpful. Residents who wish to watch at least this first game on Wednesday staff has arranged two view areas, one at Fleetwood/Jourdain and the other at the Levy Center. The game starts at 7p and as they work their way through the World Series staff will make adjustments to the viewing. Hopefully Mr. Smith of Evanston Now will help keep people posted.

Ald. Holmes asked if staff will also send out some kind of notice from the City? City Manager Bobkiewicz said they can put signs up at both facilities and will put something out in e-news.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

A video of this meeting is available at www.cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/agendas-minutes--rules-committee.