

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE

Monday, December 1, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Judy Fiske, Peter Braithwaite, Donald Wilson, Delores Holmes, Mark Tendam, Jane Grover, Ann Rainey and Coleen Burrus

Absent: Ald. Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager and Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Art Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Junad Rizki commented on the plastic bag charge, a broken portion of sidewalk at the North Branch of the Evanston Public Library, and documents made available to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2014:

Ald. Holmes moved approval of the October 6, 2014 minutes. Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Minutes approved.

2015 CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR:

Ald. Rainey requested the City Council calendar should be coordinated with the school districts calendars, specifically for holidays and vacations.

Ald. Holmes asked about the City Manager evaluation in July. Mayor Tisdahl clarified that it would just be a conversation in July and not a full evaluation.

City Manager Bobkiewicz clarified that there would be a check point in January and a full evaluation in July. The goal is to have the dates scheduled for Council discussions. Scheduling the dates tonight helps the Evaluation Committee to work on scheduling the things they need. City Manager Bobkiewicz clarified that data would be gathered in May or June for the discussion in July. The committee agreed.

Ald. Grover discussed the holidays recognized by Evanston schools where there could be conflicts. February 16, 2015 is a school holiday and March 9, 2015 is the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, DC and several Aldermen may be interested in attending. City Manager Bobkiewicz asked if Council wanted to meet on February 17, 2015 instead.

Ald. Grover suggested that the August meeting take place in the second half of the month to avoid conflicting with summer vacations.

City Manager Bobkiewicz clarified that if the only date in conflict with the schools was February 16, 2015, Council could agree to change the date to February 17, 2015 instead. Ald. Holmes pointed out that CGBG meets that night. There was no consensus to change the meeting date.

City Manager Bobkiewicz asked about the August date. Ald. Grover pointed out that students are back

in school August 25, 2015. City Manager Bobkiewicz asked if Council wanted to meet on August 24th instead of August 10th. He pointed out that paying bills could be challenging if they met on August 24th. Council decided that August 17, 2015 would be the best date. Motion passed 9-1 with Ald. Fiske opposed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz called for a motion to approve the 2015 City Council calendar with the change from August 10, 2015 to August 17, 2015.

Ald. Grover moved to approve the 2015 City Calendar, Ald. Tendam seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

REPORT ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS:

City Manager Bobkiewicz discussed the recent survey completed several months ago and presented to the Rules Committee. Because the survey was not as complete as the Committee had hoped, City Manager Bobkiewicz invited the board Chairs to meet on two separate occasions so he could receive more feedback. Those boards included the Rec Board, Police Pension Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Ladd Arboretum Committee, Preservation Commission, Public Safety, Civil Service Commission, Age Friendly Task Force, Utilities Commission, Mental Health Board, Fire Pension Board, Board of Ethics, Arts Council, Sign Review and Appeals Board, and the Commission on Aging. The feedback from the meetings and surveys revealed several issues, including the need for more regular dialogue between groups and City Council, better training for members and Chairs, more regular reporting mechanism to City Council and ways to receive more regular feedback from City Council, and that each group needs clear rules of conduct and a more defined scope of work. A letter from The League of Women Voters echoed these same concerns. City Manager Bobkiewicz suggested that, in response to the letter and the feedback that Council select liaisons to each of the boards and commissions at the beginning of Council's term in office for those groups where the Mayor or City Council members are not present. There are currently 42 or so boards and commissions; 22 don't have Council member representation. The liaisons would not be members nor would they be expected to attend meetings regularly. Rather they would be a contact for those groups; attending meetings once or twice throughout the year and receiving agendas, minutes and packets. Second, City Manager Bobkiewicz urged the Council to consider a Board, Committee and Commissions Communication and Training Plan which offers recommendations and suggestions including ensuring board and commission members receive e-newsletters, that annual reports be collected together and presented to each of the Council Standing committees responsible for the groups. City Manager Bobkiewicz also recommends regular meetings with the Chairs of the groups with Mayor and the Chair of the appropriate Standing committee to discuss issues. In terms of offering better training, City Manager Bobkiewicz recommends that the handbook that was done a few years ago and based on the work done by the League of Women Voters be more accessible. That a formal orientation packet be created and distributed. That a general training happen soon and again every 6 months and that training be offered to committee and commission Chairs. Finally, City Manager Bobkiewicz recommends that the City Manager be directed to have more regular meetings with the Chairs. In summary the actions before Council are to receive the report, to consider the designation of City Council Liaisons, to approve the Board, Committee and Commissions Communication and Training Plan, to direct the City Manager to implement the plan, to direct the City Manager and Corporate Council to review the existing rules for Boards and Commissions, and to return in 6 months (June, 2015) with an update.

Ald. Grover supported the idea of a liaison instead of a Council member assigned to each committee/commission and pointed out that one of the requests from the Human Services Summit was the appointment of a Council Member to the Mental Health Board. City Manager Bobkiewicz stated

that the report he is presenting is meant to supersede that idea.

Mayor Tisdahl asked about appointments. City Manager Bobkiewicz stated he would look for volunteers, 2 for each board and commission. Otherwise he would ask the Mayor to appoint people.

Mayor Tisdahl stated she attends the Fire Pension Board and would like to go to the Police Pension Board.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated he would work with Ms. Francellno on appointing the liaisons.

Ald. Holmes moved approval of the suggestions made by City Manager Bobkiewicz. .
Motion passed 10-0.

Ald. Rainey requested a commentable copy of the packet.

ORDINANCE 151-O-14 MERGING ARTS COUNCIL AND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE:

Mayor Tisdahl congratulated all involved and invited Jennifer Lasik, Cultural Arts Coordinator to speak on the subject. Ms. Lasik introduced herself and invited questions. Mayor Tisdahl asked if fifteen people were needed or if twelve would suffice. Ms. Lasik agreed that twelve would be great.

Ald. Grover moved approval of the adoption of Ordinance 151-O-14 as amended with twelve members.

Ald. Rainey stated that when the Committee does local art, that it involves the City, Council members and more of the residents who want to be involved.

Ms. Lasik stated that working groups were formed for projects and special programs with members of the Arts Council and members of the Wards involved. Ald. Rainey highlighted the Sherman Garage as an example of a fabulous process.

Motion passed. 10-0

RESOLUTION 108-R-14 OPPOSING SENATE BILL 16:

Mayor Tisdahl introduced the resolution and explained why she was against Senate Bill 16. It would cost both districts, 202 and 65 money. State Representative Laura Fine is the head of the committee assigned to this bill in the House. Ald. Grover thanked the School Board and School Board Representative Jonathan Baum and also expressed her opposition to Senate Bill 16. Ald. Wilson agreed with the opposition and also thanked the School Board.
Resolution passed 10-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

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