

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

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

Presiding: Ald. Donald Wilson

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager and Michelle Masoncup, Deputy City Attorney

Guest: Sue Calder, League of Women Voters, Emily Guthrie, President, First Night Evanston, and Mark Sheldon, Chair, Board of Ethics

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Wilson declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 6, 2013:

Ald. Holmes moved approval. Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Minutes approved.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING – FIRST NIGHT EVANSTON 2013:

Emily Guthrie, President, First Night Evanston reported a number of people previously affiliated with First Night have stepped up again. Their database has about 600 names and approximately 70 people are helping out. The budget is showing \$65,000 and they are estimating \$75,000. The Evanstonopoly game is selling at \$15.00 each and available for delivery. First Night actually started in Boston in 1975 and Annie Heydemann was one of the first to bring the idea to Evanston. New Year's Eve 1992 was the first year. New Year's Eve for the millennium was the biggest with an attendance of 15,000, making Evanston one of the biggest in the country that year. First Night really is a base for artists, they've had bands, singers, magicians, and Second City. Plans for this year include doing an afternoon series for kids. It's a good fit with the restaurants, people can come see a couple of things, go to dinner, then come back to something else. It's a great way to stay in town and celebrate New Year's Eve. Doug Gaynor has asked that they not have fireworks so they are looking to do something with the firework company where they shoot 5ft. in the air with a lot of sparklers. Hoping to have hot cider and warm pretzels out on the streets and a couple of food trucks have approached them wanting to participate. The admission badge/button usually costs \$12 or \$15. Dick Peach, President, Chamber of Commerce has suggested they reach out to the downtown merchants and ask if they would be willing to give away a free cup of coffee or a little something if people come in wearing the badge maybe up to 90 days after New Year's Eve. That could tie in well with the businesses and give more value for the badge. This year First Night will be encircling Raymond Park. The Music Institute, Lake Street Church, Congregational Church and First Presbyterian Church have agreed to the use of their space. The committee is looking to see if Northshore Hotel would be willing to offer a ballroom for dancing and waiting to talk to Immanuel Lutheran. She is also considering talking to the hotel across from Immanuel Lutheran to see if they have a big room for a good size band and dancing.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend to the City Council approving \$10,000 of the Evanston 150 set aside, for the purpose of supporting First Night Evanston. Ald. Burrus seconded. Motion passed.

Ms. Guthrie thanked the committee.

PRESENTATION BY BOARD OF ETHICS:

Mark Sheldon, chair, Board of Ethics stated he is in his second term and was reappointed as chair. The Board's first goal is to revise the City of Evanston's financial disclosure statement to address state law requirements and develop an electronic filing system. Secondly, amend the code of ethics to address ambiguities and other issues and the Board has already begun drafting different items for the code of ethics. The third item is review complaints to the Board, conduct hearings, and issue advisory opinions. The fourth goal is to revise their rules and procedures to match the code of ethics parameters, purpose, and objectives and make sure those are both in sync with each other.

Mr. Sheldon added that people also come to them to ask whether a certain issue is the type of item that would be appropriate to come before the Board. One issue had to do with membership on the Arts Council, there was a point when a lot of art was placed in public spaces in downtown Evanston, particularly unoccupied storefronts. The question was whether there was any possible conflict of interest between whose art was being exhibited and who was serving on the board. A complaint was never filed and nothing ever happened, but the person was wondering if that's the sort of thing that would be appropriate for the Board to deal with. Another time they dealt with an issue concerning an Alderman whose son is employed by a law firm that has business with the city. The Board spent a long time reviewing the situation and concluded there was no conflict of interest.

They were having a little bit of difficulty making a quorum during the period they were dealing with that particular case. They are a five member committee and were down one member. Nice to report they have a new person, Scott Turner, who was recently appointed.

Mr. Sheldon said one other case that involved the issue of lake front development and the question of whether the architect who wanted to propose a plan could be a part of a committee that was considering the different proposals. The architect tried to make it clear that he did not have any monetary interest, but just wanted to be there for discussions. And having his firm in some way involved was giving publicity for his firm and certain credibility and the Board concluded there was a conflict of interest and recommended that he not serve on that planning group.

Ald. Fiske noted for the record again the alderman in question with the son and the law firm that was asking for an advisory opinion from the alderman....Mr. Sheldon stated the board concluded there was no conflict of interest.

DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE:

City Manager Bobkiewicz said the direction of the committee was to open up membership to any member of Council that was interested for 2013-2017. The results are 5 members for A&PW, 7 for P&D, 6 for Human Services, and 9 plus the Mayor for the Rules Committee. Ald. Wynne asked that her name be added back to the City Chamber Committee. City Manager Bobkiewicz continued Emergency Telephone Board 2 members and City Chamber Committee 2 members. The Economic Development Committee is one less than currently constituted. Staff would need to amend the ordinance/resolution to adjust the membership from 7 to 6 and come back with that. Housing/Homelessness 2 members, Housing & Community Development Act Committee changed from 4 to 5, Lighthouse Landing Committee 1, M/W/EBE 2, NU/City 1, and Transportation/Parking Committee 3. He stated he has been filling the role on SWANCC for the last 4 years and is happy to continue. Under the current Council rules no Alderman will chair two standing committees. If this is the list that the Council would like to go with then a motion would be in order. In addition, he asked the committee to provide names to serve as chairs for A&PW, P&D, HS, and Rules to have a way for them to start. Ald. Burrus said she is happy to go back on Economic Development in order to avoid going back to change the rules.

Ald. Grover moved approval of the Aldermanic Committee membership as set forth in the attachment to the memo with the addition of Ald. Burrus to Economic Development Committee and Ald. Wynne to the City Chamber Committee. Ald. Tendam seconded.

Ald. Rainey said the order in which she would like to serve as chair is A&PW, P&D, Rules, & Economic Development Committee. Ald. Wynne said she would chair of P&D and Ald. Holmes said she would chair of Human Services. The suggestion was made that Ald. Braithwaite serve as chair for Rules beginning in July.

Ald. Grover amended her motion to include appointing Ald. Rainey to EDC and A&PW, Wynne to P&D, Holmes to HS and Braithwaite to Rules as the first chairs. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated staff will come back with a schedule, in order of seniority, for the remaining 4 years.

CLOSURE OF CITY OFFICES – FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2013:

Ald. Rainey moved approval. Ald. Burrus seconded. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF DATES FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING:

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated the new suggested date for the Strategic Planning meeting is Monday, July 29 at 6:30pm. The proposal is to meet in the Aldermanic Library and make arrangements to have it televised or audio recorded. Planning Consultant, Jean Bonander will attend this meeting and will be available a few extra days prior for individuals groups to work on other issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

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