

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE  
Monday, July 6, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Council Chambers

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

Absent: Ald. Peter Braithwaite and Ald. Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Delores Holmes

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager; Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel; Marty Lyons, Director, Administrative Services/CFO, Joe McRae, Deputy City Mgr./Dir., Parks/Recreation & Community Services and Mark Muenzer, Director, Community Development

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

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

**CITIZEN COMMENT:**

Junad Rizki discussed the criteria used to review and evaluate the City Manager and stated the fault was with City Council. Mr. Rizki reviewed several departments and described his perceived fault with each department. He further criticized the FOIAs he received and criticized many City projects. He closed by asking that City Council provide clearer expectations for the City Manager. .

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2015:**

Ald. Rainey moved approval of the June 1, 2015 minutes. Mayor Tisdahl seconded. Minutes approved.

**PROCESS FOR THE HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN PROGRAM:**

Ald. Tendam spoke of the need to expand the program stating there seemed to be a gridlock on the number of businesses willing to participate. He pointed out that a number of businesses were in the downtown area and requested that the program expand to the downtown. The ordinance was simple, but staff embellished the process. His understanding was each alderperson could make a recommendation annually.

Joe McRae stated the memo was a summation of past practices. Each alderperson can approve an honorary street name sign per year in their respective ward. Confining the street to the alderperson's ward was not dictated by staff. Ald. Rainey added that she was part of crafting the ordinance and it was intended that alderpersons choose streets within their assigned ward.

Ald. Fiske noted that it states that no more than one designation may be permitted in each ward per year and that the designation will be one block long. Approval would be granted by Evanston City Council, but the designation is reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Place Names and calls for approval of the individual alderman.

Ald. Holmes added that the Alderperson makes the recommendation to the Committee. She had been through the process several times, but thought Ald. Tendam's point about the downtown is worth

reviewing.

Ald. Rainey stated there are lots of businesses throughout Evanston and the downtown area was no more special than any other business district. She disapproval and noted that she wouldn't want anyone appointing streets in her ward, but was open to reviewing recommendations.

Ald. Wilson agreed and was open to suggestions and asked if the discussion involved naming streets after businesses. He wouldn't want multiple alderpersons naming streets in his ward. He agreed with Ald. Rainey that it was special and a great way to recognize someone in the community who wouldn't otherwise receive recognition. He stated he didn't want to change the process.

Ald. Grover stated she understood why the downtown would be a good location to recognize an individual or group not affiliated with a single ward. The downtown is representative of Evanston and the designations were temporary and cyclical. Her hope was for deference to the Alderperson of the ward and the Alderperson making the recommendation.

Ald. Fiske agreed that anyone should be able to make a recommendation to an Alderperson, but stated concern over the downtown area. She wouldn't want to exclude anyone and asked how the City could recognize small businesses. She highlighted Bennison's Bakery and Lemoi Hardware, both great small businesses on the same block. How do you recognize each or choose one, pointing out that there was no easy way to make it fair. She was uncomfortable with the politicization of this process. She pointed out that the downtown area is free of naming streets for political supporters. In her ward, street naming should be for the unsung heroes and highlighted Jay's Barber Shop. She talked about the citizens who contribute daily and pointed out that the Human Services Committee was also looking for ways to recognize people. She provided examples including gardens and playgrounds that would have a high degree of recognition and community spirit. The Human Services Committee discussed making distinctions between individuals and political figures, organizations and historical figures. She also stated approval of the plaques in the downtown area. She suggested referring the issue back to Human Services Committee or holding the issue until after Human Services reaches a decision.

Ald. Tendam moved an amendment which would allow the Mayor or City Manager to make one appointment per year. The Mayor shouldn't be excluded from the process and the Mayor would consider the entire City. This perspective would be important when considering people or organizations that have contributed to the overall City. The amendment was seconded by Ald. Grover.

Ald. Rainey stated there was horrible controversy over the suggestion to rename Haven School after Lorraine Morton and the resolution was to rename the Civic Center. She suggested it would be nice to honor Jay Lytle by naming the Council Chambers after him and putting a plaque at the bank.

Mayor Tisdahl seconded the motion to rename Council Chambers the Jay Lytle Council Chambers.

Ald. Holmes pointed out that in her ward citizens made recommendations and restated her point that business areas and business people may want to make recommendations. She asked about the process for working through problems and highlighted a dance studio, but pointed out that the Council was always able to work through issues.

Ald. Fiske stated her support for Ald. Rainey's suggestion to rename Council Chambers. She added to also recognize former Mayor Barr and other former Evanston Mayors.

Ald. Holmes requested that Human Services review the procedure and that Mr. McRae add it to a

future Human Services agenda and include the suggestion that the Mayor be allowed to designate one street sign per year.

Ald. Grover offered her support of the motion to rename Council Chambers and stated her support for giving the Mayor authority to choose a street in the 7<sup>th</sup> ward.

Ald. Miller spoke in support of sending the issue back to the Human Services Committee. He also summarized the current procedure and stated that he didn't think the procedure reflected the current resolution. He voiced support for staff providing more information and having a unified process set forth by law for all naming procedures. Ald. Fiske confirmed that the topic was for discussion and agreed with Ald. Miller. She asked that the public be involved and agreed that in Committee was the right place for that feedback.

Ald. Tendam withdrew his motion to allow the Mayor one honorary street but wanted to send back to honorary street names committee so that no committees are overlooked.

Ald. Grover said she wanted staff to consolidate all resolutions on naming public places and send information to the Planning and Development Committee and requested clarification on that process. City Manager Bobkiewicz clarified that the information should go to the Human Services Committee. Planning and Development was involved only because streets were involved. Human Services Committee was appropriate because the discussion went beyond streets. Ald. Grover stated she would like one clear process and clear criteria. She was supportive of the Human Services Committee reviewing and sending a report to City Council.

Ald. Fiske motioned to send the issue back to committee for review. Ald. Miller seconded with a request to take Ald. Grover's statements into account.

Ald. Rainey requested a motion to rename Council Chambers after Jay Lytle. Ald. Miller called the question on Ald. Grover's motion.

Ald. Holmes clarified that Ald. Fiske made a motion that was seconded by Ald. Miller and called for a vote. Motion passed 8-0.

Mayor Tisdahl moved to rename Council Chambers the Jay Lytle Council Chambers. Ald. Tendam seconded. Mayor Tisdahl thanked Ald. Rainey for the suggestion. Motion passed 8-0.

Ald. Rainey motioned that the Aldermanic Library be renamed the Joan Barr Library. Mayor Tisdahl seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**ORDINANCE 93-O-15 AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

Mayor Tisdahl stated she made the suggestion of one member of the Preservation Commission be able to serve without the requirement and training experience that the other members have. The reason being is because she wants every board and commission to reflect the diversity in the community. She knows there are Asians, Latinos and African-Americans that have a great deal of knowledge about preservation but she just has not yet found them.

Ald. Miller called point of order stating the suggested ordinance has the incorrect section. The section should read 2-8-3-A not section 2-9-3-A.

Ald. Rainey stated she would provide the name of at least one volunteer in the next two weeks whose

qualifications fulfill the criteria for a diverse member of the Preservation Commission who is indeed a preservation expert of some sort. She noted the Preservation Commission was important and participation required expertise. She suggest this not be done, she promises she will find someone.

Ald. Wilson stated that revising the language would be beneficial, specifically on page 11, new language that would broaden the range but keep demonstrated interest. He further proposed to strike the “and” after abilities and change it to a comma, this change would broaden the range, but still require the parameters of interest or abilities. He moved to strike the motion on the table and instead substitute his suggested change. Ald. Tendam seconded.

Mayor Tisdahl expressed disappointment in the lack of diversity and her interest in resolution. If this doesn't resolve it she will be back.

Ald. Fiske said the Preservation Commission requires a large degree in expertise in building materials and design. The interest and experience might be enough, but expertise and knowledge of building trades is important. She also offered to identify potential volunteers. Ald. Grover stated her support for the amendment and that each Council member should offer suggestions of citizens to serve. Motion passed 8-0.

City Manager Bobkiewicz noted that staff would make changes to the ordinance and present to City Council.

**FY 2016 CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING AND BUDGET PLANNING:**

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated that the State's fiscal year 2016 budget was still undetermined and, as such, staff was having difficulty setting a budget for the City. He reviewed the internal reviews and reorganization. Staff would present a report by the end of the month. Otherwise the city budget was strong, but, in the event of drastic cuts, he wanted guidance from Council.

Mayor Tisdahl stated her concerns over the State's budget and thought the city should have two budgets ready to go because by the time the State decides on cuts it may be pretty late in the process. She suggests a budget that cuts about 1.5 million for worst case scenario and a budget that cuts .5 million probably for a good scenario.

Ald. Grover asked if preparing two budgets would provide enough certainty or if it was a huge undertaking for staff.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated it wasn't the undertaking, but the type of reductions whether across the board or targeted. He suggested looking at services that are least critical and recognized that the conversations were difficult. He stated staff would prepare budgets that reflected 1.5 million cut and .5 million cut. He further stated that the reports from Public Works and Utilities would also provide more information and that the upcoming fiscal year would be the first year of the contribution from Northwestern University which would contribute significantly. He pointed out that there would not be a Rules Committee or Human Services Committee meeting in August and suggested a Special Council meeting to continue this discussion.

The Committee agreed to hold a Special City Council meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> and noted that there may be more information about the State budget available at that time.

City Manager Bobkiewicz asked about goal setting and if a review of Council goals would be part of that special meeting. Mayor Tisdahl stated that the goals haven't changed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz confirmed that staff would present a 6 month budget report on Monday, August 17, 2015 and then schedule a special meeting on Monday, August 31, 2015 for Council to discuss budget impacts. A community meeting would take place in the later part of September.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURMENT:**

Meeting adjourned 7:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Francellno

A video of this meeting is available at [www.cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/agendas-minutes--rules-committee](http://www.cityofevanston.org/government/agendas-minutes/agendas-minutes--rules-committee).