

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 3, 2014
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

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

Presiding: Ald. Melissa Wynne

Absent: Ald. Jane Grover

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager; Ylda Capriccioso, Assistant to the City Manager and Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel

Guest: Sue Calder, League of Women Voters and Bill Smith, Evanston Now

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Ald. Wynne 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 7, 2014:

Ald. Holmes moved approval of the July 7, 2014. Ald. Burrus seconded. Minutes approved.

RESULTS OF BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS SURVEY:

Ylda Capriccioso reported the survey was sent to the chairs of the boards and commissions asking them to respond to a number of questions about their committee and if they understood their charge and if their committee could be merged with other committees. Overall most of the respondents agreed that they understood their charge, they did not feel they would benefit from a merger but did agree that the boards and commissions would benefit from some training and an overview of the city's budget. There was also a suggestion of a new member orientation. Mayor Tisdahl asked of the 60% that strongly disagreed over merging, that leaves some that might think of merging, did that come from any specific committee? Ms. Capriccioso stated there was a suggestion by one individual that either joint meetings between the Police Review and Human Relations Committee would benefit from merging or at least having a joint committee. City Manager Bobkiewicz commented that the Arts Council and the Public Art Committee have both agreed to a merger. Staff is working on the paperwork to bring to the Council toward the end of September.

Ald. Holmes noted of the 30 or more boards and commissions it appears that only half responded. What will be done about the other half? City Manager Bobkiewicz said he is in the process of setting up meetings with all the chairs sometime during the month of October. The various boards and commissions are all over the place as far as their connection with city staff and the work of the city. The land use committees are very active and meet very regularly and some of the others meet a little less. In talking with them one on one and as part of a smaller group he will be able to get more information and if anything comes of that he will bring it back to the Council. Ald. Holmes said her thought is if they don't respond does that say they don't feel that committee is needed. City Manager Bobkiewicz noted there is additional work that needs to be done. There are a lot of boards and commissions out there and not all are created completely equal as far as their charge and the work

that is asked of them. It is a work in progress and staff will continue to work with them. The additional training is very important and staff will work to put together training that is generic citywide and then with the individual staff. So prior to meeting with the chairs he will convene a meeting of the staff with the help of Ms. Capriccioso and hopefully communicate more regularly with everybody.

Ald. Burrus suggest it might be helpful to have a couple of Aldermen come to the training to sort of give perspectives, particularly around the budget issue. It would also be helpful to not just have input from the chairs because there are various opinions on committees. It is important to get a broader perspective and maybe they will get feedback from those committee members that they didn't get from the chairs. In addition, it could be helpful for the Alderman chair of the standing committee that these boards and committees report to, to regularly meet with the chair of the board and committee for a get to know you meeting, etc.

Ald. Rainey said she was shocked at how few people responded and it isn't helpful that it doesn't let you know what committees strongly agree that they would benefit from training or that they somewhat agree. These committees need to be identified and as well as the ones that did not respond. Even though they agreed to send the survey to the committee chairs she would like to see a response from the committee members as well. Training is really important, especially to those boards and committees where residents go and present a request. She has seen several cases where people were not treated properly. So once a meeting has been held with the staff person of those committees find out what can be done about that.

Ald. Tendam pointed out that it is a good idea to engage with the committees in any opportunity that is available. He took a bus tour with the entire Parks and Recreation Board a few weeks ago and it was interesting to not just see what parks had certain priorities but to just get to know the folks. Since he has bumped heads with the Preservation Commission so many times, he invited them to come to his next ward meeting. It is a good idea for them to get out and talk and it is a way for him to get to know them and for folks in the 6th ward to understand what their priorities are and why they do have issues in terms of preservation.

Mayor Tisdahl remarked that she has been asked several times to call a board member to discuss how they make the public feel. That is a major issue and she would like to be part of deciding what goes into board and committee training. People just aren't as aware that they are controlling other people's lives and that is a scary thing for the people who are asking the board for whatever. Ald. Wynne agreed and said part of the training should be for the committee members to understand the scope of what their role is on the committee. There have been times where committee members have made comments far beyond the issue that is in front of them back to the public, not frequently, but enough that it is inappropriate. They are providing their own commentary on something that is not within the jurisdiction of the committee.

City Manager Bobkiewicz said staff will do some follow-up work with the data that was gathered. Report back on who responded and who didn't. Look at maybe a curriculum for a new board member training and bring that back to the Rules Committee at a future meeting and just continue to do more work on this.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CITY COUNCIL RULES:

a) Review of City Council meeting agenda order of business

Ald. Rainey said even though they've added Special Council meetings to their monthly calendar her concern overtime has been all of the pre-activity, special council issues, discussion items, presentations, etc. that require no action whatsoever. Her suggestion is to have presentations, other

than maybe some lifesaving award they want to honor some hero for, at the end of their meetings or not have them at all at regular Council meetings. She would order the agenda where all special presentation would be at their Special Council meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month or if they have a 5th Monday use it for presentations. Ald. Burrus agreed that some changes need to be made particularly when meetings go so late. A few years ago they discussed possibly doing A&PW or P&D on a different night than the Council night so they are not starting so late. That is something they could revisit.

Mayor Tisdahl said in terms of proclamation and certificates she would be fine having those done at the third meeting. People really like them and they are important in ways that she didn't know until she became Mayor so she would certainly defend having them. Ald. Wilson said he thinks moving presentations to the third meeting would solve a lot of problems. As far as moving A&PW and P&D to different nights, if someone is coming for an item of interest you are basically having them come back twice, they should not put people through that kind of task. Ald. Braithwaite said he would be in support of looking at possibly moving meeting dates and he thinks it is a great idea to move presentations to one Monday evening.

Ald. Rainey stated when they had 18 Aldermen they served on one committee. The committee meetings ran at exactly the same time before the Council meeting. Aldermen who were interested in Human Services went there or if the interest was in P&D they went there and then they had the Council meeting. People just had to come one night. It might be interesting to discuss whether or not Aldermen need to serve on more than one standing committee, other than Rules Committee. Ald. Holmes stated she thought they got to this point because people had more interest in just one committee and that is why in 2006 or 2007 when these discussions came up people had different interest and not everybody wanted to be regulated to one committee. She still thinks they should all serve on all the committees. They would save so much time in terms of trying to repeat the same things over again at Council meeting. And if they all served on all committees they would have all the information at the same time, getting citizen comment, input, staff, all of that would be taken care of. Ald. Fiske said having been a citizen during the time when there were two meetings going at once, she always thought it worked well. It was a small group, 5 aldermen on P&D, 4 on A&PW and if there was an issue pertaining to a ward and that Alderman was not on the committee they would take a break from their committee and step over and participate in the discussion.

The committee agreed to have all presentations held at the Special Council meetings held on the third Monday.

City Manager Bobkiewicz asked that he be allowed to confer with the Mayor on certain instances when organization come and ask for a very specific evening for a presentation because of an anniversary or other extenuating circumstances. The committee said that would be fine.

- b) Set start time for Human Services Committee at 6:00 pm when no Rules Committee meeting on same day.

Ald. Rainey moved approval. Ald. Burrus seconded. Ald. Holmes stated the second part is in terms of when Human Services should start when Rules ends. For instance, if Rules ends at 7:00p tonight they still have to wait half an hour before starting Human Services. Ald. Wynne suggested saying Human Services will start 10 minutes after Rules ends and no sooner than 6:30pm. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

- c) Set public comment for non-agenda items after regular City Council business and before Call of the Wards

Mayor Tisdahl said one solution she has thought of frequently is that it would be fair to have 3 minutes for everybody, period. So you could discuss an agenda item or non-agenda item but you would have 3 minutes just like everybody else for one time.

After much discussion Ald. Rainey moved to approve Mayor Tisdahl's suggestion of 3 minutes for everyone for one time. And keep to the rule that Council meetings start no later than 45 minutes after the meeting is gavelled to start citizen comment. Ald. Burrus seconded.
Motioned passed 8 to 1.

City Manager Bobkiewicz noted staff would prepare the rule change and bring it to the full Council for action.

FY 2015 CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

City Manager Bobkiewicz noted this item did not get on the agenda but he did share an email with Council last evening. In regards to the Council goals, a lot of time was spent last fall crafting goals, and his sense is they are good goals that continue to serve the Council and community. He wanted to ask if the Committee agreed. Ald. Rainey moved to accept those as ongoing goals. Ald. Wilson seconded.
Motion passed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz said a statement will be included in the budget resolution and will come with the adoption of the budget.

CANCEL OCTOBER RULES COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO HOLD JOINT HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT COMMITTEE AND MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING ON HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING:

Ald. Burrus asked that this meeting be held on an alternate date because she would not be available October 6, 2014. The committee agreed. The October 6th Rules Committee will be held and the agenda item will be a report on the FY 2015 City Council goals.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

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