

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, October 7, 2013  
6:00 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Council Chambers

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

Absent: Ald. Coleen Burrus and Melissa Wynne

Presiding: Ald. Peter Braithwaite

Staff Present: Martin Lyons, Assistant City Manager/Treasurer, Grant Farrar, Corporation  
Counsel, Erika Storlie, Manager, Citizen Engagement and Com. Jason Parrott,  
Police

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

Ald. Braithwaite declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2013:**

Ald. Rainey moved approval of the August 5, 2013 minutes. Ald. Holmes seconded. Minutes approved.

**REVISION TO CITY COUNCIL RULES:**

Ald. Grover pointed out section 5.1, first sentence the word "advise" should be "advice".

Ald. Rainey moved to change the start time in Section 9.4 for the Administration and Public Works meeting from 5:45pm to 6:00 pm and to not change the start time for Planning & Development. Ald. Holmes seconded. Mayor Tisdahl suggested starting P&D at 7:00pm to give the public a given start time. Ald. Rainey accepted the amendment of a 7:00pm start time for P&D. Motion carried.

Ald. Wilson addressed rule 10.5 that states "An Alderman shall stand when speaking". Ald. Holmes asked where this came from. Ald. Rainey stated it came from her years ago as a sign of respect to the community and the other Aldermen at City Council meetings. Ald. Wilson made a motion to make it optional by changing the word "shall" stand to "may" stand. Ald. Grover seconded. Motion passed: 8-1. In addition, Ald. Wilson noted that rule 10.2 states "An Alderman called to order by the Mayor shall immediately sit down." He moved to change "sit down" to "cease speaking". Ald. Grover seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Grover pointed out that the effort to make the word "chairman or chairmanship" gender neutral escaped paragraphs 9.7 & 9.8. Everywhere else in the Rules is refers to a "committee chair" not "Chairman". Under Section 6: Citizen Participation, 6.2 is what governs citizen comment and she presumes it is related only to City Council meetings. Section 6.1 refers to committees and committee's citizen comment. It is not clear from 6.2 if that applies only to City Council meetings. Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel, said the citizen participation only speaks directly to Council. The committee's actually have some standing rules or it is at the discretion of the chair. So in terms of 6.1

it is open ended with respect to committees. Committees are not covered. Ald. Grover said committees are not covered by our normal formal rules for citizen comments. She asked does 6.1 make sense? Mr. Farrar said if the intent is to set specific time limits for citizen comment in committees then 6.1 does not do that. Ald. Grover clarified that it is then the discretion of the chair generally? Mr. Farrar response was yes. Ald. Grover noted that 6.5 reads "During periods of citizen participation, comments from Aldermen shall be limited to requests for information, referrals to the appropriate committee, or the City Manager for response" It would read better if it read "During periods of citizen participation, comments from Aldermen shall be limited to requests for information, referrals to the appropriate committee, or referrals to the City Manager for response." Mr. Farrar said he would incorporate that language.

Ald. Braithwaite suggested adding "Committee Chair" to 10.3 to reflect Committee meetings where the Mayor would not be present. For clarity it would read "...who does not obey the order of the Mayor or the Committee Chair, may be censured by a ....".

Ald. Wilson moved to accept the Council Rules as amended. Ald. Grover seconded. Motion passed.

#### **REPORT ON NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:**

Erika Storlie, Community Engagement Manager stated that at the August meeting there was discussion about the Next Door. She and Commander Parrott are here to answer questions and seek feedback on what they would like to see next regarding Next Door. Ald. Grover stated she is a member of two Next Door communities that are based around Kingsley and Willard Schools. It seems like a really nice vehicle for the city to use and plug into it and use it as a tool for our Citizen Engagement and Citizen Outreach.

Ms. Storlie explained that Next Door is like Facebook for neighbors and at this time, the City can only disseminate information. Two hundred and fifty people have to sign up before the City can have an account. Ald. Rainey expressed that there are very mature, long standing message boards that already exist. Does it require identification? Ms. Storlie said you have to be verified as a member of the neighborhood but not certain if it requires identification. Ald. Grover said she was invited to join. Ald. Holmes expressed concern about how they disseminate information to the residents and for the committee to be ever mindful that they are not leaving people out. She also believed she was invited to join because all of a sudden she was receiving emails from Kingsley. It is informative information and she passes it on to her constituents. Ald. Tendam suggested that they need to let people know it's out there.

Commander Parrott shared that the police department does not give out any information to a group that they don't give out to the whole City, but if there is an issue Next Door is helpful to communicate with a specific group in that neighborhood. He continued that this is another channel to communicate and that face-to-face is important as well as electronically. Ald. Braithwaite questioned if there is a moderator. Ms. Storlie said this is community driven and the City cannot see what's being said, but there are mechanisms in place to keep things on track.

Acting City Manager, Marty Lyons concluded that this is how they might be able to approach a couple of pilots to have the Problem Solving Teams try it out and report back to the Rules Committee as to what kind of communications they used.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**ADJOURMENT:**

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p.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).