

MINUTES OF THE RULES COMMITTEE
Monday, March 21, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Ald. Peter Braithwaite, Ald. Judy Fiske, Ald. Delores Holmes, Ald. Brian Miller, Ald. Ann Rainey, Ald. Eleanor Revelle, Ald. Mark Tendam, and Ald. Melissa Wynne

Absent: Ald. Donald Wilson

Presiding: Ald. Melissa Wynne

Staff Present: Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager, Oscar Murillo, ICMA Fellow, Kimberly Richardson, Assistant to the City Manager and Mario Treto, Assistant City Attorney II,

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

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

CITIZEN COMMENT:

Matt Rodgers, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals spoke about ZBA being one of the few boards that is written into the zoning ordinance their specific outline, responsibilities and duties. In 2015 ZBA had 17 meetings with 41 cases which included 18 special uses and 52 variations. Their work is given to them by the citizens and developers who want to come into the community. Combining the two would actually increase the workload and time commitment for individual board members. Currently ZBA meets twice a month for 1 1/2 to 2 hours and the Plan Commission meets once a month for 2 to 3 hours, depending on the workload that each board has. The big difference is there are different audiences. ZBA deals more directly with people requesting variations for their individual properties such as wanting to add additions, building garages and things like that. The Plan Commission deals more with developers looking to build large scale projects. One of the roles of ZBA is to help educate citizens in how the zoning process works, why they are there, what they do for them and how they make everything work. One of the biggest issues for ZBA is having 4 votes for any project to occur or pass. The problems they've had with that are related to individual persons and is not a systemic problem. ZBA and Plan Commission are fully staffed and fully functioning and he would encourage they re-examine the plan to combine the two.

Mr. Guran suggested staff re-release, on the city's website, the BCC study done by the League of Women Voters and the City. He pointed out there are members that have expired terms. He also suggested keeping the nomenclature used on the website consistent in ordinances and announcements. For example, the Emergency Telephone System is the 911-Emergency Telephone System. He noted some committees are missing from the list such as the Foreign Fire Insurance Co. Tax Committee and the Lakefront Committee is not listed especially with the Harley Clarke issue and other attempts to take over the lake front property by private entities. Ald. Wynne pointed out that the Foreign Firefighters Tax Committee is not a committee appointed by the Mayor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2016:

Ald. Tendam moved approval of the January 4, 2016 minutes. Ald. Holmes seconded. Minutes approved.

BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS CONSOLIDATION UPDATE:

Ald. Wynne suggested the committees not being recommended for consolidation to be set aside. They are numbers 2, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 12-27. This will allow them to concentrate and discuss how to proceed on the potential grouping of those in the memo proposed for consolidation. Ald. Holmes moved to accept the 21 stand-alone committees to be set aside, at this time, for consideration for consolidation. Mayor Tisdahl seconded. Motion passed.

Kimberly Richardson, Assistant to the City Manager reported the Rules Committee had asked staff to come back with a proposal for consolidation of Boards/Commissions/Committees (BCC's). Based on the Star Community Project the proposal would reduce the 45 current BCC's to 27 as discussed in the memo. The proposal consolidates several BCC's into new committees such as the Equity and Empowerment Committee, Community Services Committee and the Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Committee. From staffs research and discussion this seems to be the right direction to begin consolidating and provide for some type of pathway of figuring out what BCC's do serve the mission and purpose of our objectives and which ones can be kind of consolidated into others that have similar purposes. There were some that were not part of the discussion with the Star Communities Program and those committees were existing committees that will be combined due to similar mission and purpose which include the Design & Project Review Committee, Economic Development Committee and Plan Commission. They will stay as is and will be combined with additional committee's responsibilities. Then there is the list of existing committees that will stay as is. Finally, the inactive committees that would be eliminated due to either they've fulfilled their mission or are no longer active.

City Manager Bobkiewicz added the Equity and Empowerment Committee has under it the Housing & Community Act Committee and the Mental Health Board. Both are very heavy into the evaluation of project proposals, funding requirements, and a number of meetings that occur throughout the year to do that. Those two groups have been working more closely for about 3 years and from most reports it has been positive and is allowing the City to really look at how resources are being expended. From the staff's perspective there are policy questions that still are not being aired at either of those committees or anywhere else in the BCC system. Such as how are they helping people, how are they making sure people get the services they need, and how can they make sure those services are equitable. The ADA Advisory Committee was implemented around 2010 or 2011 because there was not a way to have a citizen group evaluate issues not only for the city government facilities but also broader than that. It has been difficult to have consistent meetings. Once Council approved the report on homelessness the Housing and Homelessness Commission reconfigured themselves and have been considering lots of issues. The Human Relations Commission is focused on what they can do to move the community forward to deal with issues of equity and empowerment. They are beginning to see some progress. Looking at that group they all share a lot of commonality and the hope is there will be a discussion as to how best to deal with issues of equity and empowerment. Next is the Community Services Committee, the Parks and Recreation Board does a lot of work and over the last couple of years especially work on policy issues dealing with recreation. The Committee on Public Places Names meets only as needed. Commission on Aging is a very active group. The Animal Welfare Board is one of the newer groups and meets quarterly. By taking parks and having it be part of the Natural Resources Committee could possible allow for a greater 30,000 foot look at what is being done with the parks. The Community Services Committee would continue to focus on services and facilities. As for Commission on Aging they have to come to grips with where senior programs fit. Should they be a stand-alone or integrated more into what they are doing? The Age Friendly Task Force has done an excellent job of doing that. Finally, the Animal Welfare Board, this group reviews reports from the Animal Shelter Association and their work could be contained in the Community Services Committee.

Under Climate, Energy and Natural Resources Committee the Environment Board and Utilities Commission are very engaged. The Ladd Arboretum and Lighthouse Landing Complex Committee perhaps less so on issues. If they were to take the parks piece of the Parks & Recreation Board it would give a broader look at the issues of Climate, Energy and Natural Resources. Land use committees require a separate discussion and would include the Plan Commission and ZBA. If the Design & Project Review Committee were to be combined with the Sign Review and Appeals Board or the Plan Commission and ZBA, that's a whole process because it is not a matter of taking the existing processes and sort of merging them together. Finally, Economic Development Committee, if Council would agree that transportation goes more holistically, looking at Equity and Empowerment that leaves the parking piece. The Parking committee has not met very often over the last year or two and often does meet on parking issues. Parking has a lot to do with economic and development in creating jobs. Many of the incentives that the city has provided for businesses to come here over the last year has really have been involved in parking. The Taxicab Committee is largely dormant but still remains on the books and it make sense to include in the Economic Development Committee. Minority/Women/Evanston Business Enterprise Committee deals with job creation and is a nature combination with the Economic Development Committee. City Manager Bobkiewicz went on to say this is meant to be sort of the first offer to begin discussion and never intended to be a final recommendation. It is very important that once Council comes up with a framework it will be important to go back to discuss with the BCC's. Also representatives from the League of Women Voters and staff had an opportunity to meet with an initial draft of this and communication is included in the packet from the League.

Mayor Tisdahl moved to combine the Environment Board and the Ladd Arboretum Committee. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion Passed.

Mayor Tisdahl moved to have the Utilities Commission remain as its own commission. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed 8-1.

Ald. Braithwaite moved to allow M/W/EBE to remain an independent committee. Ald. Tendam seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Rainey stated she believes Economic Development, Parking and Taxicab Advisory could be combined but wondered how would that look in terms of meeting and dealing with issues. Also would the members of both committees combined meet as a group? City Manager Bobkiewicz said he would ask that staff be directed to come back at a future meeting with a proposal as to how that combination would actually happen. There is also the transportation component of transportation and parking. The hope would be that transportation will find a home somewhere else so that there is a broader discussion of mobility transportation issues.

Ald. Wynne stated she has been chair of the Parking Committee the entire time she has been on the City Council. They have built two parking garages and their activity has been much more intense in the past. In terms of analyzing and then working on the design and how the parking garages would work. Part of what they talk about a lot is they want to hear from the retail community and the Chamber of Commerce on any changes they make and how that promotes economic development in the City. The transportation piece is a really important committee that needs time to grow. It is without question the interest in mass transit, bicycling and how vehicles move through our city definitely needs to be on a committee and agenda that is regularly discussion. But transportation and parking doesn't always fit together.

Ald. Miller moved to change the Community Services Committee to the Parks, Recreation and

Community Services Committee and under it have both parks and recreation, Lighthouse Landing Committee, the Animal Welfare Board, Commission on Aging, and the Committee on Public Place Names.

Mayor Tisdahl moved to have the Lighthouse Landing Committee stay a solo committee. They meet 4 times a year in the middle of the day and it was created by former Ald. Stephen Engelman to discuss issues pretty specific to the 7th Ward. If they ever come to some decision on the Harley Clarke Mansion they may no longer need the committee. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Wynne added she does not think the Animal Welfare Board belongs under the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Committee. Parks and recreation is a big topic and the people who serve on the Animal Welfare Board have a very specific interest in that discrete topic.

Ald. Holmes agrees with Ald. Miller in terms of changing the name to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Committee. She thinks Commission on Aging, Committee on Public Place Names and the Animal Welfare Board should remain under that committee. If committees are meeting 3 or 4 times a year it is almost like a subcommittee anyway. And since they don't know how staff is going to propose how they function she would leave the Animal Welfare Board there for now and wait until staff comes back with their vision on how these broader groups will form.

Ald. Tendam made a motion to move Commission on Aging under the Equity and Empowerment Committee. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Wynne moved to have the Animal Welfare Board remain as is. Perhaps in the further they could be moved under the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Committee. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Miller moved to have the Community Services Committee changed to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Committee and have under that both the parks and recreation functions and the Committee on Public Place Names. Ald. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz stated Council has been moving toward the Housing & Community Development Act Committee and the Mental Health Board working more closely together and it is probably time for the two groups to be combined. If that were the case that would leave the transportation component of Transportation and Parking, Commission on Aging, Human Relations Commission, Housing and Homelessness and the ADA Advisory Committee. Given the current dockets of those groups perhaps they could become the Equity and Empowerment Committee.

Ald. Rainey asked has the Mental Health Board been talked to about combing with the Housing & Community Development Act Committee. City Manager Bobkiewicz stated that the Mental Health Board does not feel that is the path to go. They feel they have a separate and distinct role separate from Housing & Community Development Act Committee and separate from any other group. Some longtime members have been very reluctant.

Ald. Miller made an official motion to combine the Mental Health Board and Housing & Community Development Act Committee as a separate stand-alone committee. These are two large grant processes where there are lots of moving pieces and two separate external processes. He believes they can create a better process for staff and the general public by having one combined process. Mayor Tisdahl seconded.

Ald. Holmes pointed out that the Housing & Community Development Act Committee has very different guidelines from HUD and she is very worried about combining those two in terms of human services for the community. Everything will not fit under the HUD guidelines. She is content to leave them as they are until they get some direction from staff in terms of how they figure what the process is going to be because it is a real different focus.

After much discussion Ald. Wynne recommended that Ald. Miller withdraws his motion for the time being until they get a report back from staff on how this combined committee would work. Ald. Miller agreed to withdraw his motion. He suggested another option would be to take the Mental Health Board functions and give them to the Human Services Committee.

Ald. Tendam commented that the Housing & Homelessness Committee was recently created in terms of combining housing with homelessness and putting a lot of emphasis on homelessness. He is not sure if it needs to be separate from Equity and Empowerment but there has been discussions about further amendments to the inclusionary ordinance and dealing with a really complex funding apparatus. Also looking at administration changes in Washington and that too could change funding. This committee needs to have a lot of attention and has room to grow and he would like staff to come back on how that committee could really be strengthen.

Ald. Rainey said she would like the courtesy of having the Housing & Community Development Act Committee meet, at its next meeting, and have a discussion on how the combination would work and if they think it should.

Mayor Tisdahl moved that the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals remain separate. Rainey seconded. Motion passed.

City Manager Bobkiewicz noted the next Rules Committee meeting would be May 16th at 6:00p.

APPROVAL OF REVISED ALDERMANIC MEMER/CHAIR SCHEDULE:

Ald. Tendam moved approval. Ald. Braithwaite seconded. Motion passed.

Ald. Miller noted the Economic Development Committee shows a vacancy but Ald. Braithwaite is actually on that committee now.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 7:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Francellno

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