Northwestern University / City Committee

Wednesday, July 16, 2014
7:00pm

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Room 4802
2100 Ridge Avenue, Evanston

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014

3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

   (1) The University’s proposed demolition of existing structures on, and/or new construction plans for, the University’s current T1 and T2 District properties and the University’s current U1 District properties (if any).

   (2) Any other issues relating to planning, land use, building and zoning pertaining to the University’s current T1 and T2 District Properties and the University’s current U1 District Properties.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

5. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2014
MEETING MINUTES
Northwestern University/City Committee
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Aldermanic Library, Civic Center 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2750

Members Present: Chairman Alderman Judy Fiske, Tom Gemmell (Community Representative), Mr. Ronald Nayler (Northwestern University) Dave Schoenfeld (Community Representative)

Members Absent: Eugene Sunshine (Northwestern University)

Staff Present: Joseph McRae (Deputy City Manager), Melissa Parker (Administrative Secretary)

Presiding Member: Chairman Alderman Judy Fiske

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present Alderman Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
Mr. Ron Nayler and Mr. Dave Schoenfeld indicated several changes to the minutes from September 11, 2013.
Meeting minutes were approved with corrections 4-0.

3. BUSINESS

(1) The University’s proposed demolition of existing structures on, and/or new construction plans for, the University’s current T1and T2 District properties and the University’s current U1District properties (if any).

Alderman Fiske asked about the large dumpster that was outside of Roycemore.

Mr. Nayler indicated that they were completing some interior work and minor maintenance work. He said he wasn’t certain what that particular dumpster was for but that they had also received a permit from the City to do some minor electrical work and upgrades to get it prepared for the Art Theory and Practice folks.

Alderman Fiske asked if it was the people from Kresge that was coming over to there.

Mr. Nayler responded that it will be some people from Kresge and that there is a whole division of Art Theory and Practice where they have drawing and painting studios and because of the size of the Roycemore classes they are a perfect fit.
Mr. Nayler stated that it will be for the next two years of use from Fall of 2014 to Fall of 2016.

Alderman Fiske added that the plan is from them to then move back to Kresge which Mr. Nayler confirmed.

Mr. Nayler said that they will probably figure something out in January 2016 so we know what we would want to do with the building.

Alderman Fiske asked why they wouldn’t keep them at Roycemore.

Mr. Nayler shared that having them on the core campus makes a lot of sense for them.

Alderman Fiske asked if there were studios in Lewis Hall which is just east of Kresge.

Mr. Nayler replied that there is one for the School of Communication and Medill. Medill is moving toward the digital aid and it will probably be re-outfitted to fit their needs of the future.

Mr. Naylor stated that there are new plans or proposed demolition in T1 and T2 or UI District properties.

Alderman Fiske asked if there have been any incidents at Roycemore because she has seen police vehicles over their shining lights on the building.

Mr. Nayler responded that they are keeping an eye on the building because people know that it is vacant. They take extra care for an unoccupied building to make sure no one is in there.

Alderman Fiske asked when the plan was to have someone move in there.

Mr. Nayler responded that if they meet the schedule they would move in this summer. They have programs that they are running at Kresge up until July.

Alderman Fiske asked if there was any food service in the building.

Mr. Nayler indicated that other than vending machines there would be no food service.

Alderman Fiske stated that the preference for trucks unloading equipment or supplies would be for them to come off Lincoln.

Alderman Fiske mentioned that once those hoses are constructed is that the west side of Orrington would be permit parking for residents.

Alderman Fiske asked how many cars the north garage was holding.
Mr. Nayler indicated about 1,125. We have enlarged the walking zone and there are more and more people that we expect to walk or bike to campus.

Alderman Fiske requested that it would help to have Roycemore fitted with shades in the windows to help it fit in with the community.

Mr. Nayler stated that in those zones there is nothing else major going on and that they continue to do the maintenance on the properties.
Alderman Fiske shared that she thinks that it was approved today to take down one of the cranes from the north garage on a Sunday and it will be traveling down Sheridan Rd to Emerson.

Mr. Nayler specified that it was the only way they could get the crane out of there.

Alderman Fiske asked about the weight of the trucks and would like to have that information.

Mr. Tom Gemmell asked for an update on the playground equipment that was still at Roycemore.

Alderman Fiske stated that the equipment was still there along with the No Trespassing sign and asked if the large sign could be replaced with a smaller sign.

Alderman Fiske asked if there were any plan to remove the playground there.

Mr. Nayler replied that at the end of the project if there is room in the budget then they would remove it.

Mr. Gemmell shared there was a time when the sign wasn’t there and the equipment was accessible that kids would be there during the day and use it all the time.

Alderman Fiske asked if it was because of liability that it isn’t accessible now.

Mr. Nayler confirmed that was the case.

Alderman Fiske asked if there would be interest in turning into another City park.

Mr. Nayler replied that they wouldn’t.

(2) Any other issues relating to planning, land use, building and zoning pertaining to the University’s current T1 and T2 District Properties and the University’s current U1 District Properties

Alderman Fisked asked what was going on at Seabury and how many students were occupying it.

Mr. Nayler said he wasn’t sure what the population was but it is about the same population as the original groups that occupied it. The population is pretty constant.

Alderman Fiske asked if the burial volt for the bishop had been moved.

Mr. Nayler replied that it had been.

Alderman Fiske asked about the buildings on the west side of Sheridan that were eliminated from the Historic District and asked Mr. Nayler about his thoughts of that area.

Mr. Nayler indicated that it wasn’t an area of priority at this time. They are announcing the capital campaign this Friday and a number of other priorities to focus on.

Alderman Fiske asked what projects they are focusing on right now.

Mr. Nayler answered that the lakefront athletic facility, Kellogg is going to be underway, and still building into the tech institute. They will start design on replacement resident halls where peanut row
used to be. It is the best location because it is on the far north end of the campus and nothing there but dorms.

Fiske asked about the 600 block of Sheridan Rd.

Mr. Nayler said that the web crew that is in there will be moving out and other folks will move in there for administrative use. It could either way to wrap around as residential use and or administrative use. We know what the next two years of Roycemore is going to be so that gives us time to determine what the best long term use is.

Alderman Fiske then asked about Longfield which was discussed a few meetings ago.

Mr. Nayler shared that will it stay a recreational use and we know it will not be the site for the City’s reservoir. The long term plan was that it would be beneficial as an artificial turf field than a natural turf field. The community using it extensively and it would benefit them as well.

Mr. Gemmell stated that he didn’t want anything built there and the only issue with with the artificial turf is that it might be a little weird in the winter when it is still green.

Mr. Nayler indicated that is the long term plan and the other issue is if we actually get a running track there because we have heard that from the community as well.

Mr. Gemmell asked if they would be putting in turf for the entire field because it is so large.

Mr. Naylor responded that it would be the whole field but it would be striped to make multiple fields.

Alderman Fiske inquired if there was anything else going on the south end of Orrington. Mr. Nayler answered no. Everything is complete and there are no major projects in the works there. There will be minor work from time to time for maintenance and they will continue to try to improve accessibility.

Alderman Fiske shared that the City has had discussion about how bikes are accessing campus and downtown and asked Mr. Nayler if they have you done any studies on that. Is there a bike plan for the area surrounding campus?

Mr. Naylor state that they have been working with a bike coalition that has been taking a look at that and their Sustainability Director has as well. He stated that they have talked about it before and they don’t want to see trees on Sheridan Road to be cut down to provide a bike path. He saw a plan proposed at one time that there needs to be a separate bike path which would mean we would have to cut down a lot of trees.

Alderman Fiske responded that they were talking about taking a foot and half of parkway on Chicago Avenue and it would not impact the trees but would provide a protected bike line. She stated that she has heard concerns of the smell and the noise of the yellow school buses at night. Can we ask for a more energy efficient bus?

Mr. Shoenfield said that he has seen them lined up on Emerson and has not seen them on Orrington.

Mr. Nayler stated that he didn’t know all the details but the person at the university in charge found that the hybrid buses were noisier buses than others.
Alderman Fiske specified that it wasn’t their buses but contracted buses.

Mr. Nayler replied that if the fraternity contracts a bus then they don’t have control over that.

Mr. McCrae shared that there is another NU off-campus meeting as well where they discuss some of these issues.

Alderman Fiske requested that they discuss bus permits about what is running in residential areas.

Mr. Shoenfield asked if this within our scope or not but asked about something said about consolidating a lot on Elgin.

Alderman Fiske responded that the University, East of Sheridan Road, are subdividing the lots there to put buildings that are not landmarks on their own individual lots of record so that approvals don’t have to go through the Preservation Commission.

Mr. Nayler clarified that all those buildings that are landmarks are trying to consolidate into some small districts. They are willing to take the whole area from Patton Gym to the south fraternity and make that an entire district. That would be subdivided by a parcel and then the Preservation Commission could weigh in on all of the issues in the buildings in that area. The same could be said for the south end of the campus as well. Now they have the historic buildings in parcels that make sense and that is when the Preservation Commission could have a conversation with the University and weigh in.

Mr. Shoenfield inquired about where it stands in the process.

Mr. Nayler said that staff and he will talk with the Chair of the Preservation Commission to get them to understand the intent and listen to their concerns before anything is filed formally.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Parker
Administrative Secretary