MEETING MINUTES

HARLEY CLARKE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 13, 2016
6:30pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave, Room 2402

Members Present:  E. DeStefano, E. Revelle, D. Campbell, J. Bryan, P. Elesh, H. Garcia

Staff Present:  L. Hemingway


EVANSTON LAKEHOUSE & GARDEN PRESENTATION

The Evanston Lakehouse & Gardens is a Not for Profit 501c3 incorporated in June 2015. Their mission is to preserve and restore Evanston’s only public lakefront estate by creating an inspiring community space that fosters appreciation of the environment, the arts, and the rich cultural history of Evanston.

Tonight they gave a presentation on how Harley Clarke can be transformed into a fully renovated, multi-purpose venue. The presentation included an overview of the existing space / layout, proposed renovations, programming / event concepts, local examples of places that have restored historic buildings into great community assets and case studies on how this was done in other states.

They estimate a full restoration to make the property the type of space they envision would be approximately $4.5 million dollars. They also shared an operating budget that showed the property being self- sustained by year 3, with stewardship endowment funds in year 1 and 2. The next steps for the group is to continue developing anchor partners; hopefully negotiate a lease or option terms with the City; have a capital campaign; rehab the facility; have a grand opening. They’re having problems with getting donors without some type of memo of understanding or lease from the City for the property; and they’re having problems getting a lease from the City because they don’t have enough money from donors.

In discussion it was noted that some of the push back could be that some people may not want to have programs / events that would bring too much of a congregation at the location. Parking concerns can be solved with valet or shuttle service but we also don’t want it where you’d have several utility and company trucks coming in and out for service.
D. Campbell said you have to be able to have big events in order for this to work economically. The City can't say go out and raise the money to do this but we're going to impact your economic viability – the City can't have both.

Barbara Janes will give a presentation at the next meeting schedule for 6pm on January 19 at the Civic Center in room 2402.

Future meetings will be at 6pm on 3rd Thursdays. The meeting location will change each month.