Members Present: Alderman Judy Fiske, Alderman Eleanor Revelle, Nim Chinniah (Northwestern University), John D’Angelo (Northwestern University), Tom Gemmell (Community Representative)

Staff Present: Alan Anderson (Northwestern University), Bruce Lewis (Northwestern University), Erika Storlie (Deputy City Manager), Susie Hall (City Manager’s Office)

Citizens: Arlene Haus, Phil Hockberger, Barbara Janes, Tina Garrison, Dan Garrison, Linda Damashek, Kiera Madden, Bill Smith

Presiding Member: Alderman Fiske

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present Alderman Judy Fiske calls the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Meeting minutes from April 12, 2016, August 16, 2016 and September 20, 2016 are approved.

3. NEW BUSINESS
None.
4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1(a) 640 Colfax Restoration Project

The building at 640 Lincoln, formerly Roycemore property, is owned by Northwestern University. Alan Anderson, Executive Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations at Northwestern University, states that there are issues with the building’s roof. John D’Angelo, Vice President of Facilities Management at Northwestern, says they are going to look at and renovate the facility. Alderman Judy Fiske asks if the roof is the same age as the building, and Mr. D’Angelo says that they are not able to find out the date of the roof as the building predates Northwestern. Mr. D’Angelo further states the damage went unnoticed, and they have now found mold. Alderman Fiske asks what the use for the building will be, and Nim Chinniah, Executive Vice President at Northwestern, states that it will be for staff/administration. A resident asks about the lights kept on overnight, and Mr. D’Angelo explains that they are safety lights (if someone were to enter). Alderman Fiske asks about the broken windows and fireplace use; Mr. D’Angelo answers that the windows will all be fixed before going to the Preservation Board and that the fireplaces will be kept but will not be operating. Mr. D’Angelo also states the small fence at Colfax will be coming down, and that the larger fence has the potential to also come down.

1(b) Landscaping on Long Field

This item is skipped for discussion later in the meeting.

1(c) South Campus Residence Hall

Mr. Anderson says Northwestern is still in the process of investigating and reviewing neighbor and resident comments for determining a site for new residence halls. He states Northwestern will have a better idea in the spring, and will reengage with residents at that time. Alderman Fiske notes that they have pulled back on the vacation of the alley. Mr. Anderson says Northwestern will have a full design in the spring.

1(b) Landscaping on Long Field

Mr. Anderson says that he met with Evanston resident Kiera Madden at Long Field to discuss issues with the landscaping and the view of the new dorm at 560 Lincoln. Mr. Chinniah states that Northwestern was informed of the issue, and is ready to work with the City to add landscaping near the dorm. Mr. Anderson says that the installation would be in the parkway. Northwestern would provide the financial support to make this happen, once they receive the City’s approval.

Erika Storlie, Deputy City Manager and Director of Administrative Services for the City of Evanston, says the initial request was for the planting of trees. She adds that if more plantings are requested, they will need to discuss further. Alderman Fiske confirms that
Ms. Madden knows that the plantings would only be in the parkway. Mr. Chinniah says Northwestern plans to let the City drive the process.

Tom Gemmel, Community Representative, asks for specifics on what is being done. Mr. Gemmel suggests that they don’t add a wall of shrubs and trees, and asks if the other neighbors are okay with this idea. Alderman Fiske says Ms. Madden has reached out to the neighbors, and that the neighbors should meet with the designers. Alderman Revelle says that she would not like evergreens planted, but that deciduous trees wouldn’t help coverage in the winter. She further states that trees should not be added to Long Field itself. Ms. Storlie further says that the City has a list of trees that would be approved by the City, which would help the project happen faster with Northwestern’s funding. Alderman Fiske suggests the idea of planting flowers or shrubs just as a way to divert eyes down and away from the building. Ms. Storlie says she will set up a meeting with the architect and neighbors. Mr. Gemmel states that the shrubs will not help block the view and would look cheap. He asks if a tree can be planted to help block Ms. Madden’s view, but that we need to check on the spacing between the trees. Alderman Fiske suggests planting one tree on Long Field. Alderman Revelle says an arborist would be able to note the spacing needed between trees. Mr. Chinniah asks that the City drive the design.

A resident asks if the lights will stay on top of the building and if the color on the outside of the building will be improved. Alderman Fiske says that the building height was shocking when be constructed.

Kierra Madden enters the meeting. Alderman Fiske informs Ms. Madden that planting would be on the parkway and not on Long Field, and that the City will set up a meeting with the neighbors. Alderman Fiske states that shrubs on Long Field would block the view and could cause a safety concern. Ms. Madden states that a tree has come down on the corner, and she is looking for some visual screening from the big building. She suggests looking at the west side of the field near Sheridan Road. She further states some trees are positioned nicely, but there are some bare spots that could be filled. Alderman Fiske states everyone should take Northwestern’s offer to fund the project, and ask Paul D’Agostino at the City of Evanston to set up a meeting. Ms. Madden says the plantings may be small right now, but would be good in the future.

Alderman Fiske notes how beautiful Northwestern’s campus is and that maybe they could look into some plantings, similar to those near Cahn, to divert the eyes away. Ms. Madden asks if trees are okay. Alderman Fiske says to get everyone together (Paul D’Agostino, a Northwestern Landscaper, and Alan Anderson) and to organize a neighborhood meeting.

Additional Comments:
Alderman Fiske asks if Northwestern knows the trucks parked in the lot near the Foster El Station are being screened.
Resident asks if there is a specific time that Northwestern would know more about the South Campus dorms. Mr. Anderson says they will have a better idea in the spring. Mr. Chinniah says that they will go through the same process at that time, and discuss with the neighbors. The resident asks if they have thought about moving to the Fairchild location, and Mr. Chinniah responds that they have thought about it and it is in the discussion.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by:
Susie Hall, Executive Assistant