Alderman Tendam called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and asked Ald. Jane Grover to present the “Safe Routes to School” program. Ald. Grover explained that “Safety” is one of the City Council’s goals, which has resulted in two new ordinances banning cell phone use while driving and increasing fines for speeding in school zones. She explained that federal grants are available through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) under the “Safe Routes to School” program. While this is primarily a District 65 issue, it could impact high school students. Alderman Grover explained that this program is to enable more children to walk and ride bikes to school. The City’s Director of Transportation/Engineering Paul Schneider indicated that the City must submit a travel plan to IDOT by November 1, 2010. Mr. Schneider explained that there is up to $250,000 available for infrastructure improvements and $100,000 for an educational component. Mr. Schneider spoke to the challenges and steps that have been taken so far, including:

- Meetings with Roger Allen at Dist 65
- Presentation to D65 Principals
- Crossing guards counting heads
- Parent survey developed

Additional steps planned for this summer include:

- Walk the routes with Principals and local PTAs and develop a “wish list”
- Parent survey
- Public meetings at middle schools to include feeder schools
- Finalize draft travel plan after input from public meetings
- Submit plan to IDOT by November 1st

Committee members suggested the need for a volunteer component since one reason children do not walk to school is to avoid bullies. While not part of the actual K-8 plan, City staff will meet with high school staff regarding Church/Dodge and nearby streets.

Committee members approved the Minutes of the Meeting of February 11, 2010.
In the absence of Alderman Jean-Baptiste, the Local Employment update was deferred.

City Attorney Grant Farrar discussed progress on the proposed “truancy ordinance.” Mr. Farrar has asked attorneys for each of the school districts to look at the proposal for issues of confidentiality and other student/school related concerns. Superintendents Murphy and Witherspoon said that their attorneys were in agreement with the proposed ordinance. Mr. Farrar wants District staff to prepare the initial draft intergovernmental agreement to be very sure that all the legal issues have been addressed from the perspectives of the students and school law. Mr. Farrar also wants intergovernmental agreements approved with both districts before proceeding with Council approval of a truancy ordinance. The ‘truancy” ordinance will come back to the City’s Human Services Committee after the intergovernmental agreements are in place.

Concerns were raised about getting this completed before the start of the next school year. Mr. Farrar stated that this is still possible. Another concern raised was whether this ordinance could cause children to be caught up in the criminal justice system. Both superintendents assured committee members that this is a “restorative justice” intervention program, not “criminal.” The police are not involved.

Committee members were pleased with the first Evanston Day in Springfield held on April 29, 2010. Participants were glad to see that a good cross section of stakeholders had been involved. It was a great opportunity, and it was good to get the support of Northwestern University. City staff has prepared a survey, which was sent to all participants, along with the names and contact information of those who attended. The City’s new Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator Matt Swentkofske will keep abreast of upcoming legislative issues. It was suggested that next year the trip should be made earlier in the legislative session.

The following meeting schedule was approved for the next academic year.
  Thursday, September 16, 2010, 5:30 p.m. – District 202
  Thursday, February 17, 2011, 5:30 p.m. – District 65
  Thursday, May 19, 2011, 5:30 p.m. – City of Evanston

Respectfully submitted by Kate Todd
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