Northwestern University / City Committee

Tuesday, October 16, 2018
7:00pm
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center
Joan Barr Smith Aldermanic Library, Room 2750

MINUTES

Members Present: Judy Fiske (Alderman for City of Evanston), Craig Johnson (Northwestern University), Alex Darragh (Northwestern University), David Schoenfeld (Community Representative), Mimi Roeder (Community Representative)

Staff Present: Kimberly Richardson (Deputy City Manager), Susie Hall (City Manager’s Office)

Presiding Member: Judy Fiske

Residents/Other: Peter Mitchell, Libby Hill, Bruce Enenbach, Alan Perez

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present Judy Fiske, 1st Ward Alderman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

3. NEW BUSINESS
Introductions:
Alderman Fiske welcomed new Community Representative for the Committee, Mimi Roeder. In addition, Craig Johnson, Senior VP for Business and Finance at Northwestern University (NU), and Alex Darragh, Interim Vice President for Facilities are new to the committee. Mr. Johnson has been in Evanston 22 years. He was previously: Interim VP for Business and Finance; Chief Operating Office of Feinberg School of Medicine downtown Chicago; in the budget office in Evanston; and student at Northwestern. Mr. Darragh works for a company called CBRE, and he is working with a consultant contract for this position. He has lived in Evanston for 32 years, and has served on Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee. He moved here in 1979 and was a student at NU. Ms. Roeder moved to Evanston as a teenager, and has worked with many civic groups/activities over the years.
Alderman Fiske discussed the Court Order requesting formation of this committee to discuss any work done in the T1, T2 and U1 Districts. Dave Schoenfeld, Community Representative, has been with the committee since it was first formed. Alderman Fiske noted that the committee works well together. Mr. Schoenfeld mentioned that when the committee was first formed, Northwestern was getting away without informing the City of its plans. He added that the communication has improved. The City and Northwestern now exchange information, and he feels that NU is listening.

Alderman Fiske added that she is proud of the impression Evanston makes on parents and students visiting/coming to NU. She has lived on her block for 40+ years; Ms. Roeder has lived on her block for 25 years. Alderman Fiske added that in the 50's/60's, she wasn’t sure which direction NU would go with its buildings/campus. The City and Northwestern have co-existed well for a long time now. She is encouraged by the direction of this committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Dave Schoenfeld requests 2 amendments (his name was incorrect and changing of collegiate to collegial). Meeting minutes from March 20, 2018 are approved as amended.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Alderman Fiske asked NU what new changes/development they have in the T1 and T2 Districts. Mr. Johnson noted that they have renovations to the Black House (1914 Sheridan Road), which should be completed summer of 2019. NU is getting the building up to code for ADA regulations, but the use will not change. There are no other projects for T1 or T2.

Alderman Fiske asked if there were any further discussions about the Roycemore or Foster Walker buildings. Mr. Johnson said they don’t have any current projects/plans for these two locations. Mr. Johnson added that they are finishing up projects that are currently in progress and getting those building on-line.

Mr. Schoefeld asked if they have plans for Hinman dorm rooms, and Mr. Johnson stated that they have no plans. Ms. Roeder asked if they are purchasing any private homes. Mr. Johnson noted that a few people have reached out, but NU is not interested at this time.

Mr. Schoenfeld asked if NU is going to revisit the use for the Roycemore property, and if they are going to keep the neighborhood in mind when deciding uses. He added that there is a strong feeling in the community that it should be used for daytime use/office or as an art center as it was previously. He asked if NU could think about the properties that abut the building when deciding the future use. Ms. Roeder added that she is happy with the renovations at the site.

Mr. Johnson responded that they do not have any programs at Roycemore at this time. It is a historic building, so whatever they would decide they would have to make sure it
stays with the nature of the building. Ms. Roeder asked if NU has any plans to sell that property; Mr. Johnson responded that they have not been approached by anyone to purchase any NU property.

Alderman Fiske noted that she sees facilities employees around the Roycemore property, but asked if NU can keep an eye out for people that may try to sneak in. Alderman Fiske stated she appreciated NUs work on the corner house/office, and asked if NU could paint/clean-up Roycemore in a similar way. Mr. Johnson said it is difficult to fix it up as it is a historic property. Alderman Fiske also asked if they could work on the curb cuts from the original Roycemore, and restore the parkway.

Ms. Roeder stated that she has heard 2 complaints from neighbors about NU. One is regarding the basketball courts around 1900 Orrington. The full court has brought in non-residents/adults that like to play full, loud games that last late into the night. Alderman Fiske noted that in the summer, the City asked NU to take one basket down to discourage the full court game. Mr. Schoenfeld added that a request was also made to NU to better screen off the court. Alderman Fiske noted that it was a complaint from multiple neighbors around the area.

Mr. Schoenfeld said the other complaint that the committee has heard about is the parking on Emerson. Bruce Ennenbach, resident, was present to discuss his concerns. Mr. Enenbach read from an email he sent to the committee earlier in the day. He said there should never be any parking on Emerson, particularly east of Orrington. He said the illegal parking happens all the time, and NU police do not issue tickets when he calls to complain. Mr. Enenbach added that all drop offs, trucks, etc. can park on University Place and not block Emerson traffic (especially for emergency vehicles). He requested that a waiver not be granted to NU for an exception to park on Emerson. He asked if NU and the City could sign an agreement tonight stating they will not allow parking for any reason on that road. Alderman Fiske said the City would not sign an agreement. She added that there was a promise made through Dave Davis at Northwestern, that if they were to grant an exception for parent/student unloading this fall, that they would not need one again in the future. (**At the January 15, 2019 meeting, Alderman Fiske asked the minutes to reflect that Northwestern did not agree that its Fall 2018 move-in season would be the final time the University would use Emerson after having had the opportunity to review correspondence between the City and Northwestern.)

Kimberly Richardson, Deputy City Manager, stated that she has been working with Mr. Davis at NU and the City’s Fire Chief to measure the width of Emerson and make sure it is accessible for emergency vehicles to get through (if cars are parked on either side). The Fire Chief’s measurements were that the street was 30 feet wide and that even with cars parked on either side, it provided 9’3” which is enough room for a truck to get through. Mr. Johnson said he knows Mr. Davis is trying to work on students/parents/delivery trucks to comply with the no-parking zone. Ms. Richardson stated that she will try to set up a meeting for Mr. Enenbach to meet on location to measure the street.
Alderman Fiske added that she is concerned about where the trucks go when they leave that area. They either have to turn on Orrington or turn illegally on Sheridan. She asked NU to make sure they are aware of where the trucks are going and make sure they are properly advised of truck routes.

Alderman Fiske informed Mr. Enenbach that he should call 311 instead of the Police Department so that his request can be registered. He will receive a receipt of his call, and Alderman Fiske gets information at the end of each week on calls received in her Ward. Mr. Enenbach added that he hopes more vehicles will be ticketed and how that will help compliance in the future. Alderman Fiske makes a request to find out if Northwestern Police can issue parking tickets.

Mr. Schoenfeld asked to discuss one more item. He noted that bike riding on the sidewalks has become more frequent. He added that it also now includes motorized skateboards and scooters, which move at a fast rate. They are not safe on sidewalks in a dense area. Mr. Johnson noted that NU is working on enforcement. Alderman Fiske asked NU to come up with a graphic or another means of notification, as emails to the students are not always read.

Mr. Johnson confirmed Alderman Fiske request if sophomores are required to live on campus this year. Alderman Fiske asked if they know how rental properties may be affected in Evanston now. Mr. Johnson hasn’t heard any data on this. Mr. Schoenfeld questioned who is not required to live on campus, and Mr. Johnson stated that only people with special needs/requests. Ms. Roeder asked if students are really following this request, and Mr. Johnson said that they are enforcing. Alderman Fiske asked if there are enough dorm rooms on campus, and Mr. Johnson confirms there are. NU has no plans to add dorms to campus.

Alderman Fiske asked how President Schapiro’s global university plans may affect the Evanston campus. Mr. Johnson said no building should be affected here, but that they would be expanding buildings around the world. Alderman Fiske said she likes to try to look at the City 20 years out. Mr. Johnson added that he anticipates NU pausing on projects in the future.

5. COMMUNICATIONS
Mr. Darragh asked to make sure the record notes how Evanston’s Fire Chief has assisted with numerous inspections at NU, including inspections on the weekends/putting in overtime. They are extremely appreciative of his assistance and thank him for his work.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Submitted by:
Susie Hall, Executive Assistant