Northwestern University / City Committee  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
7:00 p.m.  
Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center  
Joan Barr Smith Aldermanic Library, Room 2750

MINUTES

Members Present: Judy Fiske (1st Ward Alderman), Craig Johnson (Northwestern University), Alex Darragh (Northwestern University), David Schoenfeld (Community Representative), Mimi Roeder (Community Representative)

Staff Present: Kimberly Richardson (Deputy City Manager), Janella Hardin (Administrative Coordinator, City Manager’s Office)

Presiding Member: Alderman Judy Fiske

Residents/Other: Ken Proskie (Resident)

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present Ald. Judy Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Ald. Fiske requested staff add Public Comment to future agendas, per the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Fifteen minutes in total will be allocated for public comment moving forward.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
The January 19, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

3. NEW BUSINESS
None

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Ald. Fiske also mentioned the concerns with the basketball courts near the 1900 block of Orrington and asked if Northwestern plans to reorient the court to half-size. Ms. Roeder stated complaints from neighbors regarding the activity on the court and that non-Northwestern University students are utilizing the court because it is a full-size court. Mr. Johnson stated that he does not see the University altering the basketball court at this time.
Ald. Fiske asked if the University had any new updates. Mr. Johnson stated that $3 million dollar improvements to the Black House continue. Also, there are no new construction plans at the University for the T1, T2, and U2 Districts.

Ald. Fiske inquired about former Roycemore and restoring the two parkways nearby as part of the school’s capital improvement plan, and the University’s land needs. According to Mr. Johnson, Roycemore is currently unoccupied with no current rehabilitation plans, just life safety maintenance, and there no plans to restore the parkways. As for the University’s land needs, Mr. Johnson stated that there are no current and does not know about any future plans at this time.

Ms. Roeder inquired about the University’s interest in the divestment of Northwestern properties in Evanston. Mr. Johnson stated that the University is always looking at their portfolio and currently, no properties are on the market. Mr. Johnson stated that public/private partnerships are something the University would explore. A committee member asked if there was a system to notify the Committee of at least once a quarter of what is on the market. Mr. Johnson stated that there was no system in place. Ald. Fiske stated that she would like to discuss affordable housing and public-private partnership, similar to housing and retail space development near Loyola University as an example.

Also, Seabury seminary buildings are used for single-family homes for some staff housing and not being used for student housing. Mr. Johnson stated the University’s dormitory at Hinman is currently used as a dining hall. There are no current plans for the dormitory.

Ald. Fiske stated that Committee will meet again in February. Mr. Johnson offered to hold the next meeting, which was declined by Ald. Fiske, as this meeting must be held in a public building. The meetings will be held quarterly on Tuesdays.

5. COMMUNICATIONS
None

6. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Submitted by:
Janella Hardin, PHR
Administrative Coordinator