Northwestern University / City Committee

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
7:00pm
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), Susie Hall (City Manager’s Office)

Presiding Member: Ald. Judy Fiske

Residents/Other: None

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM
With a quorum present Ald. Judy Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Ald. Fiske asked the minutes to reflect that Northwestern did not agree that its Fall 2018 move-in would be the final time the University would ask to use Emerson St. Minutes, as revised, are approved.

3. NEW BUSINESS
None.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Ald. Fiske asked Northwestern to continue to work with Evanston Police Department on enforcement during the University’s student move-in/move-out. Mr. Craig Johnson stated that he will also continue to work with the truck drivers on proper routes when making deliveries to the University.
Ald. Fiske asked if the University had any new updates. Mr. Johnson stated that the improvements to the Black House continues. The University would like to update the Foster Walker dorms, but do not have any designs at this time. The dorm size would not change; it would only be improvements to making the living quality more pleasant inside for the students.

Ald. Fiske also mentioned the concerns with the basketball courts near the 1900 block of Orrington and asked that Northwestern convert the full court to two half-courts. David Schoenfeld, Community Representative, agreed that the courts should be re-oriented to two half-courts. Mr. Johnson said he has not driven by the location in a while, but will look into where else the University could have a full court that would not be near other residences.

Ald. Fiske asked if Northwestern and the City could look into restoring two parkways near the former Roycemore. The first location is on Lincoln Street at an old school bus stop, and the second is on Colfax St. where the parkway had been previously replaced with brick pavers. Mr. Johnson and Alex Darragh, Interim Vice President of Facilities, stated they would look into both. Mr. Johnson further mentioned that they looked at Roycemore since the last meeting and did not find any squatters. The University has no plans for construction on that building, due to it being a historic building. Mr. Schoenfeld inquired about the building near the south end of Roycemore. Mr. Johnson confirmed it will only be used for administrative purposes. Mimi Roeder, Community Representative, confirmed that the activities Northwestern has held in that building have not been loud or disruptive.

Ms. Roeder asked anyone knew if there were fewer complaints of off-campus activity because more students are now required to live on campus. Ald. Fiske said that there is no official report, but seems to be quiet. Ald. Fiske further noted that she hopes the apartments that students had been leasing will now transition to more affordable housing.

Ald. Fiske discussed the consent decree, dated 2004, regarding the open space on Foster. It is covered for 20 years, or until 2024.

Mr. Johnson noted that the University has received concerns from students that Foster Walker is not a great place to live. Some lobby work was done 3 years ago, but work needs to be done to actual living areas. Ald. Fiske inquired about the process of requesting dorms. Mr. Johnson stated that it is a lottery system. 560 Lincoln is the #1 choice, with Willard a close #2 choice.

Ald. Fiske asked about the University doing work to the dorms on Hinman Ave./Sheridan Rd. Mr. Johnson stated that there are no students currently living in those dorms. The University had plans (from 2016) to do work on these dorms, but does not currently have the funds for the project. The University does not have a time frame of when they would return to reviewing the proposal. Ald. Fiske asked if
Northwestern would consider expanding a dormitory that is in a U3 Zone that already allows for the height increase.

Ms. Roeder inquired about the beach near Northwestern property on Lincoln. Ald. Fiske said that she believes that it is owned by the State of Illinois.

5. COMMUNICATIONS
None.

6. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by:
Susie Hall, Executive Assistant