

Observer: Betty Hayford

Aldermen present: All

Media present: Evanston Now, Evanston Roundtable, Evanston Live TV, NU Daily

Meeting began: 6:10 pm

Meeting ended: 9:50 pm

Announcements. The Mayor announced there were two main items on the agenda, the budget review and the Harley Clarke mansion. He said there is a full house and many Harley Clarke supporters (identified by blue tee shirts). The City Clerk said the Karen Yarborough program on dispersal of personal property was successful and would be repeated. Next week there will be a program on parliamentary procedure, an event in July on affordable housing, and a participatory budgeting event in July.

Public comment. 41 speakers signed up so each speaker had 1 minute. Actually 39 spoke. 21 supported the preservation of Harley Clarke. 5 supported demolition with naturalization of the lake front. 11 spoke in favor of youth and summer employment programs. 1 expressed concern about a beach incident and 1 called for replacing the city manager.

Consent agenda. Aldermen Fleming introduced a brief consent agenda including payroll, bills and bills excluding Amazon charges. Alderman Rainey asked why some expenses were allocated to bond funds. The City Manager agreed it was a judgment call and agreed to look carefully at such items. The consent agenda passed, 9-0 and 8-0(for the Amazon bills, Suffredin abstaining).

2019 Budget Update. The City Manager provided an introduction to the presentation and summarized the result of the community budget priority survey. Staff learned that most programs are popular and human services are valued, and city needs to investigate how to provide services in most effective way. The City has to balance the budget while funding pensions and capital debt. Ashley King, Budget Manager, updated projections for 2019, reporting that there is a slight reduction in the projected budget to \$2.9 million. Staff is expecting some reduction in revenue, particularly from decline in sales tax revenue.

Priority Based Budget survey had 3304 responses. Most valued programs were Mental Health Board, Youth and Young Adult Services, Summer Food programs and social services. Most frequently mentioned for elimination were Divvy bikes, vacation rental permits and storefront modernization. Kim Richardson will lead a staff survey of the effectiveness of social service programs. Pat Efiom explained how all programs, especially social service programs, will be examined with equity lens to see who is being served and who would be hurt by cuts.

Wally pointed out that the proposed budget will be submitted in October and there will be additional opportunity for community input. The next update will be provided to Council on July 30. There will be a human services review on September.

Alex Thorpe presented possibilities for new revenue. Strong opposition was expressed to any red light cameras or to selling city assets such as the Maple Street garage. Little enthusiasm was expressed for any new taxes or fees.

Alderman Braithwaite moved to remove youth and young adult programs and the Mayor's summer employment program from considerations for elimination. He wants to assuage community unease. The motion passed 9-0.

Resolution 43-R-18, Authorizing the City Manager to Meet with the Evanston Lighthouse Dunes Organization to Negotiate on the Costs Associated with the Restoration of the Dunes and Gardens and Demolition of the Harley Clarke Mansion and Coach House. There is extensive information in the packet on the proposal to restore the dunes to their natural state and clear and expand the parkland and beach. Four representatives of the Lighthouse Dunes Organization presented their view that the maintaining the Harley Clarke mansion for programs is not viable and they are willing to restore the dunes and take down the building to create parkland without any city expense. They have raised \$300,000 of the estimated \$450,000 cost. The fog houses will be used for programming. Five years of discussions have failed to produce a viable fiscal plan for the mansion.

Alderman Rainey explained that this is a first step to determine costs and plans, and any plan for demolition would go to the Preservation Commission and final approval by Council.

Alderman Fiske provided a long history of the mansion and pointed out that preserving the lakefront was the original goal of the purchase of the house. Supporting the motion is necessary to get more information. Alderman Wilson and Wynne said it is too soon to discuss demotion and Alderman Revelle asked for more time for Lakehouse and Gardens to raise money.

Alderman Fleming called for being fiscally responsible and supported the move to negotiate and get more information on the proposal. Alderman Fiske decried the abusive and misleading tone of much of the communication on the topic. Alderman Suffredin suggested the value of a referendum to get broader community input but did not move for one.

The motion to negotiate the proposal passed, 6-3, with Wynne, Wilson and Revelle voting no.

Resolution 41-R-18, Authorizing the Settlement and Release of all Claims in Crnokovic, et al. v. City of Evanston, allowing a settlement payment from the Insurance Fund. The motion passed 9-0.

Three appointments were approved to the Housing and Homeless Commission: Lawrence Donoghue, Mark Kruse, and Renee Phillips. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.