

Observer Report Form

Council or Committee: Rules

Date: 8/6/18

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: All present. Wynne chaired

Staff Present: Bobkiewicz, Francello, Ephraim, Reid, Massoncrop

Media Present: Evanston Now, Roundtable

No. Of Citizens in Attendance: About 25

Meeting Began. 6:10 pm

Meeting Ended: 8:10 pm

Public Comment: Representatives from Cradle to Career thanked Rainey for her help with solving a problem and presented her with a bouquet (which she forgot). 3 supported the Equity and Empowerment Commission; 5 spoke on citizen comment and/or ceding time during it; 2 on civility; and 1 in support of an elected Clerk. (2 brought little kids.)

Agenda:

Equity and Empowerment Commission Jane Grover (chair) and Mario Velos (vice-chair) reported on the progress thus far with the Commission. It intends to use the Annie Casey Foundation report as a framework and mold its steps to fit Evanston. The focus will be internal, i.e. on city government; Wally praised Ephraim for her willingness to talk with other communities but has now confined her activity more to Evanston in order to accomplish what she was hired for; he noted that Evanston/Ephraim are recognized throughout the country. Over the next two years, the commissioners will receive specific training (and hopefully Council) on the issues, but thus far they have been training themselves, as they are extremely well qualified. After this, the commission will report to Human Services. (See the packet for the background on the Commission and the Casey report.)

Translation Services Bobkiewicz noted that the costs were exceeding budget and wanted guidance on what should be translated. It was noted that simultaneous translation is a heightened skill from just translation and that staff translation was not always accurate. Rainey stated that District 65 uses headphones on occasion.

Council Conduct Wynne made a lengthy statement on the need for civility and that Evanston seems to be moving from passionate to rancorous. Others weighed in; item will be kept on the agenda. (Again, see packet for Wall St. Journal article about actions taken in Duluth, MN.)

Ceding Time During Public Comment Hagerty stated that generally he did not allow speakers to cede their allotted time to another, but has on occasion and would like guidance. The issue is not in the Council rules, however the rules do state that a speaker be limited to 3 minutes. After much discussion on this and electronic sign-in which may overwhelm the procedure, there was agreement that speakers could cede their time to another but that individual would still be limited to 3 minutes, and the “ceders” must be present. It was suggested that if a group wanted to take longer, they request to make a formal presentation and that be on the agenda.

Council Date The 9/10 meetings will be moved to 9/17 to avoid conflicts with Rosh Hashanah.

Manager's Evaluation Wynne initially asked the former members to conduct the evaluation; Fiske said she would like to be on the committee and thought new eyes would be good. Wynne and Revelle were willing to “cede” their spots. The new committee will be Suffredin, Fleming and Hagerty. They are to develop a questionnaire in the next couple of weeks and come up with a time schedule with a special Council meeting to discuss their recommendation by the end of October.

City Clerk Budget/Spending Rainey, during approving the minutes, did not know where this came from and asked that it be removed from the agenda. (Note: my report said that the aldermen wanted staff to determine relative costs of an appointed vs. an elected clerk.)

Consent Calendar Evaluation, Rules to End Council Meetings, Alderman Communication Policy were postponed until October.