

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council members present: Initially seven were present and Suffredin and Burns were absent. Suffredin arrived about 7:30, voted on numerous items, and left before the meeting ended. Burns arrived later, about 9:00.

Meeting began: 6:20

Meeting ended: 10:45

Announcements. Mayor Biss announced Neurofibromatosis (a rare but devastating disease) Awareness Month. May is also Jewish American Heritage Month and Biss made moving remarks about the increase in anti-Semitism and other hateful discrimination.

The City Manager introduced leaders of the 4th of July Association who outlined plans for 4th of July celebrations. The theme is "A Community United Cannot be Divided." They called for participants and volunteers. He also introduced a representative from the Fire Department who explained Lake Front planning including life guard training and supervision managed by the Fire Department and recreation programs managed by Parks and Recreation. He outlined a new, positive collaborative process.

The Clerk summarized several emails and a letter from Valle about the Fair Work Week.

Public comment. 38 comments. 20 supported the Margarita Inn and Connections, including neighbors, board members, pastors and youth; 6 opposed approving the Margarita Inn and asked for stronger oversight. 4 supported the Fifth Ward School and 2 said the current plan was too big and should be modified. 4 encouraged moving forward with a public-private partnership to develop the Harley Clarke mansion, 1 supported the Jens Jensen garden group and 1 opposed development. 1 supported small landlords and several were unclear (1 Spanish speaker).

Special orders of business. (SP1) Special Use for a Rooming House at 1566 Oak Avenue, the Margarita Inn. Nieuwsma moved the item and expressed support. Kelly said the agreement was insufficient and stronger security measures were needed to protect vulnerable residents. A more specific operating agreement should be developed. She also noted that ethics concerns had been raised against three council members. City Counsel Cummings explained that three Council Members had asked him about ethical conflicts, and he had not identified any conflict. He mentioned Revelle in specific who had contributed to Connections but had not received any personal benefit. As previously, Reid asserted that he has no conflict, received benefits he was entitled to, and would not recuse. The motion passed 6-2, Kelly and Suffredin voted no,

(SP2) Authorizing the City Manager to Sign an Operating Agreement with Connections for the Homeless. CM Nieuwsma moved the item and said this operating agreement is essential. It has been improved, and he sent a message earlier outlining amendments. He briefly outlined nine changes, including an annual report. Cummings said, with agreement from Reid, that one proposed change, prohibiting residents from panhandling on "adjacent properties" was probably unenforceable. Reid moved to amend to remove this item. The Reid amendment passed 7-1. The Nieuwsma amendments passed, as amended, 7-1, Kelly voted no.

Kelly then asked if the building is smoke-free. She then requested that Attorney Lauber, a specialist in group housing whom she has consulted, be allowed to address Council. Lauber spoke for several minutes outlining the need for more specificity to protect residents. Cummings pointed out that some of

these recommendations are inappropriate because the city is not managing the facility. Nieuwsma pointed out that most of the suggestions had already been incorporated. Some are in the staff or resident handbook. Kelly moved to table the measure until a June meeting to discuss more changes. The motion to table failed for a lack of second. The measure, as amended, passed 6-2. Kelly and Suffredin voted no. Much applause from the audience.

(SP3) Discussion on Rehabilitation and Adaptive use of 2603 Sheridan Road, Harley Clarke Mansion.

Revelle started the discussion and pointed out that the packet has thorough and useful information, and asked for more specifics about the nature of an Expression of Interest. Suffredin said that the City has numerous facility problems to address and Harley Clarke is a distraction. Discussion took place about whether the Jens Jensen Garden should be separated from the mansion or the property should be kept intact. Reid moved to remove the grounds and the coach house from the process. Kelly seconded. The motion failed 7-2, Kelly and Reid in favor. Cummings explained that negotiations with the Jens Jensen group have not been resolved. Burns urged the city to act in good faith in regard to the issue of the Coach House and the garden and to acknowledge the work of the Jens Jensen group. Reid also praised the group. The motion to give direction to staff to proceed with preparing a request for Expression of Interest passed without specific instructions to separate the garden. 5 voted in favor, 3 against (Reid and 2 others). Burns had left the room.

Consent agenda. Items removed were A6(not passed in committee), A7, A8, P2, HS1, HS2. The consent agenda passed 7-0.

A7, Approval of the annual Renewal of the Motorola CallWorks Emergency Call Handling Equipment was amended in committee to be considerably less expensive. As amended it passed 7-0.

A8, Permission for city Manager Stowe to hire an additional Outreach Worker for the Youth Engagement Division in the Parks and Recreation Department. Suffredin asked about how the worker would be used and Parks and Recreation Director Audrey Thompson explained the expanding case load of outreach workers and the need for more staff. Reid asked for reports evaluating the results of outreach workers. The motion passed 9-0 (Burns and Reid returned to meeting.)

P2. Granting Major Variations for a K-8 School at 2000 Simpson Street. Harris pointed out how important this school is to the community. Reid asked about the variations. Staff explained they related to floor ration, height, parking area and loading areas. He asked why the school is so large. District 65 staff member Smith said that 700 5th ward residents are bused out of the neighborhood every day and they need a neighborhood school. Savings on bus transport will fund the school. The 5th ward is densely populated. CM Burns acknowledged that residents and businesses are concerned about parking problems and discussions are taking place among District 65, Fleetwood-Jourdain and Family Focus to coordinate and share parking. The motion passed 8-0. The Clerk reported that Suffredin officially left the meeting.

HS1. Amending the City Code related to "Retail Single Use Bag Tax and Plastic Bag Ban." Revelle moved to amend to redefine the definition of "compostable bag." The amendment passed 8-0. Reid spoke at some length about this important step, and the need for further steps restricting plastic. He noted that businesses smaller than 10,000 square feet were exempted and perhaps this should be reconsidered. The measure passed 8-0.

HS2. Establishing a Fair Work Ordinance. This requires 14 day scheduling for workers. Extensive discussion on this issue began with CM Harris who asserted that businesses in the 2nd ward opposed this

measure. It was not fair that some industries were exempted and others were not exempted. Nieuwsma said he had heard concerns from 4th ward businesses and opposed the measure. Setting coverage at 10 employees is too restrictive. 100 employees is a more reasonable limit. He argued that the need for this ordinance has not been expressed by city residents, only by some council members. Revelle moved to amend to exclude landscapers. The amendment passed 7-0 (Burns has left). Revelle moved to amend to increase the threshold for coverage from 10 to 100 employees. Reid expressed reluctance, but wanted the measure to pass. The amendment from 10 to 100 employees passed 8-0 (Burns has returned).

Kelly said she is concerned about unintended consequences without more data about how the ordinance will work. She is concerned about the impact on the Mather. Burns agreed that the approach to the measure has been inconsistent with some industries excluded and others included. Harris agreed more data about the impact is needed and Nieuwsma said it was unwise to put this burden on businesses as they are recovering from Covid.

The measure passed 6-2. Nieuwsma and Harris voted no.

Call of the wards. Several meetings were announced.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session for workers comp, litigation, real estate, and personnel issues at 10:45.