

**Observer Report
ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Monday, January 9, 2023**

Start Time: 5:06 Reid and Burns arrive after 5:50

End Time: 7:32

In Attendance: Kelly– Chair, Harris, Nieuwsma

- I. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF 12/12, 2022**

III. Public Comment

There were approximately 20 speakers. All but one spoke about item D2- a discussion about the Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease with Artist’s Book House (Harley Clarke Mansion). See D2. Some speakers spoke to the issue of changing the agreement to allow the Book House longer to raise the funds needed to renovate and operate the p[roperty. Some spoke about the Book House and the Jens Jensen Gardens representative’s inability of come to an agreement on who is responsible for the different parts of the gardens including the terrace, the grotto and the gardens.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Item IV - Consent Calendar, are considered by the Committee to be routine and will be enacted in one motion without discussion. If discussion is desired, that item may be removed and considered separately.

FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS SEE [LINK](#)

Items Removed (A1, A4, A11)

A1 Evanston Payroll, Bills, Credit Card Activity

Kelly had several questions on this item including payment’s for the Dog Park consultant.

A4 Weckon Specs Property Demolition Services

Burns had questions about the firm chosen as there was a local MWBE company that bid on this item. The company had not answered all required questions and was not chosen. Staff was looking into this and reporting back before council met.

A11 Approval of a change order for the 30-inch Transmission Main Project Construction
Laura Biggs explained why this was almost 20% over the original cost projected.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

For Action

**Items A12-A17 were moved and passed in one motion. (see Link for specifics)
D2. For Discussion**

Ordinance 84-O-22, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease Amendment for Property Located at 2603 Sheridan Road (Harley Clarke Mansion) for Artists Book House

Staff recommends that the Committee discuss how to proceed with the adoption of Ordinance 84-O-22, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease Amendment for Property Located at 2603 Sheridan Road (Harley Clarke Mansion) for Artists Book House

This item was about amending the agreement with Artist Book House concerning deadlines for raising money and hiring an Executive Director.

Corporate Council Cummings reported that Jens Jensen Gardens and the Artist's Book House could not agree how to divide the property between them. They could not agree on who would be responsible for areas like the grotto, the terrace, etc. The Book House was to sublease the property. Cummings had tried to mediate this issue to no avail. He was looking for guidance in how to move forward.

Council spent 90 minutes on this discussion. Some felt that the committee should set some parameters for the mediator, some felt they should not. It appears that the terrace area and the grotto (not part of the leased property to the Book House) were the cause of the confusion and disagreement. In the end some guidance was given in a 4-1 vote with Harris voting no.

At the end, CM Burns was not sure what they voted on and asked staff to review the video and report back.