

Observer Report For Rules

Council or Committee: Rules

Date: 12/0522

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present: Geraceris (chair), Kelly, Harris, Nieuwsma, Burns, (virtual as “Council Member”), Revelle, (virtual – name only), Biss, Suffredin and Reid.

Staff Present: Francello, Stowe, and Cummings.

Time: Called to order: 5:05 pm

Adjourned: 5:40 pm

Public Comment: None

Minutes: Moved and seconded to approve the minutes. Revelle stated that the agenda was in the packet but no minutes. Reid suggested to move it anyway. After most looking through the packet, there was a motion to table until the next meeting, which passed. Cummings strongly said it had to be approved at the next meeting.

For Consideration

R.1 Proposed meeting schedule for 2023. Chair Geraceris stated that he had been called last week because an urgent item was not on tonight’s agenda and recommended that there be a meeting in January. After going through the Mondays in January, on a voice vote the item was put on the regular February meeting and the schedule was approved. No one knew what the item was.

For Action

R.2 Amend Council Rule 9.7 to add additional (two) Council Members (CM) to the Referrals Committee. Reid did not know if CM Burns was present (he missed role call) but stated that currently there is not adequate (race and ward/geography) representation on the Referrals Committee. Biss stated that he was strongly opposed to the increase. Burns then joined the discussion and stated that he would like there to be a vote on a rotating schedule and that Biss had said that he would draft the schedule. Biss very vaguely remembered there was some discussion but had no recollection that he would draft such a document. Geraceris stated that rotation was not on the agenda. Revelle stated that Referrals Committee purpose is to review each issue, then determine to which committee it should go, when it would fit on that committee’s schedule, or if it should go to staff for more refinement. All referrals eventually are assigned to a committee. Burns questioned why have the committee if it is just administrative but thought it was political since the Referrals determines which committee and when an item is put on the schedule. Cummings then pointed out that “referrals” was originally handled by the City Manager’s office (administrative) but Council thought it was too political and Council should have oversight. Geraceris thought it should go through Equity and Empowerment to improve transparency. Reid moved to table this until the next Rules meeting. Motion failed. There there was a motion to vote on the original motion which passed with one “nay” vote.

For Discussion

D.1 Evanston Small Donor Match System for Fair Elections. As proposed this would amount to \$69,000 of the City's budget. Reid suggested his research showed that instead of a "match", vouchers be given to all voters which would encourage more people to be interested in and vote in the election; CM races usually need \$25,000 but the Mayor's race generally needed about \$100,000 and that was where the playing field should be leveled. Geraceris said more information was needed. Biss moved that the motion be tabled until February to get more information and be voted on at that time. Motion passed.