

Meeting began: 5:00 pm

Meeting adjourned: 6:48 pm

Observers: Lisa Seegers and Jennifer O’Neil

Members Present: Council Members Bobby Burns, Devon Reid, Eleanor Revelle, Krissie Harris, Juan Geracaris.

Staff Present: Stephen Walker, Ike Ogbo (director, human services), Johnson (legal counsel)

CM Burns called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: Donald Zeigler, a professor of global health and the chair of the Evanston Health Advisory Council, said he oppose any cannabis lounges due to the risks of spreading secondhand smoke, and the harmful effects of consuming any kind of smoke, from cannabis or tobacco. Smoking cannabis should be banned wherever smoking tobacco is banned.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

HS1 Staff recommends the Human Services Committee accepts and place on file the report regarding ending the distribution of the portion of the Daily Crime Bulletin that includes the names and addresses of persons arrested in the City of Evanston.

For Action: Accept and Place on File

CM Reid requested the item be tabled, to be supplemented with Julie Tapendorft memo.

Item tabled.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

HS1 Amending City Ordinances to Allow Cannabis Smoking Establishments

CM Burns recommends the Human Services Committee members consider reviewing and discussing amendments to relevant Ordinances such as 6-4-11-10 and 8-18-1 to allow cannabis consumption establishments in Evanston.

Requesting written opinion in memo.

Allowed by state law; would not allow Cannabis in regular places where tobacco cannot be consumed. This is a revenue opportunity and opportunity for entertainment, similar to alcohol and cigar lounges.

CM Revelle does not agree with having approved locations for cannabis smoking. Need to specify in which zoning district cannabis will be allowed. Other states - some bring your own, some don’t allow that. Some places allow alcohol and/or food.

CM Harris asked where are the precedents, what communities? do we have legal department and police perspective? Does not want reparations tied to cannabis lounges

CM Reid believes Chicago is considering. Needs to align with state statute and will need to work into appropriate zoning rules.

Ogbo indicated food would not be allowed because cannabis is a contaminant. Clean Air Act bars smoking indoors; need to look at health impacts. Tobacco smoke and cannabis smoke have similar components.

CM Geracaris expressed concern for staff working there and questioned what infiltration systems would be required.

CM Burns indicated that cannabis dispensary is tied to reparations; not these lounges. He also said he would like the Health Department Health Advisory Council to become an official committee.

CM Revelle disagreed.

Ogbo indicated the variety of folks on this advisory group, subject matter experts so their input is valuable. They have been part of the process for multiple years. They were instrumental in health plan 2021. Instrumental in bringing Erie Health Center to the community to provide clinics.

Next step: more discussion, written opinions/viewpoints from health advisory group, and from police department.

HS2 - Amending City Code 7-2-9 (B)(1), Fourth of July Parade Parkway Regulations

Councilmember Reid recommends for the Human Services Committee to review and discuss City Code 7-2-9 (B) (1), Fourth of July Parade Parkway Regulations.

CM Reid expressed that this is an equity issue. The goal is to make sure parade provisions are same for all parades. An example is the Juneteenth parade which be able to occupy parkway like 4th of July, if wanted. Can they get the same access, maybe different parade route, different date.

CM Revelle agreed that same rules apply for other parades. Apply for accommodation for parkway at the same time.

Ogbo noted that supporting memo has statements that what is in our ordinance is not constitutional.

CM Geracaris said City should fold newer parades into new process.

CM Harris said there must have been some precedence for having 4th of July parade listed separately; find out the history.

CM Reid suggested making ordinance more generic

Dep. City Mgr. Stoneback noted that use of parkway can't be connected to the parade permit.

Next step: Broaden language to all parades, remove specific reference to 4th of July parade

HS3 No-Mow May

Staff is seeking direction on how to proceed with CM Revelle's referral to establish a program allowing residents to skip lawn mowing in early spring.

Wendy Pollock representing the Environment Board and Stephen Walker, Forest Greenway staff, participated in the discussion.

The discussion was around allowing people to participate by not enforcing current weed/grass height, without promoting or endorsing the no-mow program, and to encourage other/better ways to provide natural landscape through education. Neither CM Revelle or the Environmental Board recommend supporting No Mow May. Options discussed included providing yard signs for people wanting to participate, modifying weed enforcement until May 15, and providing more education. There was additional discussion relating to buckthorn removal, native plants, community involvement, cost/grants, etc.

Next step: Staff to develop language, to revise ordinance to allow for not mowing up until 5/15.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm