

**Observer:** Kristine Lofquist

**Council Members present:** Kelly, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Burns, Suffredin, Revelle, Reid and Fleming

**Meeting started:** 6:55pm

**Meeting ended:** 10:52pm

Mayor Biss called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Clerk Mendoza took the roll call and noted there was a quorum.

### **Announcements**

Mayor Biss reported that July is Parks and Recreation month.

Kimberly Richardson stood in for the City Manager while she was away. The City Engineer updated the council on the status of the new skate part, noting that the proposed location is near Twiggs Park. It was noted that there were lots of favorable comments and that a request for proposals for construction will go out in the fall (along with further opportunities for public engagement), with a late 2022 start for construction. Council Member Fleming asked if the City Manager had considered using an Evanston-based company and suggested that Ozinga be asked for a donation in kind. The City Manager responded that due to liability issues that specialists might be needed and noted that the community can participate on the advisory council. In response to a question from Council Member Reid, the representative noted that the city had saved \$60,000 by not building a temporary skate park.

The City Clerk acknowledged receipt of comments from several residents and asked for approval of amended meeting minutes for the last meeting.

**Public comment.** There were twelve public comments via Zoom (some on more than one issue). Issues commented on included: (a) a request to delay A4 and a question as to why there were no 6<sup>th</sup> ward meetings for 6 months, (b) concerns regarding A10 and R1 and a complaint regarding Groot and non-pavement behind a house after the settlement with Waste Management; (c) concern regarding redistricting lack of opportunities for business districts outside of downtown Evanston; (d) two comments in opposition to the parking pay stations at the lakefront, (e) one comment in opposition to food trucks at the lakefront, (f) a concern regarding a lack of notification and no meeting regarding reparations since February 2021 as well as a request that the community have more involvement in deciding where reparations money would go, (g) a concern regarding the lack of proper meeting notice for the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> ward TIF, (h) a concern regarding lack of transparency as reparations is not on the agenda for tonight's meeting; (i) a request from the Parks and Lakefront Alliance for a delay on the food truck vote; (j) one comment in favor of food trucks at the lakefront, (k) a concern regarding absentee landlords (especially in the 5<sup>th</sup> ward) and that there are only two citizens on the reparations committee; (l) a concern regarding shifting revenue with the parking and vendors to non-residents; and (m) a concern regarding food trucks at the lakefront and a request for a community meeting to discuss.

There was one in-person comment requesting transparency for reparations, a request that City Council allow funding for the City Clerk to acquire vote tracking software similar to that used by State of Illinois, and a request for increased detail on the minutes of future meetings.

**Consent Agenda.** A Motion was made and seconded to remove items CM1, A2, A4, A7, A10, A12, A13, H1 and R1 from the consent agenda. The Motion passed 8-0.

CM1 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes of the last meeting. The Motion passed 8-0.

A2 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve the BMO Harris Amazon Credit Card activity. The Motion passed 7-0, with Council Member Suffredin abstaining

A4 – A Motion was made and seconded to approve renovation of Fire Station 4. The City Engineering department noted that the repair was needed due to ice damage and that it was felt that the City should take the opportunity to address privacy issues as well, as gender-neutral updates had not been done at this station and had been done at others. It was noted that the living quarters are not useable until fixed. The Motion passed 8-0.

A7 – A Motion was made and seconded to renew the vending contract with Mark Vend. In response to questions, a representative of Parks and Recreation noted that this contract was assigned to her department as the majority of vending machines are in in rec centers. Council Member Suffredin asked that in the future, city management be more cognizant of deadlines and not wait until the last minute. It was noted that some of the delay was due to the pandemic. In response to an inquiry from Council Member Reid, it was noted that the revenue for the contract was \$50,000 over three years. Council Member Fleming noted that it needs to be clear that the \$5,000 in kind donation from Mark Vend is not construed as awarding a contract for cash and recommended using the donation for something else rather than going to the department selecting the vendor. The Assistant City Manager noted that only one vendor had bid on the RFP for the past ten years, and she noted that the \$5,000 is allocated by Council, not the Parks and Recreation Department director. The Motion passed 6-2.

A10 – A Motion was made to extend the Groot contract for multifamily units. Council Member Reid expressed concern regarding the condition of the large group bins as well as the presence of rats and other rodents in the bins and asked what the City can do to get Groot to replace worn-out bins on a more regular basis. A representative of the Public Works department noted that he is trying to work with properties who are not cooperating and that his department meets with Groot quarterly and they send the City sanitation workers to look into the situation, but that they do not have the manpower to do it on a continuous basis. It was noted that Groot charges the buildings an administrative fee for the bins and that single family homes have a sanitation charge added to their water bill. Council Member Burns expressed concern regarding the price to purchase a roll off dumpster and that the administrative fee applies to them as well. Council Member Reid made a Motion to hold A10 until the next meeting if there is time as he would like to meet with Groot to discuss concerns regarding rodents. The Public Works representative noted that this is just a one-year extension and that there will be a full request for proposal next year. The Motion was seconded, and the renewal vote was held over to the next meeting as there were no objections.

A12 – Council Member Suffredin asked to suspend rules and Council Member Reid seconded the Motion. The Motion to suspend the rules failed 4-4. Council Member Reid made a Motion to add A12, a pilot program for paid lakefront parking for non-residents, for consideration by the Council. Council Member Suffredin noted that the money for free beaches needs to come from somewhere and that a pilot program would determine if it were viable. Council Member Wynne indicated she is not in support

of the pilot program and requested further study. She also indicated concern regarding residents near the lake whose parking may be affected. Council Member Nieuwsma indicated that he would like more public engagement on the issue but is not opposed to charging for parking in the future. Council Member Kelly indicated that charging for parking is not the right place to generate revenue just as charging for tokens is not a place to generate revenue. She also requested additional public engagement on the issue. Council Member Fleming noted that residents have to pay to park around town and that this would not have a negative effect on Evanston residents and would generate revenue. Council Member Revelle noted concern regarding the financial model and the need for enforcement and signage. Council Member Suffredin suggested that some of the streets adjacent to the lakefront be for residents only. Following discussion, the vote was tied 4-4 with Council Members Burns, Fleming, Reid, and Suffredin voting in favor and Council Members Wynne, Nieuwsma, Kelly and Revelle voting against. Mayor Biss voted in favor to break the tie and the Motion for consideration by Council passed.

A13 – A Motion was made to amend the City hotel tax requirements to allow collection from entities and other third parties other than property owners. The Motion passed 8-0.

H1 – Council Member Reid moved that food truck vendors be allowed at the lake and requested suspension of the rules and Council Member Fleming seconded the Motion. Discussion followed regarding revenue to offset the cost of beach access and that if the proposal passes, the income this year would include only the revenue from the licenses, but that next year it would also include sales tax. Council Member Nieuwsma noted that the current City ordinance forbids all food vendors. Ike Ogbo from the health department noted that this is correct, but exceptions can be made as provided by the City Manager. Council Member Nieuwsma requested more public engagement and expressed concern regarding the ability to collect the sales tax. It was noted that the point of sale system would allow immediate collection of the tax if payments are via credit or debit card, so that collection of the tax should not be an issue. Council Member Kelly requested a revisit of the lakefront master plan and noted she had questions regarding the locations for the trucks and asked for more time for public buy-in. Mr. Igbo noted there would be no more than three trucks, so the city has more control. He noted that a location for the trucks has not been determined. Council Member Wynne requested further public discussion and made a Motion to hold the vote on the issue. Council Member Revelle seconded the Motion. Council Member Reid made a Motion to overrule the hold and Council Member Fleming seconded the Motion. Mayor Biss noted that six votes would be needed to overrule the hold. The Motion to overrule the hold failed. The hold stood and H1 will return at the next meeting.

R1 – Council Member Wynne made a Motion to suspend the rules to allow introduction and action on R1 and Council Member Nieuwsma seconded the Motion. In response to a question from Council Member Reid regarding the need to suspend the rules, Council Member Wynne noted that the change is codifying the rules to allow extra council members to serve on the Economic Development Committee and that the only change is to the Reparations Committee City Code number as the Economic Development Committee has not been codified before. It was noted that the referral to City Council was made by the Rules Committee. The Motion passed 7-1 and the rules were not suspended. A Motion was made and seconded to adopt R1 to amend the City Code to codify the Economic Development Committee. Mayor Biss requested it be introduced as an amendment. A Motion was made and seconded to strike number 16 from the City Code, renumber the City Code so that the Reparations Committee is renumbered as 17 and the Economic Development Committee is numbered 18. The Motion passed 8-0 to introduce the ordinance.

**Call of the wards.**

Council Member Burns noted that his ward will have a meeting on June 30, 2021, to discuss the new TIF district as well as boarded up properties and to respond to inquiries regarding the waste transfer funds.

Council Member Suffredin congratulated the Evanston Roundtable owners on their retirement and a Pioneer Press reporter for her time reporting on the city.

Council Member Revelle had no report.

Council Member Reid congratulated the Pioneer Press representative. He noted there would be a virtual ward meeting on July 10, 2021. He thanked the Fight for Black Lives members for the over \$2,000 raised to provide beach tokens and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for assisting with the token distribution process.

Council Member Fleming reported on the successful Latin music program in her ward and thanked the Ridgeville Park District. She noted that she had made a referral to the city for training regarding trans-affirming and inclusionary practices.

Council Member Kelly noted that the next ward meeting would be on Wednesday at 7:00 pm to discuss ARP funds. She also thanked those residents who participated in public comment.

Council Member Wynne wished everyone a happy Independence Day and noted that in-person hours would begin again on July 8, 2021.

Council Member Nieuwsma thanked the Roundtable owners and stressed the importance of local journalism. He noted that there would be an in-person ward meeting on July 6 at Crown Center and that in person office house would commence July 10, 2021, at a place to be determined.

A Motion was made to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation, and settlement. The Motion Passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 pm.