

Observer: Betty Hayford

Council members present: Eight. Suffredin absent.

Meeting began: 7:30

Meeting ended: 10:45

Public Announcements. Mayor Biss called on Pastor Dillard, Chair of Evanston Own It. Pastor Dillard explained the work of Evanston Own It, a coalition of faith leaders who work to raise money to reduce violence. As in past years, he presented the City with a check for \$9000, \$8000 for the summer youth program and \$1000 for another cause. He explained that the group supports the Ryan Field expansion which will provide jobs for Evanston residents.

The City Manager also thanked Pastor Dillard and Evanston Own It. He introduced the Interim Director of the Library who announced that Alisha Madison, EPL Teen Engagement Coordinator, has been awarded an I Love my Librarian award for outstanding achievement.

Public comment. 26 comments. Several people spoke in favor of Connections plans for the Margarita Inn; several spoke against the Ryan Stadium proposal and others supported it as a boost to employment; several supported proposed changes in licensing procedures for group housing; several spoke against allowing cannabis lounges because of public health concerns; several spoke in favor a lease for the Jens Jensen garden group and others spoke in favor of developing the Harley Clarke mansion; 1 supported the Mather eMerge job training program and 1 expressed concern about proposed mental health funding allocations.

Special orders of business. (SP1) Amending portions of the City Code “Lodging Establishments.” Kelly spoke first and said the process was moving too quickly and she would like to table the motion. Counsel Cummings explained that the City already licenses for shared housing and the amendments strengthen the City Code. Sarah Flax explained that the proposed changes provide flexibility to assess each proposal. Reid says he doesn’t see problems and any concerns could be addressed before the second vote. The amendment requires license holders to develop an operating agreement with the City. Existing license holders must have an agreement by 2024. Nieuwsma points out that this proposal has been discussed for a year and he believes this is an appropriate solution to a complicated situation. Kelly repeated that more time is necessary to assess the proposed changes. The vote for Introduction passed 7-1, Kelly voted no.

(SP2). Discussion regarding the Use of 2603 Sheridan, the Harley Clarke Mansion. Cummings introduced the issue and explained that A&PW had asked the City to draw up a lease for the Harley Clarke garden and grounds with the Jens Jensen Garden group. Jens Jensen had prepared a draft lease, but he wanted direction from Council about what the City wants in the lease. There are questions raised by the lease including whether it is appropriate to divide the property at this time. The City needed clarity about what area would be leased and whether the City should develop an RFP. Reid pointed out that A&PW had asked staff to develop a lease for Jens Jensen and Cummings repeated that City interests needed to be clarified. Revelle noted that four proposals for use of the mansion and gardens have been made public and it is unwise to move ahead with a separate lease for the gardens. The City should give groups several months to prepare proposals before making a separate decision for the gardens.

Extensive discussion took place. Kelly urged moving forward with a lease for the gardens. Burns said process is important and it is premature to consider any lease. Nieuwsma said that Jens Jensen should

be part of the solution, but the area should not be divided without considering other proposals. Wynne urged her colleagues to slow down and have discussion about the house before moving forward with a lease for the gardens. Charles Smith, the leader of the Jens Jensen Garden group explained the work with the gardens and the need for the group to have jurisdiction over the Coach House as well.

After further discussion, the Major summarized the situation and said it is important that staff asked Council for guidance. The City needs to keep options open at this point.

(SP3) Amending Portions of City Code “General Offenses” Reid explained his work with the Police Department to develop these amendments. He then said he wanted to make one more change related to loitering with open containers. However, other Council members pointed out that it would be inappropriate to amend text that had been agreed to by the Police Department. It was agreed to vote on the item without amendment. The proposal passed 8-0.

Consent agenda. At 10:00 pm, Council turned to the consent agenda. Items A1, A3, A24, SS1, and ED1 were removed from the consent agenda. The consent agenda was moved and seconded and passed 7-0 (Burns had left the podium).

A1. Approval of City of Evanston Payroll, Bills and Credit Card activity. Nieuwsma said he will abstain. The motion passed 6-0, Nieuwsma abstained.

A24, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Documents related to Funding the Intake Replacement Project from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. It was moved and seconded to Suspend the Rules to allow Introduction and Action. The motion to suspend the rules passed 7-0. The motion passed 7-0.

SS1. Public Services Funding Allocations, including Case Management, Safety Net and Support Services. There is concern because some Evanston agencies that previously received funds did not receive their request because they can not provide the services. Nieuwsma suggested sending the measure back to the Social Services Committee. Reid pointed out that the Committee had already reviewed its recommendation and no further delay was needed. Sarah Flax pointed out that the problem is that there are no additional funds. There is no obvious way to fund agencies previously funded for these new services. It was moved to send the item back to Committee. Kelly, Wynne, Nieuwsma, Revella voted yes. Reid, Geracaris, Harris, Burns voted no. With a tie, the Mayor voted no and the issue was not returned to committee.

After further discussion, Geracaris declared that sending the motion back to committee does not resolve the issue which is that there are insufficient funds. He asked staff to look for additional funds to support additional grants. Flax said she would ask agencies how much funding they needed. Reid moved to table until the March 13 meeting. The move to table passed 8-0.

ED1. Approval of a contract for \$47,300 to provide website development and logo design services for the Legacy Business Program. Reid asked about metrics to determine whether or not the proposed program was effective. Kelly pointed out that there are more than 200 businesses in the legacy program and it will be more than a website. The aim of the program is to retain Evanston’s long standing businesses. Kelly said measures of effectiveness will be developed. The motion passed 8-0.

Call of the wards. Various meetings were announced.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.