

Observer Report

Rules Committee November 6, 2011

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present/Absent: Burrus was absent. Holmes chaired the meeting.

Staff Present: Bobkiewicz, Francello, and Jonathan Webb.

Media Present: Evanston Now, Evanston Review, Trib.

No. Of Citizens in Attendance: Chair of Mental Health Board

Meeting Began. 6:05 p.m.

Meeting Ended: 6:55 p.m.

Presentations of Elected Officials. The Rules Committee is hearing from all elected officials. Rep. Schakowsky spoke and stated that her office was instrumental in getting over \$6 million in grants to Evanston over the past 4 years, but that ear-marks are now gone. Thinks Evanston should be an innovation hub for Chicago area. Would like to set up a program so that people who qualify can move easily and quickly to receive entitlements – for instance set up tables in the Civic Center and have people apply. Asked by the Mayor, Jan said she will investigate where Evanston stands in getting a federally funded health clinic.

State Rep. Daniel Biss thanked the Mayor/Northwest Municipal Conference on their work to modify the Com Ed bill, but he still voted against it – we should be vigilant in monitoring its progress. He stated that cuts to budgets are not always done in a logical manner, which would be to rank cuts and then make decisions. Sometimes things are cut because they are more easily explained. For instance the state has determined that the local municipalities should pay for regional school superintendents (Cook County LWV has a position opposing one for Cook) and then in the last veto session added more other offices. Biss contends that we educate our students well in technical training/education, but then they go to the coasts and currently there are unfilled IT jobs in Chicago – he would like to see that changed.

Mental Health Board Presentation. Geoffrey Cochran, chair of the Board (and only citizen present) read the power point that was in the packet. Mayor would like to see the required reports that need to be filed (electronically) quarterly as she was concerned they might be too burdensome – Holmes said that's been required for years, and they request little and easily obtained numbers. Grover asked the number of Evanston residents served by the grantees; Webb said it was now at about 8,000 vs. when Grover was on the board it was about 7,000.

Council Calendar. After a brief discussion of the “third Monday” and that two of these (January and February fall on 3-day weekends due to national holidays), Rainey moved to drop those two rather than move them to a Tuesday since “the extra day was intended to allow for more discussion on the budget.”