

CITY OF WEST CHICAGO

WHERE HISTORY & PROGRESS MEET

Approved 4/26/10

MINUTES

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

March 22, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum.

Chairman Chassee called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Roll Call found Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Murphy, Smith and Radkiewicz present.

Also in attendance were Chief of Police Donald Goncher, Rosemary Mackey, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications, Luann Bombard, Director of Museum and Cultural Services, David Sabathne, Executive Director of the West Chicago Chamber. Julie Pearson, District 33, Margaret Becker, Wheaton Academy, Joe Urban and Jesse Felix, West Chicago Park District, Sarah Phalen, People Made Visible and Mary Lee Geraghty, ABD Cycle Club.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. **Public Safety Committee of February 22, 2010.** Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fuesting to approve the minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 22, 2010 with no changes. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Murphy, Smith and Radkiewicz. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

3. Public Participation / Presentations.

A. 2010 Railroad Days Monthly Update – LuAnn Bombard, Director of Museum and Cultural Services, informed the committee that she has met a couple times with David Sabathne, Executive Director of the West Chicago Chamber. Mr. Sabathne has been given a contact person for each City Department so he can arrange any necessary planning with those departments. The Park District has informed us that the hours of operation for the beer tent will remain the same as last year, however the beer tent will be smaller than last year. They have also received their liquor license from the city and have applied for state. The Park District has offered the renovated maintenance building at Reed-Keppler Park for use by the Cultural Arts Commission for the Fine Arts Fiesta.

4. Items for Consent.

A. West Chicago Park District Run for the Trees 5K Run/Walk –

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve and direct this item to City Council. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

B. District 33 5K Road Race –

Alderman Fuesting made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz to approve and direct this item to City Council. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

C. Wheaton Academy 5K Race –

Alderman Murphy made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fuesting to approve and direct this item to City Council. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

D. Railroad Days 5k Run –

Alderman Monroe made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz to approve and direct this item to City Council. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

5. Items for Discussion.

A. artXposium Event –

Last September there was a smaller version in which Downtown businesses participated. They would like to expand this year and tie in with; but it would not be a part of Blooming Fest. They have had conversations with the Blooming Fest Committee. No exhibits would be left out overnight. Chairmen Chassee stated that there could be a recommendation for approval provided that an insurance certificate, a proposed layout and timing list of when the displays will go up and down are provided.

Alderman Connelly made a motion, seconded by Alderman Radkiewicz to approve and direct this item to City Council contingent upon the required items being provided. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

B. Crossing Guards on Forest and Bishop –

Chief Goncher stated that there was a count of children crossing at the location and that due to the relatively small number of children crossing and the fact that most are Junior High School age the recommendation, at this time, would be not to provide guards. Alderman Radkiewicz asked if signage would help and Chief Goncher stated that stop signs were already in place and that school crossing signs had to be placed in proximity to schools. He also stated he would talk to Mr. Flatter about painting a crosswalk.

6. Unfinished Business.

A. Chairmen Chassee stated that the City was supposed to check to see if there were any appropriate alternatives to improve the lighting on the western end of Freemont Street specifically in front of the funeral home where there is a very dark patch. This patch is extremely dark especially in the winter months when Taste Freeze is not open and presents danger. Chairmen Chassee has informed the committee that she will continue to address this issue until the appropriate city department checks the lighting and that proper wattage is installed for that area to prevent any danger. She is also waiting for proposals of what options there are and the associated costs.

7. New Business.

A. Chairmen Chassee stated there was some emerging concern about coyotes killing animals in the Willow Creek subdivision. She said it could be addressed by changing the Nuisance Animal Removal Policy and then asked if the City wanted to start down the road of taking on the fiscal responsibility of nuisance animal removal that the City had gotten out of. She also stated the first line of defense might be to put up fences but some homeowner associations prohibit fencing. She then asked Chief Goncher if he had been able to gather any information. Chief Goncher stated we had previously contacted the trapper who said the coyotes could be trapped but they would have to be destroyed or they would just return to the area. He also stated others might move in to take the place of removed animals. Chief Goncher said coyotes are getting bolder but they are still afraid of humans. He continued to say that in the past 12 years there have been 18 recorded coyote attacks nationwide, nearly all involving children and most resulting in minor injuries although there are no recorded attacks in Illinois. Chairmen Chassee stated it is a big issue and a safety concern but it needs to be looked at in a reasonable and informed way. Information and a video are available on the City web site along with a link to the Department of Natural Resources. Rosemary Mackey said she would ask Cable Com to rebroadcast the video.

Chairmen Chassee said the Committee needed more information and this topic would be brought back for further discussion.

B. Chairmen Chassee asked Chief Goncher to look at accident information for intersection of Fulton and Center to see if a 4 way stop might be warranted.

C. Alderman Radkiewicz spoke about companies leaving unsolicited newspapers in yards. People should call the newspaper and tell them not to deliver the paper to their address. Code Enforcement can step in if people are not cleaning up papers from their yards.

D. Rosemary Mackey introduced Mary Lee Geraghty from ABD Cycle Club would like to have training races every Wednesday night during the spring and summer. Chairmen Chassee stated that there could be a recommendation for approval to send to City Council provided required information is provided prior to next Council meeting.

Alderman Smith made a motion, seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve and direct this item to City Council if information is provided. Voting Yea: Chairmen Chassee, Alderman Connelly, Fuesting, Monroe, Radkiewicz, Smith and Murphy. Voting Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8. Reports from Staff.

A. **Traffic Management Report by Chief of Police.** Chief of Police Goncher reported the Traffic Report for the month of February 2010. Red Light camera statistics will be presented in June.

9. **Adjournment.** Alderman Fuesting made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Connelly. The motion was approved by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary F. Binder

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Records Supervisor