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From: Ann Kovich <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 10:56 PM
To: Common Council Executive Committee
Cc: All Alders
Subject: Agenda Item #3 - Legistar #70645

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To the Members of the Common Council Executive Committee

My comments have been updated from the email I sent to you on 6/1/22 on this topic; and they focus on item #3 on the 6/29/22 CCEC agenda.

Although I am the current Chair of the Transportation Commission (TC), I am sharing my individual opinions from my personal experiences as Chair of several City Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCCs).

I urge you to postpone taking any action on this proposal to require that every BCC shall complete and/or discuss a self-evaluation form at the end of each meeting.

I am certainly in favor of self-evaluation and self-improvement. In fact, I have been involved in adult education as an instructor and facilitator for more than 30 years. I do not believe this requirement in its current form will provide meaningful feedback or information, as it would likely become a routine agenda item with little value added. As a result, it would not achieve the intended goal “to improve the communication and equitable engagement of its members.”

I also see this requirement in its current form as a potential burden to our already long City meetings. In addition, having the agenda item at the end of each meeting would likely further diminish the amount and value of any discussion. I don’t believe members would have enough energy or interest left at the end of a meeting in order to take adequate time and care in completing self-evaluation forms and/or discussing them.

As an alternative, I suggest that BCCs engage in annual less formal (i.e. no completion of an evaluation form required), open-ended discussions regarding BCC self-evaluation and self-improvement. In addition, I recommend that the topic not be limited to improving “the communication and equitable engagement of its members.” I believe that each BCC should be encouraged to discuss their general practices of equity and inclusion, in order to promote racial equity and social justice and enhance accessibility for its members and for the public. In order to optimize productivity and value and encourage robust engagement, it would be best if such discussions were led by experienced third-party facilitators (provided by the City). Each BCC could choose whatever process works best for them. It is worth noting that there is an additional challenge when considering what BCC members might recommend to improve their meetings, since we must operate according to and within the City’s ordinances and meeting procedures. Involvement from the City Attorney’s Office would be very beneficial.

I urge you to recommend no action be taken at this time to amend MGO 33.01(9) as proposed. I believe further research should be done before considering implementing any such change.

Thanks,

Ann

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