

City of Chicago
MINUTES OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Information

Regular Meeting
Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 AM
Malcolm X College, Room 1103
1900 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM.

2. Roll call & quorum determination

Name (DC #)	Attendance	Name (DC #)	Attendance
Jamie Brown (01)	Present	Michelle D. Page (12)	Present
Ephraim Lee (02)	Absent	Ashley Vargas (14)	Present
Anthony Bryant (03)	Present	Karen Arewa Winters (15)	Present
Gloria Jenkins (04)	Present	Colleen Dillon (16)	Present
Tom McMahon (05)	Present	Beth Rochford (17)	Present
Aisha Humphries (06)	Present	Robert Johnson (18)	Present
Dion McGill (07)	Present	Sam Schoenburg (19)	Present
Al Cacciottolo (08)	Absent	Darrell Dacres (20)	Present
Denise McBroom (09)	Absent	Lee Bielecki (22)	Present
Elianne Bahena (10)	Present	Marilyn Pagán-Banks (24)	Present
Jocelyn Woodards (11)	Present	Angelica Green (25)	Absent

The Nominating Committee had a quorum at the meeting.

3. Public comment

The Nominating Committee held public comment and had no speakers.

4. Reviewing meeting norms

The Committee reviewed a set of norms to guide the members through the meeting. The Committee agreed to add the norm “speak to be heard” for the meeting. The Committee also agreed to a 2-minute speaking limit for the “land the plane” norm.

5. Approval of 9/30/2023 Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the regular public meeting on September 30, 2023. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

Name (DC #)	Attendance	Name (DC #)	Attendance
Jamie Brown (01)	Absent	Michelle D. Page (12)	Present
Ephraim Lee (02)	Absent	Ashley Vargas (14)	Present
Anthony Bryant (03)	Present	Karen Arewa Winters (15)	Present
Gloria Jenkins (04)	Present	Colleen Dillon (16)	Present
Tom McMahon (05)	Present	Beth Rochford (17)	Present
Aisha Humphries (06)	Present	Robert Johnson (18)	Present
Dion McGill (07)	Present	Sam Schoenburg (19)	Present
Al Cacciottolo (08)	Absent	Darrell Dacres (20)	Absent
Denise McBroom (09)	Absent	Lee Bielecki (22)	Present
Elianne Bahena (10)	Present	Marilyn Pagán-Banks (24)	Present
Jocelyn Woodards (11)	Present	Angelica Green (25)	Absent

16 votes cast. Yes – 16; No – 0. Motion carries.

6. Process to Review and Score Applications

The Committee reviewed a proposed plan for randomizing the order of review of applications by having different orders of applications for each working group. The Committee accepted the plan by consensus.

The Committee reviewed a proposed plan for defined point breakdowns for scoring responses to applications. The Committee accepted the plan by consensus with the next step of working groups and liaisons developing the point breakdowns.

The Committee reviewed a proposed plan for an overall score on applications, independent of scores an applicant receives on individual application questions. The score would represent how much the reviewer favors or disfavors an applicant. In discussing this plan, the Committee noted the usage of this score as a place for expressing subjective views about candidates. Nominators discussed the benefits and disadvantages of the score, noted the importance of explaining the reasons behind a score, and explored different ways to use the score in the nominations process. The Committee reached a consensus to use the overall score for discussion and possible tiebreakers but not to decide the ranking of applicants for interviews.

The Committee reviewed a proposed plan for determining how to measure high scores on application questions. The Committee compared assessing applicants based on points accumulated versus percentiles on individual questions, with the later approach favoring applicants who do well on all questions compared to other applicants, even if they don't acquire the most points. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of each system and reached no consensus on either. The Committee agreed to score applicants based on the points system and the percentiles system. The Committee will review the results to see how the rankings compare, with a focus on those ranked highly on both systems.

7. Vetting and Background Checks

The Committee reviewed a proposed protocol for background checks, including Westlaw checks for civil litigation, Cook County court records, review of social media activity, and the vetting form from the Office of the Mayor. The Committee agreed to have the Mayor's vetting form distributed to all applicants invited for interviews on February 20, 2024, with the responses to the form due back in time for Nominators to review as part of their selection process. The Committee noted concerns about barriers to candidates who have outstanding debts to the City and candidates who have prior justice involvement.

8. Interview Format

The Committee reviewed the plan for the interview format: split the Committee into groups, each group interviews a different candidate for 30 minutes, candidates roll from one room to the next, and each group asks a different subset of interview questions. The plan was left open for further discussion by liaisons.

9. Outreach Updates and Requests

The Committee reviewed the current state of outreach for the application opportunity. Two of three webinars had been completed, with the next webinar in one week's time. The webinars were well-attended and generated high-quality questions from attendees. Staff had arranged multiple teach-ins on the application process. The application process had received news coverage on seven different occasions, including radio and television. The Committee emphasized the need for outreach to key organizations in the city, given the importance of Commissioners being vested in community. As a next step, staff will put together a list of organizations to contact. The Committee also expressed that District Councils should work to promote the opportunity.

10. Calendar

The Committee reviewed the upcoming calendar: closed meeting on February 17 to discuss which candidates to interview, interviews on February 23-24 and March 3-4, and closed sessions on March 5 and possibly March 6 to identify candidates to nominate. The plan is for the Committee to vote on nominations at a special open meeting on March 8.

11. Miscellaneous

Mr. Schoenburg announced his work to develop a reform to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and invited other Nominators to talk to him if they are interested in getting involved.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.