

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes

King School

May 19, 2016

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson	JoAnn Carter	Tim Bartlett, Park District
Frankie Johnson	Lt. Bryant Seraphin	Bill Gray, Public Works
Melvin Peeples	Mayor Laurel Prussing	Libby Tyler, Community Development

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Bryant Seraphin at 5:36 p.m.

Tim Bartlett of the Park District started out by passing out some reusable shopping bags and summer activities guides. Discussion followed regarding the activities guide. Tim went on by talking about the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee, providing an information sheet and inviting anyone who is interested to apply. He then reported on a new proposal working with the Office of Recreation Park Resources at the UI; a study about underrepresented groups when it comes to parks and recreation departments. Tim advised they were continuing with the Crystal Lake Park lake rehabilitation, with a second public meeting coming up in the next three to four weeks. He also reported on hiring and training summer staff; advising about a new program where they are trying to get under served youths some work at the Park District. Tim spoke about some grant applications in order to work on some trail projects. He then spoke about the upcoming activities, including Jettie Rhodes Day on June 25th. He also spoke about some park restrooms being vandalized. Tim finished up with information about youth scholarships. He then fielded questions, and discussion followed.

Bill Gray of Public Works reported on the construction season, which will include some pavement preservation work, sidewalk repair and the striping of Bradley Avenue. He then fielded questions, and discussion followed.

Libby Tyler of Community Development started by announcing the Neighborhood Clean-Up on Saturday, May 21st and the Parkland electronics recycling on Saturday as well. She continued by discussing a zoning case for a group that was interested in renting space at Family Video for a gaming hall. The plan commission did not recommend the zoning change, and council denied it. Libby then discussed a grant received from Agri Bank that would double up SNAP, which can be used at the Market at the Square. They also received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in order to work with young artists who can explore their art and their expression in the downtown area. Libby continued by reporting they completed a draft plan for the new downtown TIF district. Libby followed-up about new restaurants by advising that an intern worked on contacting restaurants, but they are currently waiting for responses. A brief discussion followed. She finished up by speaking about the Crime Stoppers Award nominations being due June 1st. Libby then fielded more questions.

Mayor Prussing reported that the City just got done presenting the budget to the City Council. She continued by discussing the state budget, the pending court case with Carle and how the City held the line on property tax. Mayor Prussing asked if there were any questions, which she fielded. She spoke about fines awarded from a landlord that will be invested in capital improvement, once the City receives the money. Mayor Prussing and Bill Gray then advised there would be upcoming discussions about removing ash trees from private property and possibly providing assistance to the property owners in removal of the trees. Discussion followed.

Lt. Seraphin discussed the Crime Stoppers Award, school perimeter checks that included active shooter scenarios, the Fresh Start program and UPD's new crime analyst position. Then public input occurred with Lt. Seraphin addressing questions and concerns. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.