

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School
November 17, 2016

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson	Jane Capazelli	Tim Bartlett, Park District
Frankie Johnson	Jeff Yockey, CC Bikes	Craig Shonkwiler, Public Works
Phyllis Clark	Aaron Ammons, Council	Libby Tyler, Community Development
JoAnn Carter	Mayor Laurel Prussing	Lt. Bryant Seraphin

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Bryant Seraphin at 5:34 p.m.

Mayor Prussing began by speaking about the conference in New York City that she attended about mental health. The first lady of NYC selected mental health as her platform topic. The idea is to start with very young children and assist parents in bringing up their children to be productive citizens. Discussion followed.

Aaron Ammons started with the concerns about the bike paths, saying it appears to be squared away. He is hoping that the bike paths will be used by more citizens. He then mentioned the incident at Five Points where the young man murdered a woman and that he would be looking further into the incident. Aaron then discussed the expungement workshop. He continued by discussing the Fresh Start program and some of the challenges involved. Aaron also spoke about the Martin Luther King statue and the need for a walkway, wanting to know the status. Tim Bartlett advised it's not part of the budget at this time due to funds being expended. Also, the walkway was never part of the initial plans; it was brought up after the fact. Discussion followed about the statue process. Aaron also talked about how to get young people involved. He finished with a question about the housing inspector position and whether it had been filled yet. Libby advised there was a diverse group of candidates to be interviewed.

A brief discussion occurred about grass growing in the gutters and street sweeping. Libby addressed some concerns about property in the area needed care.

Libby Tyler from Community Development began by handing out flyers announcing volunteers needed for City commissions and an online survey about making Urbana more age friendly. She then spoke about the downtown redevelopment project. Libby continued by saying artists are needed as part of a program to work with youth, helping them engage with downtown. She next provided development updates including a brewery downtown, the marijuana dispensary and Highland Greens. Libby finished by introducing Jeff Yockey of Champaign County Bikes.

Jeff Yockey spoke about his involvement in the Champaign County Bikes, which is a bicycle advocacy group. This group provides bicycle maps, works with the police department about enforcement issues, works with the City on bike routes, partners with the Park District teaching children to ride bikes, and also works with the UMS after school program, Splash. Jeff also provided information about activities coming up in May, which is bicycle month. He went on to

explain that Champaign County Bikes is in need of a headquarters, and they are currently looking at the old Harlow gas station. Discussion followed.

Tim Bartlett of the Park District provided handouts and a map that outline the Crystal Lake Park rehabilitation project. He continued by discussing the project. Tim reported the park district was successful in obtaining an Illinois Transportation Enhancement grant in order to construct a ten foot wide bicycle/pedestrian path along Park Street. The grant will also be used to do some engineering work in certain areas of Crystal Lake Park, making the park more connected and more pedestrian friendly. Discussion continued, and Tim fielded questions.

Craig Shonkwiler of Public Works began by providing an update from John Collins about street sweeping. He then provided updates about the concerns from the August meeting, and finished with a discussion about the bike lanes on Bradley Avenue.

Lt. Seraphin discussed recent events and new hires with the police department. He then allowed for public input and fielded questions/concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.