

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School
February 19, 2015

In Attendance:

Melvin Peoples
Samuel Johnson
Frankie Johnson
Dorothy Carter
Lashaunda Cunningham

Brian Cunningham
Derek Liebert, Park District
Libby Tyler, Community Development
Mayor Laurel Prussing
Lt. Richard Surles

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Surles at 5:37 p.m.

Derek Liebert from the Urbana Park District began by reporting that they are continuing to look at Crystal Lake due to some water issues, and there will be a public meeting on March 4th at the Nature Center about the goose management concerns and efforts to deal with this issue. Additionally, they will be looking at doing a grant application through the Department of Natural Resources for the northeast point of CLP, calling it a Family Fun Zone. They are looking at doing a nature-based playground along with a new day camp pavilion. Also, they are wrapping up a new master trail plan for the park district, which would call for a better path system through Crystal Lake Park. This will be kicked off with a new multi-use path up and down Broadway Avenue. Derek then fielded a question about pool passes, which will be discounted for another month or two. He then continued by reporting that the trail plan also calls for a similar multi-use path for King Park, along Lincoln Avenue. This will then tie into the King sculpture. He then reported that Tim Bartlett is involved with a group called Champaign County Community Coalition, which was started through the schools. This is a group to improve opportunities and awareness about programs for youth.

Lt. Surles then read an email from Bill Gray from Public Works. He said that the city council approved Monday night the reconstruction of Broadway Avenue between Stebbins and Oakland in concrete. Work is expected to start this summer and will be completed December, 2015. He also said that Goodwin Avenue south of the railroad tracks and north of University Avenue will be closed for about one month, starting in March, to allow for the construction of a four-story parking deck for the Campus Circle apartment complex. The exact date of the closure is not yet been determined, but a press release will be sent out once this is known. Lt. Surles then passed around the memo and pictures for attendees to view. A brief discussion followed.

Libby Tyler of Community Development reported on downtown Urbana, speaking about a new comic book store, Action Jackson Comic Books, and Lord and Lacy BBQ at 115 W. Main Street. Discussion followed. She then reported that Strawberry Fields is closed now but they have a new purchaser and it will be opened up with a similar format, bringing the café back. The new owners are the World Harvest people, so there will be a lot of Middle Eastern foods in the café.

Also, on Main Street they have entered into some more development agreements to rehabilitate some of the older vacant buildings. There will also be one on Race Street. Libby then said that Illinois American Water is moving their corporate offices over to Cardinal Court, and on the other side of Lincoln, there is an unused church back on Killarney that is now the Hendrick House catering kitchen. She then spoke about the progress on Campus Circle. Libby further reported that the Governor made a decision about medical cannabis dispensaries, and two of the state issued licenses are in Urbana. One location is next to the old Blockbuster at Five Points, and the other location is still being determined but will be close to Carle. Libby then spoke about an interesting program on UPTV, channel 6, called "All About You". It's basically a talk show for the City, hosted by Natalie Kenny-Marquez. Natalie is often on CI Living on WCIA during Market season to preview what is at the Market, and now they want to do a cooking show. This program airs every Thursday at 4:00 p.m., starting in April or May. Libby mentioned that the Boneyard Creek is completed but not fully landscaped. There will be a grand opening April 11th. She also said there are some commission and board openings if anyone is interested. Discussion followed.

Mayor Prussing then spoke about the Governor's speech the day before, where he mentioned possible cuts to money given to city governments. This would be a \$2 million dollar cut to our budget. There will be a discussion between the legislators and governor about these possible cuts. She then discussed funding for pensions, indicating that the City has funded its pensions very well. She then brought up the subject of video gaming and the possible revenue generated from these businesses. A brief discussion followed. Mayor Prussing then spoke about Carle Hospital and the fact that they make a 29% profit, even though they are a not for profit agency. She then fielded questions.

Lt. Surles provided an update for the police department and then fielded questions/concerns from the attendees. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Cassie Heldman