

CITY OF URBANA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 14, 2002 - 7:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 400 S. VINE STREET, URBANA, IL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Esther Patt (Chair); Danielle Chynoweth; James H. Hayes, Jr.; Laura Huth; Milton Otto; Joseph A. Whelan, Jr.; Ruth Wyman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph A. Whelan, Jr. (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Tod Satterthwaite; Phyllis Clark; Bruce Walden; Jack Waaler; Eddie Adair; William Gray; Ronald Eldridge; Elizabeth Tyler; Robert Grewe

OTHERS PRESENT: Gabe Omo-Osagie; Bill Meier; Jerry Moreland; Shirley Moreland; Mina Cho Lee; Kiyeon Yi; Loretha M. Harmon; Dean Papajohn; Barbara Pritchard; Lester Pritchard; Cathy Cunningham; Carrie Wennerdahl; Bob Leach; Laura Haber; Steve Clark; Dan Ohrnstein; Members of the Media

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

There being a quorum, Chair Patt called the meeting of the Committee Of The Whole to order at 7:31 p.m.

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT**

Since there were quite a few people in the audience present to discuss the King School project, Ms Chynoweth requested to move agenda item #11 and #10 (in that order) to follow #5. There were no objections.

Staff requested to remove agenda item #8 from tonight's agenda. Conxxus officials are not prepared to proceed at this time and would like to postpone for another week. There were no objections. Ordinance No. 2002-10-124, "An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement With Conxxus, LLC, for Use of Right-Of-Way (Lincoln Avenue Between Stoughton Street and Hill Street, and Church Street Between Lincoln Avenue and Coler Avenue)", was removed from the agenda.

There was no staff report.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

September 23, 2002 - Ms Wyman made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2002 Committee meeting. Ms Huth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Gabe Omo-Osagie, 2409 W. High Cross, addressed the Committee expressing his frustration with the Public Works Department concerning junk and debris violations on his property.

The following people addressed the Committee in support of the proposed gymnasium/neighborhood center project at King School:

Jerry Moreland, 703 N. Mathews, representing King School; Laura Haber, 210 N. Central; and Shirley Moreland, 703 N. Mathews,

representing King School and Dr. Adcock, Principal of King School.

Bob Leach, representing UCAN, addressed the Committee in support of improvements to School.

The following people did not wish to address the Committee, but completed a Public Input Card to be entered into the record in support of the proposed gymnasium/neighborhood center project at King School:

Mina Cho Lee, 439 E. Fairlawn, representing King School; Kiyeon Yi, 602 E. Fairlawn Dr., representing King School; Cathy Cunningham, 801 N. Coler; and Carrie Wennedahl, 801 N. Orchard.

Loretha M. Harmon, 1105 N. Busey, member of King School PTA, UCAN and UCAP, did not wish to address the Committee, but completed a Public Input Card to be entered into the record in support of continued City involvement with the King School expansion and community center.

Barbara Pritchard, 1317 E. Florida, representing PACE, Inc., addressed the Committee on the topic of Lakeside Terrace redevelopment and expressed accessibility concerns, and also the lack of usage of Housing Authority vouchers for people with disabilities. Ms Pritchard's concerns were also those of Lester Pritchard, 601 W. Penn, who did not wish to address the Committee but wanted to be entered into the record.

The following people addressed the Committee in support of the installation of a crosswalk at Lincoln Avenue and Michigan Avenue:

Bill Meier, 806 W. Michigan Avenue, representing Twin City Bible Church; and Dean Papajohn, 1004 Munford, representing Twin City Bible Church.

5. LAKESIDE TERRACE OPTIONS (HOUSING AUTHORITY REPORT)

Robert Grewe (Grants Management Division Manager) presented the staff report. Mr. Grewe noted an update to the development book submitted in packet material and distributed page 50 to be inserted. Staff reviewed the conceptual studies provided by the Housing Authority and prefers Option "D1". This option provides a larger site, allowing additional units to be developed with more affordable units and permits increased flexibility with respect to site layout and provision of green space. There would be no connection to Cunningham Avenue, which would help minimize impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, separating commercial and residential traffic. Staff is also recommending that a variety of unit types and layouts be developed and that the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club be integrated into the project.

Steve Clark (Housing Authority of Champaign County) and Dan Ohrnstein (Architectural Design Group) presented an update and responded to concerns raised at the September 9, 2002 Committee Of The Whole meeting. (See attached.)

Following debate, Mayor Satterthwaite indicated that the City had been waiting for sometime to see how this project would come together financially, and suggested that before more drawings are submitted cashflow projections be presented. Mr. Clark agreed to submit these projections the next time this item is before the Council. Debate ensued.

Chair Patt clarified accessibility, adaptability, and visitability. An **accessible** housing unit is one in which every square inch of the unit can be reached by a person who uses a wheelchair. The only way to make a two-story structure fully accessible is to install an elevator. An **adaptable** unit is one that can be easily converted to an accessible unit with minor modifications. A **visitable** unit is one that has no step or ramp and an accessible bathroom on the first floor.

No action was requested of Council on this item at this time.

11. **KING SCHOOL UPDATE**

Mr. Grewe presented the staff report. In previous discussions with City of Urbana staff, residents of the King Park neighborhood expressed a desire to have a neighborhood center in the area of King School. Urbana School District is considering an option to expand classroom facilities at King School, which would also include remodeling the existing gymnasium as a multi-purpose facility that could be available for use by the neighborhood. The School District received an Illinois First Grant in the amount of \$500,000 to provide four new classrooms at King School. The proposed project must be completed and all funding spent by June 30, 2004. They have also applied for a federal construction grant of \$900,000 to be used for additional improvements to King School. Staff is recommending that the City consider participation with the School District in the option to remodel the gymnasium as a multi-purpose facility to be used by the neighborhood in place of a neighborhood center. If this option is not pursued, staff recommends that the City consider no longer actively participating in planning for a stand-alone neighborhood center since this approach would be much more costly, less efficient of resources, and less beneficial to school children in the area.

Following debate, Mr. Hayes expressed concerns about staff's recommendation that the City withdraw participation in building a neighborhood center, if it opted not to go along with the School District's plan to remodel the gymnasium for use as a multi-purpose facility that could be used by neighborhood residents. Mr. Hayes expressed residents desire to have a stand-alone neighborhood center, and noted that this has been an ongoing issue for several years. He distributed a proposal for funding and suggested that a meeting be scheduled to hear public input on the option presented this evening. Debate ensued.

Following further debate, it was the consensus of Committee Members present to hear more input from the neighborhood. Since this falls in Mr. Hayes' ward, he will take charge of scheduling a meeting for public input.

10. **COMMERCIAL RECYCLING UPDATE**

William Gray (Public Works Director) introduced Courtney Rushforth (Environmental Aide) and presented the staff report. A survey was conducted in order to obtain input from Urbana businesses concerning a proposed commercial recycling program. The results of the commercial recycling survey were presented in staff's memo. (See attached.) This item did not warrant Council action at this time.

6. **PROPERTY TAX LEVY ORDINANCES:**

- a. **ORDINANCE NO. 2002-09-117: ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2003; and**
- b. **ORDINANCE NO. 2002-09-118: AN ORDINANCE ABATING TAX LEVY FOR \$5.705 MILLION GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 1994 (FY 2002-03)**

Ronald Eldridge (Comptroller) presented the staff reports. Mr. Eldridge noted a correction in his memo, stating that the reference made to the ordinance levying property tax should be corrected to read "more than last year" vs. "less".

Ms Wyman made a motion to send these items to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Huth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

7. **ORDINANCE NO. 2002-10-123: AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE (POLICE/FIRE PENSION FUNDS)**

Mr. Eldridge presented the staff report.

Ms Wyman made a motion to send this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Ms Huth seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

8. **ORDINANCE NO. 2002-10-124: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CONXXUS, LLC, FOR USE OF RIGHT-OF-WAY (LINCOLN AVENUE BETWEEN STOUGHTON STREET AND HILL STREET, AND CHURCH STREET BETWEEN LINCOLN AVENUE AND COLER AVENUE)**

[No discussion. Removed from agenda.]

9. **DISCUSSION: CROSSWALK AT LINCOLN AVENUE AND MICHIGAN AVENUE**

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Mr. Otto in order to allow Council Members an opportunity to enter input. No action is requested of Council.

Before proceeding, Chair Patt noted that it was 11:00 p.m. and entertained a motion to extend the meeting. Ms Chynoweth moved and Ms Wyman seconded to extend the meeting for 10 minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Members of Twin City Bible Church have expressed concerns about pedestrians crossing Lincoln Avenue to attend church services. The Church is requesting a crosswalk on Lincoln Avenue at either Michigan Avenue or Indiana Street, and will hire a security guard to assist pedestrians cross the street on Sundays. Staff's recommendation is that the best location for a crosswalk would be at Lincoln Avenue and Michigan Avenue. The Church is willing to pay for the installation of the ramp, which would cost approximately \$200.

Following debate, there were no objections to the installation of a crosswalk at Lincoln Avenue and Michigan Avenue.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Patt declared the meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Deborah J. Roberts
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes Approved: _____