

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

URBANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DATE: May 2, 2018

APPROVED

TIME: 8:03 p.m.

PLACE: City Council Chambers, Urbana City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT Matt Metcalf, Alice Novak, Gina Pagliuso, Trent Shepard, Kim Smith

MEMBERS EXCUSED Scott Dossett, David Seyler

STAFF PRESENT Kevin Garcia, Planner II; Marcus Ricci, Planner II

OTHERS PRESENT Ilona Matkovski, Pierre Moulin, Dennis Roberts, Adam Rusch, Ryan Schriefer

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Novak called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

4. LINCOLN SQUARE VISIONING EXERCISE

Kevin Garcia, Planner II, gave a brief presentation on the following:

- What's in your Square? project initiative, which is to re-energize the nine-block area bounded by Elm Street, Vine Street, Illinois Street and Race Street. The area includes Lincoln Square Mall, public parking lots, and the Lincoln Landmark Hotel.
- Exercise 1: A Great Place
 - Close your eyes and imagine a great public place that you have been to.
 - What makes the place great?
 - What activities are happening around you?
 - What can you see? What can you hear? Smell?

- Open your eyes and write down the first thoughts that come to your mind about the great place you are thinking of.
- Also write down the name of your great place.
- Responses included cemetery in Rome that was lush, green, eclectic and had great statuary; New Hope, Pennsylvania, that has a lot of history with buildings going back to 18th century and a river; Rockport, Massachusetts, has people interacting with each other, eclectic with interesting art stores, local shops, restaurants and cafes, concert venue, beach and housing; European plaza with the upper floors for living and working and the lower floor is for a variety of community retail and restaurant spaces; plaza in Siena, Italy, includes not only the place but also the surroundings of the place, garlic smells, cultural events like concert venues, sidewalk cafes and no awareness of cars; Guanajuato, Mexico, is a walkable community with great architecture, lots of greenery.
- Exercise 2: The Square Cloud
 - Write down five or six action words that would capture what you would like to see in the nine-block area.
 - Write down activities or destinations that you would like to see.
 - Write down larger ideas or concerns that you may have.
 - Responses included the following: art exhibits, watching people exercise, meeting friends and eating, walkable, music, shop, pedestrian-friendly, indoor/outdoor spaces, congregating spaces, colorful, natural materials, serene, entertainment, hotel, cafes, walking paths, lively, open, cultural opportunities, greenery, diverse (inter-generational)
- Exercise 3: Mapping
 - The Commission members worked together on mapping their visions, which included mixed facilities for the market, store fronts, plazas, green spaces, public art, cafes, small-scale restaurant, water feature/fountain, whale, boutique and hotel, second-story shops, walkable trails with different lengths, and historical markers.

5. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was none.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted,

Lorrie Pearson, AICP
Historic Preservation Commission Recording Secretary