

UCAP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
King School Library
May 18, 2006

In Attendance:

Hayward Patterson
Virginia Patterson
Frankie Johnson
Samuel Johnson
Melvin Peeples
Faye Christmon
Leonard Christmon
Dorothy Carter
Pauline Walker
James Hayes, Jr.
Todd Peck
Alderman Robert Lewis
Mayor Laurel Prussing
Chief Mike Bily

Chief Mike Bily called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Chief Bily announced that the Neighborhood Cleanup held Saturday, May 13, 2006 went well. He also announced that Animal Control Officer Chelsea Angelo would not be attending this meeting, but will be attending the June 15, 2006 meeting. Chief Bily reported that investigations in problem areas of the neighborhood community have resulted in several arrests.

Since Chief Bily had to leave to attend another meeting, Mayor Prussing chaired the rest of the meeting.

Todd Peck from the Urbana Park District gave an update on new construction projects at King Park. He also reported that the 10-year Strategic Plan for Urbana parks was progressing. Surveys will be sent to approximately 3,000 Urbana residents and focus group meetings will be held to gain input from residents.

Alderman Lewis reported that Animal Control has been very visible in the area recently which has helped alleviate some of the dog problems. Ameren, the local power company, recently announced plans to construct a 75 ft. tower at the corner of Goodwin and Church Streets. After residents in that area voiced opposition to the tower, Ameren is looking for an alternative location.

Mayor Prussing reported that Ameren wants to raise rates 47% in the near future so the City of Urbana is working with the City of Champaign, Champaign County and other

area cities to stop the significant increase in rates. She also reported that the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget of \$41 million has been introduced. The largest percent of the budget, 38% goes to the Public Works Department while approximately 33% goes to the Fire & Police Departments. She reported that the new budget is a balanced budget. The property tax rate will remain the same, but yearly assessments will likely raise property taxes for Urbana residents. The Mayor added that she is also proposing a sales tax increase of .25%.

Mayor Prussing and Alderman Lewis addressed questions/concerns of committee members. Discussion followed.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Karen Lowery
Recording Secretary