

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School
November 21, 2013

In Attendance:

Melvin Peeples	Tim Bartlett, Urbana Park District
Samuel Johnson	Derek Liebert, Urbana Park District
Frankie Johnson	Carol Ammons, Urbana City Council
JoAnn Carter	Libby Tyler, Urbana Community Development
Lashaunda Cunningham	Lt. Richard Surles, Urbana Police Department

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Surles at 5:35 p.m.

Tim Bartlett of the Urbana Park District began by introducing a new staff member, Derek Liebert, and asked that everyone introduce themselves. Derek has applied and interviewed for the Superintendent of Planning and Operations position, and as long as everything works out, he will be attending future UCAP meetings. Tim then reported he went to Peoria and met with the sculpture artist, Preston Jackson, in October. He was able to see the artwork being put together and the progress of the sculpture. Mr. Jackson told Tim that the artwork will be worth about \$150,000 with no additional cost to the Park District. Mr. Jackson should be able to meet the installation time set for sometime late in December. Tim further reported on the sculpture and mentioned a possible dedication, which Libby Tyler has volunteered to organize. He then offered to answer questions about the sculpture, providing additional information about dimensions and tree backdrops. Tim then invited everyone to the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day at Crystal Lake Park. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the walk/run starts at 9:00 a.m. A variety of prizes will be handed out after the walk/run.

Derek Liebert then provided some updates from the recreation department: they will be starting the planning of Jettie Rhodes day soon; youth basketball sign-up is starting now with registration at the Phillips Recreation Center; online registration is starting for the first time for the Park District beginning December 4, 2013; update on the Crystal Lake Park Aquatic Center, advising the passes will go on sale this Friday, November 22nd with a 20% off discount for pass sales and then November 29th through December 2nd pass sales will be 15% off; and finally they are continually working with the school district on the After School Splash Program for middle school children. A question was then fielded about scholarships for pool passes, advising the applications are available at the Phillips Recreation Center and online. Carol Ammons then asked about getting the basketball court back in King Park. Discussion followed. Carol Ammons then had a question about the green algae that was growing over the water at Crystal Lake. The Park District has been working on that for some time, consulting with DNR. It is a response to the nutrient fluid in the lake. They are looking at doing some things different in order to reduce the nutrient fluid, combination of geese and storm water, and additionally they will be doing treatments next year to actually address the algae. Derek further advised DNR is not concerned about the fish at this point, but they are interested in partnering with the Park District because it does effect the perception of the lake. Derek advised it is called water meal, the smallest free-floating algae. It is not toxic but common with older lakes as they get more nutrients. Leaves from trees sinking to the bottom of the lake have created a nutrient-rich, mucky bottom. Ultimately, they would like to develop a lake management plan to look at the lake holistically. Further discussion followed about a basketball court.

Libby Tyler of Urbana Community Development reported that the end of December is the end of the TIF 3, which was set up 23 years ago. She highlighted the improvements that were made due to this funding source. In celebration for what has been accomplished with this fund, Libby suggested some kind of ribbon cutting or other type of ceremony. She would like to get some ideas on what to do in order to provide some positive PR for the neighborhood. Libby then discussed the King Park sculpture and how it will be deeded over to the Park District in order for them to maintain and take ownership due to their knowledge and abilities. Libby provided a tentative date of January 24, 2014 (Martin Luther King holiday week) as a possible sculpture dedication date with a lot of activities going on during that week, but the artist is not available then. So, she then suggested a later date during nicer weather, April 25, 2014, and tie in to some other activities that show some of the artist's painted work. She then asked if there were any ideas on the TIF construction projects. Discussion followed. Carol Ammons suggested a walking tour in conjunction with the April 25th sculpture dedication, celebrating certain spots throughout the neighborhood to highlight the improvements. Discussion followed. Libby then discussed the Felmley Dickerson contractor yard and that they have zoning rights due to the amount of time they have been there. They have requested special permission from the zoning board in order to replace one of the warehouse buildings. So, there will be an old one coming down and a new one being put up, asking members to report any extra activity to the City. Libby then reported that the addresses with specific problems reported at a previous meeting are being addressed, but feel free to contact her if you have other issues. Discussion followed.

Lt. Surles gave a brief summary of what was happening in the police department to include an explanation of the FOP's fundraiser, "No Shave November", and that officers are being sent to Gifford to help during the tornado clean-up. Lt. Surles followed up on concerns from the previous meeting and then fielded new questions/concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Cassie Heldman