

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School
November 19, 2015

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson
Frankie Johnson
Cheryl Hayden
JoAnn Carter
Mary Brooks

Tim Bartlett, Park District
Bill Gray, Public Works
Libby Tyler, Community Development
Mayor Laurel Prussing
Lt. Rich Surles

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

Tim Bartlett of the Urbana Park District began by providing a project update on Leal Park-Greek Revival Cottage and the mold remediation. Also, the building will be made ADA compliant. He is expecting this project to be done by the beginning of the new year. There was an unexpected drainage project at Meadowbrook Park, where the fields were flooding, causing Douglas Farm to lose productivity. Tim then continued by providing an update on Crystal Lake Park, which included the lake study and restoration as well as information on the North Broadway Trail. He then fielded questions about those projects. A discussion occurred about basketball courts. Tim finished up by asking how to get the neighborhoods to keep an eye out for subjects damaging the restrooms and facilities at the parks, i.e. graffiti, trash and fires. Yard signs may be put up to encourage residents to call the police when this damage is occurring. Discussion followed.

Bill Gray of Public Works reported that the Broadway avenue reconstruction project was completed. He also said that the concrete patching was completed this fall. PW is currently working on the storm sewers being cleaned and televised. Bill went on to report that Bradley Avenue will be striped next spring, to include bike lanes. They are also currently busy street sweeping to clean up leaves. PW has had snow planning meetings. The salt has been delivered, and the plows are ready. Bill then provided an update for questions/tasks from the last meeting. Discussion followed, which included the statewide Snow "Roadeo" competition held by the American Public Works Association. Bill then fielded questions and concerns.

Libby Tyler of Community Development began by reporting that Perkins restaurant has plans for renovation. She then mentioned the Campus Circle project. Libby said that the City received plans from Leek & Sons Funeral Home for building a funeral home at 1215 Bradley Avenue. She continued by reporting there has been a proposal from Carle for more parking spots at the fairgrounds. Even though the fairgrounds are in the County, the City reviews the proposal due to surrounding neighborhoods. The City is particularly interested and requested information about traffic and drainage. Discussion followed. Libby then talked about the Highland Green affordable housing project on Kerr Avenue, which will set aside nine units for veterans. A brief discussion occurred regarding senior housing. Libby continued by discussing Habitat for Humanity homes that are being rebuilt and rehabilitated. She then reported that the house on

Mathews was not approved for “Esther’s Place” due to large rezoning issues. Discussion followed. Libby ended by reminding everyone that the Holiday Market has started at Lincoln Square Mall. More discussion followed. Libby fielded questions as they were presented.

Mayor Prussing first discussed the court case with Carle, which is currently in the appellate court. A response is expected in the next few weeks. She then reported that the IDOT Task Force study has been completed, and there will be a public meeting on December 7th. Mayor Prussing finished by advising that the Community Coalition had a showing of the film called “Racial Taboo”, with attendees breaking up into smaller discussion groups. She also said that she had a discussion with Grace Mitchell about getting some churches together for a discussion about the topic. Mayor Prussing then fielded questions, and discussion followed.

Lt. Surles began by mentioning “No Shave November” being observed by Urbana Police Officers, who are allowed to grow a beard during the month of November if they donate to the American Cancer Society. He then reminded everyone to lock their cars and houses and to also remind your neighbors as well. Lt. Surles next discussed the fact that there have been 96 shootings in Champaign-Urbana since February, 2015, and the area chiefs and leaders are looking into a targeted offender initiative based on the Don’t Shoot premise. He continued by reporting that there is a downward trend of crime at Hamilton on the Park, and video surveillance has been installed there. Discussion followed. Lt. Surles finished by reporting on the home invasion in the 1200 block of West Hill.

Public input occurred with Lt. Surles addressing questions and concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Cassie Heldman