

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School
February 16, 2017

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson	Dr. Evelyn Underwood	Corky Emberson, Park District
Frankie Johnson	Shirlo Selvam	Scott Tess, Public Works
Clara Bright	Faizaan Qayyum	Libby Tyler, Community Development
JoAnn Carter	Marniah Magbool	Mayor Laurel Prussing
	Lt. Bryant Seraphin	Aaron Ammons, Council

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Bryant Seraphin at 5:33 p.m.

Corky Emberson from the Urbana Park District began by providing updates on the park district activities to include a new Nature Place Scape by the Anita Purvis Nature Center. Grand opening is scheduled for April 22nd. He also advised the park district is working on an interpretive mobile app that will incorporate all the arts present throughout the city parks. This will also be accessed through the website. Something coming up soon is the Crystal Lake sediment phase of the renovation. Corky also reported of a facility and outdoor court study, which will include King Park. He then spoke about applying for an ITEP grant to fund the Park Street path. Further, Philips Recreation Center is 20 years old, and the inside of the facility has been re-painted and new flooring was installed. Corky advised the Roots Walk at Crystal Lake Park will be held May 19, 2017, and Jettie Rhodes is scheduled for June 24, 2017 at King Park. He concluded by reporting there will be a “Best in Show” art display at Lincoln Square Mall until Sunday February 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Discussion occurred throughout Corky’s report.

Mayor Prussing spoke about government cooperation within the community; stating people come from other places and are surprised with how well the governments work together. Corky added that the Lt. Governor will be at the indoor pool this coming Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the collaboration with the school district and the use of the pool facility. Mayor Prussing then provided an update on the court case involving Carle. Mayor Prussing fielded questions, and discussion followed.

Scott Tess from Public Works spoke about the mild winter, reporting some extra street sweeping has occurred throughout the city. He also reported that they are doing a lot of pothole filling. Scott then spoke about the discount for solar ray program, which lowers the cost for solar installation for your home or business. This will open up in March. Also, there will be another discounted rain barrel and compost bin sale occurring May 6, 2017, across the street from the Market at the Square. At this time, Aaron Ammons reported that he spoke with Bill Gray about the middle section of Coler Avenue between Fairview and Church being very rough. He also asked about water puddling on the northwest side of the street at Busey and Fairview, where the water company was present. Scott fielded more questions and concerns, referring a few to Libby Tyler from Community Development. Further discussion followed.

Libby Tyler from Community Development had a few development updates, including the old nursing home on Lincoln Avenue, the Leek and Sons Funeral Home on Bradley, and the Highland Green construction, which will be starting soon and have some job opportunities if anyone has construction experience. She handed flyers about a breakfast information session being held for contractors/subcontractors for rehab construction on February 24, 2017. She handed out flyers for an Urbana Homebuilders breakfast to be held February 23, 2017. Libby continued by speaking about the National Endowment for the Arts grant for youth with a presentation called "Open Scene" to be held on February 24th and 26th at the IMC. She then reported on a new housing inspector, Danis Pelmore. Libby then spoke about the first Friday of the month events, "Imbibe", being held in downtown Urbana. These are free events at the different businesses. More information is available on Facebook and maps are available downtown. She finished with information/copies of the Age Friendly Community Survey. Libby then fielded questions and concerns and discussion followed.

Aaron Ammons wanted to share information about his push for gainful employment with the City for African Americans. He will be reviewing each department. Aaron said that he does not necessarily believe that more police officers on the street makes us safer, it just makes us feel safer. Aaron spoke of the need for real activities and opportunities within the City. He talked about a program where activity cards are given out to people to give them something to do. He further discussed diversity issues within Urbana and job opportunities. Discussion followed. Aaron continued by discussing drug legalization with regulations and control to eliminate the black market and also the need to get people employed, so they are not turning to the black market. Further discussion followed. Aaron then spoke about the Citizens with Convictions "Ban the Box" program, which made it so that no business in Urbana can put on their employment application the question, "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" He also talked about the yearly expungement workshops that help people get their conviction records expunged.

Lt. Seraphin reported that two new officer positions were approved by the City Council. He also talked about intergovernmental cooperation and the arrests made on two murder warrants. He provided a shootings summary and then mentioned that Unofficial St. Patrick's Day is scheduled for March 3, 2017. Finally, Citizen Police Academy pamphlets were passed out. Lt. Seraphin then allowed for public input and fielded questions/concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.