

APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday, August 22, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Diane Marlin, Reverend Keith Harris, Norma Linton, Frankie Johnson, Tammy Masters, Megan McGinty, Theresa Michelson, Esther Patt, Clyde Walker, Kathy Wallig

OTHERS PRESENT: Clara Bright, JoAnn Carter, Kathryn Levy, Carol Mitten, Joel Sanders, Deputy Chief Bryant Seraphin, John Schneider, Scott Tess

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Mayor Marlin.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Esther Patt, second by Kathy Wallig, to approve the Minutes from the February 28, 2018 meeting with the following correction:

- Under Discussion Topics, the last sentence of the first paragraph to read *Morgan also requested that the community continue to be observant to things happening in their neighborhoods.*

Motion carried.

III. Public Input

There was no Public Input.

IV. Presentations

There were no Presentations.

V. Discussion Topics

Mayor Marlin indicated that the discussion topics would include questions and suggestions received from Task Force members over the last few weeks. To aid the discussion the following background information was provided:

- Procedural History of City of Urbana v. Platinum Group Properties, LLC.
- Procedure Under the City's Aggravated Public Nuisance Ordinance, Section 15-18
- Silver/Vawter Area Rental Property Ownership Map
- Process for Legal Review of Failure to Comply Tickets

One of the questions members had concerned changes in ownership of key properties in the Silver/Vawter street area, as well as an update on Aspen Court and what is going on at Town and Country Apartments.

Police Lieutenant Joel Sanders and Community Development Director John Schneider provided an

update on issues relating to rental property maintenance and management.

Town and Country

John Schneider indicated that systematic inspections were completed in May for Town and Country Apartments. Joel Sanders added that since 2013 calls for police service have markedly gone up and continue on an upward trend (this year's estimate is 688) even with added security steps being put into place.

Aspen Court

John Schneider provided an update on the \$5.2 million Aspen Court renovation relaying that interior demo has begun and Joel Sanders added that there are currently 24 occupied apartments of the 140.

Discussion ensued regarding the procedural history of the City of Urbana v. Platinum Group Properties, LLC suit. A handout was provided that explained the timeline of events stemming from the initial 2012 Notice of Violation through to the coming date of November 2 when all fines are due in full. John Schneider answered technical questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the procedure applied in relation to the City's Aggravated Public Nuisance Ordinance. A handout was provided by the Legal Department and Joel Sanders further explained remediation efforts when a property owner is negligent in the maintenance of a property. He also stated the success that has been had when owners are simply given the opportunity to take reasonable steps to take care of issues.

Kathy Wallig, Mayor Marlin and John Schneider all encouraged tenants to contact their landlords with concerns or to file a complaint if necessary.

Mayor Marlin announced the retirement of Police Chief Sylvia Morgan on August 31 with Deputy Chief Bryant Seraphim being nominated for Interim Chief. She also relayed that the City was very close to naming a new Fire Chief and that a search for a new Public Works Director would be conducted this fall.

VI. Reports from Neighborhood Groups

Megan McGinty reported that the assumed vacant residences at 1113 and 1115 W. Hill Street were seeing youth activity and John Schneider indicated that Inspectors would check to see if the properties were indeed vacant and then take appropriate action.

Frankie Johnson asked what was happening on the Illinois American Water Company property and John Schneider responded that the houses will be demoed for a new 168 townhouse-unit development.

Reverend Keith Harris indicated his concern with unknown persons visiting the Aspen Court property. He also voiced his appreciation for the partnership with the Urbana Park District in helping build a sense of community in the Lierman Neighborhood area.

Tammy Masters reported on the Country Squire Addition Neighborhood Watch and their recent communications and activities.

Theresa Michelson mentioned the great work of Giovanna DiBenedetto in the Silver/Vawter street area; specifically the Block Party and Carnival.

Kathy Walling stated that she attended the 2018 Regional Neighborhood Network Conference in Dayton, Ohio and brought information to share.

Norma Linton asked for an update on cases of Tularemia in Urbana. Mayor Marlin suggested contacting U of I Vet Med. Norma also mentioned a neighborhood commentary about the nuisance abatement process and provided a letter via email to the recording secretary.

Mayor Marlin presented a painting done by Amy Stevens of Champaign to represent the strength of the community. Ms. Stevens wrote a community blessing which the Mayor then read (see attached).

VII. Next Meeting Date

Mayor Marlin stated the next meeting as November 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Council chambers.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Community Blessing

May the strength of the community join together and Rise Up together.
May each member of this community have One Voice for the common
good. May Kindness and Goodness envelope the area.

No shame, only Hope and Peace.

May Love cover the community as a Protective Shield.

Reach Out to Raise UP.

You are each Worthy. Valuable. Significant.

Your presence matters to the greater whole.

May you be united in your collective interest to Rise Strong.

Build a community of HOPE from within.

You already possess all that you need to be a bright light.

May you see how brilliant you already are.

May you connect in differences and Rise in Unity.

May the Light of your goodness prevail over the darkness.

Rise up and Rise Anew. Remade. Renewed.

May each member of this community be a part of this tree, each part
adding its strength.

Strength of love fueled by hope.

Deeply rooted to weather any storm.

Resilient.

Offering the shaded relief from the brutal heat of life's trials.

Despite all you may face, may you face it together.

May you rise Strong.

Amy Stevens