

December 13, 2001
Contacts: Bruce K. Walden,
Chief Administrative Officer
(217) 384-2454
Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor
(217) 384-2457

PRESS RELEASE

URBANA TO HIRE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Elizabeth “Libby” Tyler will be appointed Director of Community Development Services/City Planner for the City of Urbana, pending City Council confirmation. She replaces April D. Getchius who left earlier this year to work as Campus Planner for the University of Illinois.

Dr. Tyler has been with the City since early 2000 as Assistant City Planner and Planning Manager. In this capacity, Tyler has provided staff support to the City Council, Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Historic Preservation Commission. Major projects she has managed for the City include the Comprehensive Plan Update, Cunningham Avenue Corridor Redevelopment Plan/TIF District, and development/annexation agreements for a number of new residential subdivisions.

Prior to joining the City Tyler worked as a planner for Berns, Clancy and Associates, P.C., an Urbana engineering firm, and as City-University Planner for the City of Berkeley, California. She earned her Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in early 2001. Her dissertation topic was environmental values and public involvement. Dr. Tyler previously served as a Plan Commissioner for Urbana from 1991 to 1997. She is certified through the American Institute of Certified Planners and has 23 years of experience as a professional city planner. Dr. Tyler is a 12-year resident of Urbana where she lives with her husband, Rob Olshansky, a planning professor at the University and their two sons, Alex and Jacob, who attend Urbana Middle School.

According to Bruce Walden Urbana CAO “ Libby is a very talented and highly qualified professional who will be a great addition to the Urbana management team.”

Tyler’s appointment by the Urbana City Council is scheduled for December 17, 2001.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor

FROM: Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 7, 2001

RE: Director of Community Development/City Planner Appointment

I am writing to convey the staff recommendation regarding an appointment to the position of Director of Community Development/City Planner.

The vacancy was regionally and nationally advertised and, as part of the screening process, the top candidates were interviewed by you and I, members of her staff, an external screening committee, and the Personnel Manager. The overall consensus of those involved was that Elizabeth Tyler is the top candidate and that she has the diverse administrative, managerial and personal skills to successfully fill the position. In addition to her experience as our Assistant City Planner, Libby has just recently completed her PhD in Regional Planning from U of I.

Ms. Tyler will be a valuable asset to the staff and is recommended for the appointment. Attached is a copy of her resume.

Bruce K. Walden
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

December 10, 2001

Dear Council Members:

With this letter, I am recommending the appointment of Elizabeth Tyler to the position of Director of Community Development/City Planner. This appointment will be on the agenda for the December 17, 2001 City Council Meeting.

Ms. Tyler received her Master of Landscape Architecture in Environmental Planning for University of California, Berkeley in 1982 and her PhD in Regional Planning from U of I in 2000. She has been employed with Urbana since January, 2000 and has progressed to her current position of Assistant City Planner. She has completed a Professional Supervisory Certification Program through U of I in recent years.

Her numerous accomplishments are highlighted on the attached resume.

Based upon these qualifications, I am pleased to submit the appointment of Libby Tyler to the position of Director of Community Development/City Planner for your confirmation.

Sincerely,

Tod Satterthwaite
MAYOR