



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
August 28, 2006

Committee Members Present:

Lynne Barnes, Brandon Bowersox, Danielle Chynoweth, Robert Lewis, Dennis Roberts, Charlie Smyth (Chair), Heather Stevenson (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), and Mayor Prussing.

Committee Members Absent:

None.

Staff Members Present:

Community Development Associate Rebecca Bicksler, Fire Prevention Officer Dwayne Bishop, Economic Development Manager Tom Carrino, City Clerk Phyllis Clark, Assistant Police Chief Pat Connelly, Division Chief Tony Foster, City Attorney Jim Gitz, Public Works Director Bill Gray, Planning Manager Robert Myers, Building Safety Manager Gordon Skinner, and Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Walden.

Others Present:

Members of the Media

Meeting Location:

Urbana City Council Chambers

There being a quorum, Chair Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda and Staff Report

Public Works Director Bill Gray presented an update on the work being done of Lincoln Avenue.

Ms. Chynoweth announced that this week is free fitness week at the Urbana Park District.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Smyth moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2006 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. Mayor Prussing requested to add “because most of the young people served will be from Urbana.” at the end of the second sentence in section 8. Mr. Smyth moved to accept the Mayor’s request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts requested to correct item #12, third line to read “EMei has expressed interest but has not received approval from the Provencal Government.” There were no objections. The minutes, as amended, were approved by voice vote.

Public Input

Michael Kinate, representing Nabor House Fraternity at 1002 South Lincoln, addressed the Committee regarding his desire to have other stake holders along the Lincoln – Busey corridor in the discussions on the Neighborhood Conservation issue.

Mr. Smyth stated that he has had a lot of positive feedback on the Lincoln Avenue Project.

Mr. Smyth reported on his overnight with the Urbana Fire Department and his opportunity to visit all four fire stations.

“Fire Factor” Presentation

Division Chief Tony Foster and Campus Fire Prevention Officer Dwayne Bishop presented a short video on the hazards of being in a fire and issued an invitation to Council Members and Executive Staff to **“Fire Factor”** on September 9, 2006. This is a semi-annual event at which the Fire Departments teach student housing leaders the dangers of how to recognize fire and the hazards that may loom in their residences.

Neighborhood Conservation District Report

Planning Division Manager Robert Myers and Community Development Associate Rebecca Bicksler presented staff report.

The concept of Neighborhood Conservation Districts has been proposed as a solution for various livability issued by the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, City Council Common Goals, and the Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association’s plan.

Neighborhood Conservation Districts are essentially a form of overlay zoning designed to protect specific neighborhood characteristics through new design requirements added to underlying zoning. They can also be designed to protect significant economic and social aspects through physical design.

Ms. Bicksler reviewed the Neighborhood Conservation District Study.

Following debate, Committee Members offered their suggestions for change in this report.

Mr. Smyth suggested including the comments/suggestions made tonight for a second look and having a neighborhood meeting on these issues.

Chair Chynoweth stated that proposals put forth from the Committee tonight are: 1) neighborhood meetings; 2) demolition review; and 3) the special task force idea.

This item was forwarded to the October 9, 2006 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ordinance No. 2006-08-109: An Ordinance to Establish a Rental Registration Program for Residential Property Within the City of Urbana

Mayor Prussing stated that the Neighborhood Safety Task Force met and considered the comments received to date. The Ordinance has been modified by adding a new Section 14 defining problem properties. This changes the previous Section 14 to Section 15.

Following debate with Committee Members making suggestions for changes, Mayor Prussing stated that comments on this ordinance will continue to be accepted. There will be a Public Hearing on **Ordinance No. 2006-08-109: An Ordinance to Establish a Rental Registration Program for Residential Property Within the City of Urbana** on September 25, 2006.

Ordinance No. 2006-08-110: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Regarding Nuisances (Indoor Furniture Used Outdoors)

City Attorney Jim Gitz presented staff report. Mr. Gitz stated that he had read all the e-mails and discussion. A lot of the discussion focused on upholstered furniture and the results of the weather on that furniture. Mr. Gitz discussed the changes he had made.

Public Input on Ordinance No. 2006-08-110: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Regarding Nuisances (Indoor Furniture Used Outdoors)

Gary Perkins, 308 North High and Susan Hopkins, 107 West Mumford Drive, expressed their support of this ordinance.

Committee Members stated their concerns and reported on e-mails and discussions they have had with constituents.

Ms. Barnes moved to forward **Ordinance No. 2006-08-110: An Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances, Regarding Nuisances (Indoor Furniture Used Outdoors)** to Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smyth.

Following debate, Ms. Chynoweth offered a friendly amendment to add “no owner, tenant, or occupant of the property in the City may place, store, or keep upholstered furniture for over 72 hours that is not designed for outdoor use”. This was accepted by the mover and seconder. The motion to forward **Ordinance No. 2006-08-110**, as amended, carried by a voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chair Smyth declared the meeting adjourned at 8:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Taylor
Recording Secretary

*This meeting was taped.

**This meeting was broadcast on cable television.

Minutes approved: September 11, 2006