

**UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**King School**  
**February 18, 2016**

**In Attendance:**

Sam Johnson  
Frankie Johnson  
Haywood Patterson  
Virginia Patterson  
Mary Brooks  
JoAnn Carter  
Clara Bright

Durl Kruse  
Councilman Aaron Ammons  
Libby Tyler, Community Development  
Mayor Laurel Prussing  
Lt. Rich Surles  
Lt. Bryant Seraphin

The meeting was called to order by Lt. Rich Surles at 5:40 p.m. Lt. Surles introduced Lt. Bryant Seraphin, providing a brief work history and advising Lt. Seraphin will begin attending the UCAP meetings.

Libby Tyler of Community Development began by providing some development updates, to include the following:

- Campus Circle Open House
- Approval from the State for a New Enterprise Zone – incentives for new buildings, primarily the commercial corridor and some for the subdivisions
- New TIF District - Downtown
- Public Arts Grants
- Problem Properties – cleared three properties
- Emergency Shelter for families at 3029 East Park – worked with City of Champaign and United Way
- Habitat Homes

Libby then continued with announcements about upcoming events: a showing of the movie “My Brooklyn” on campus, a workshop being held at the library on the 24<sup>th</sup> about researching some of the older homes, and the “Dave Benton” CrimeStoppers Award. Discussion followed, and Libby fielded questions.

Lt. Surles read an email from Bill Gray of Public Works that provided an update on the storm sewer cleaning and televising (map handed out) and the bicycle lane striping on Bradley Avenue.

Mayor Prussing spoke about projects to create jobs, one of which is the development of Lincoln Avenue and the connection of that with Olympian Drive. She said that building roads is essential to the economy. Mayor Prussing also talked about training in the schools for the kind of jobs that employers have available; stating that Parkland talks with local employers to find out what kind of jobs need to be filled and then offers training for those jobs.

Mayor Prussing then discussed the County Board going for eminent domain on some property on Lincoln Avenue because some of the owners are asking unreasonable prices for their property and have been fighting the development on Olympian Drive. She then spoke about restaurants, stating that Urbana tends to have individually owned restaurants rather than just chains; listing a few. Mayor Prussing reported the appellate court ruled in favor of the City reference the Carle case. The next step will be the Supreme Court. She talked about the issue of the fire departments in the news and how there is a lot of cooperation among the agencies, but a glitch has occurred. So, a study will be done, and we will end up with the fire service agency responding to a call will be the fire service that is closest to that building rather than distinguishing between Champaign and Urbana. Discussion followed, and Mayor Prussing fielded questions.

Aaron Ammons provided an update on the Broadway Trail. He then talked about the gentrification of neighborhoods and encouraged homeowners to not sell their houses to Carle and the University of Illinois. Mr. Ammons then talked about the area houses that will probably end up being Habitat homes, reporting that 80% of the people getting the Habitat homes are African American and taking ownership of the homes. He also reported on the goals for minority business enterprises, saying there is some legislation to use to have a focus on that, but there are not enough ideas. Discussion followed.

Lt. Surles spoke about the shootings in Champaign Urbana in the past year, reporting there had been 127. Discussion followed. He also reminded everyone to lock their cars and houses. Lt. Surles finished by asking everyone to make other arrangements for delivered packages, if you are not going to be there to accept them. There have been several recent thefts.

Lt. Seraphin reported that the calls for service at Hamilton on the Park are down. Then public input occurred with Lt. Surles and Lt. Seraphin addressing questions and concerns. Discussion followed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Cassie Heldman