

UCAP Advisory Committee Minutes
King School Library
February 15, 2018

In Attendance:

Sam Johnson

Frankie Johnson

Corky Emberson, Park District

Bill Gray, Public Works

John Schneider, Community Development

Mayor Diane Marlin

Alderman Aaron Ammons

Lt. Jason Norton, Police Department

Lt. Jason Norton called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and introduced himself.

Mayor Marlin began by reporting on the progress of hiring a Chief Administrative Officer. She then reported the City is preparing to request for proposals for a facilities study and programming needs assessment. She also reported that the City would begin focusing on the transformation of Lincoln Square and the re-visioning of that site. Requests for proposals are going out for redevelopment of the block just north of the city building. Mayor Marlin then said she has been working with the economic development team, meeting with developers and investors as well as many others in order to start rebuilding relationships within the community, which is one of her major goals. She said there is an upcoming business and development luncheon at the Broadway Food Hall. She further reported they are in the middle of setting council priorities, with more strategic planning to follow once the CAO comes on board. Budget planning is about to start with a goal of reducing the budget by \$500,000. Mayor Marlin then fielded questions and discussion followed.

Corky Emberson of the park district started by handing out flyers about free summer events (list not finalized) and discussing the process by which these events were established. Corky answered questions and some discussion followed. He then passed out a diagram about and reported that the Bankshot and basketball court in King Park would be completed by May 26, 2018, and a kids' day is being planned to occur during Jettie Rhodes Day to introduce the remodeled courts to the youth. More discussion followed.

Aaron Ammons began by discussing the city council priorities and listing his top priorities. These include the following: citizens involved in the budget process, contracting for minorities, and working on racial disparities on traffic stops. He continued by discussing the Dr. Ellis sewer lateral issue. Aaron spoke about the five most recent police hires and fire hires, with a big push for City demographics to reflect community demographics. He mentioned street issues and the visibility issues at Race and University. Discussion followed.

Bill Gray of public works started by providing updates on current projects: M-CORE, sidewalk reconstruction on Green Street from Lincoln to Race for 2019, currently filling potholes, Springfield and Lincoln major patching and resurfacing, improved bike and pedestrian crossing at Main and Lincoln, Race and University; IDOT designing to make it safer, and finally resurfacing of Cunningham Avenue/University Avenue to I-74, which will include a shared-use path. He fielded questions, specifically one about sewer checks and back up in a specific church

in the 1400 block of West Eads Street. ***Bill Gray did pass this concern onto the engineering division as well as John Collins, Operations Manager, the next day. John Collins advised that operations would clean the line that day (February 16, 2018).***

John Schneider of community development began by discussing the Illinois American Water site and that the potential developer has applied for re-zoning for a development of townhomes. He continued by reporting the completion of the Habitat homes at 1204 and 1206 West Church and the construction of Habitat homes being underway at 1404 and 1406 West Beslin. John talked about the Annual Action Plan for use of federal funds for projects. The grants management division will be taking comments for the action plan until mid-April. He then said the neighborhood cleanup has been reduced to once a year and would be held in the spring. John continued by talking about Roanoke Concrete on North Lincoln Avenue. He then discussed the status of Aspen Court on Lierman Avenue. TWG has acquired this property and planning to do a complete remodel. He was asked about the Harlow property and reported that Rector Property Management purchased and will rehab the station, and the home was purchased by Habitat. John finished by reporting the grants management staff did a survey in the Lierman Avenue area and learned that the area qualified as a low modern income area, making it eligible to receive lighting through BLOCK grant money for infrastructure. At this time, an attendee mentioned the rough area on Romine between Bradley and Tremont. Bill Gray noted that for his department to check out.

Lt. Norton began by discussing three new hires currently in PTI. He then mentioned the home invasion on Bradley (offender arrested in Tennessee), the increase in burglaries around the city with the majority of them being in south Urbana (so far, two subjects have been arrested), and the campus shooting (three of the six offenders arrested). Lt. Norton then fielded questions/concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.