

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS:**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS:**

Workforce Network, Peoria, Illinois, January 21, 2009, a Renaissance Park Commission Meeting was held this date at 9:08 A.M., at One Technology Plaza, 211 Fulton St., Suite 300, Chair Wayne Nowlan presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present: Engdahl, Ewalt, Hoke, Nowlan, Peters, Schierbeck, Wozniak – 7; Absent: Fischer, – 1

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lynne Binkele, Maryruth Ginn, Nancy Mitchell, Fulvio Zerla

COUNCIL STAFF & OTHERS

Councilwoman Barbara Van Auken, Bobby Gray, Economic Development, Stephanie Grayson, Economic Development, Curphy Smith

MINUTES

Commissioner Hoke moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Renaissance Park Commission Meeting held on November 19, 2008; seconded by Commissioner Schierbeck.

Motion approved by viva voce vote.

I. ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Lynne Binkele stated the importance of the Columbia Terrace Project. They would like for Dave Barber and Ameren Cilco representative.

II. UPDATES**A. Marketing Committee**

Chair Nowlan stated the email with the wish list cannot be discussed due to the 48 hour notice for an open meeting. He stated to look through the list and think of ways to implement or add your thoughts on things you would like to see happen in Renaissance Park. He stated at their last marketing meeting the representatives from Walkable West Bluff was present. He stated they are looking at doing a street fair/run at a smaller scale. One of their ideas was to hold an event in the Innovation Center parking lot.

B. Homeownership Committee

No meeting held.

C. Crime and Public Safety Committee

No meeting held. Commissioner Wozniak stated now that the holidays are over, she hopes to hold a meeting within the next month.

D. Education Committee
See attached update.

III. RENAISSANCE PARK COMMISSION ROLE

Chair Nowlan stated the HOP Commission was disband recently and is discouraging. He stated there has been discussion that the Renaissance Park has achieved its purpose. He stated there are three suggestions that can be done let the Commission disband, keep moving slowly or move aggressively ahead.

Commissioner Wozniak stated there are still some goals that need to be worked on such as homeownership and the main street corridor. She stated her concern is there is little money to work with. Commissioner Hoke agreed with Commissioner Wozniak to continue the Commission. Commissioner Wozniak asked what are the city's thought.

Mr. Gray stated the Council is looking at all budgetary issues which includes of Commissions. He stated there are not requested funds for Renaissance Park and will have to work off the funding that is already there. He stated the funding for Columbia Terrace is still there.

Commissioner Peters stated he is one of the original members of the Commission and feel that it is successful but needs more support from the institutions. He stated the success for the institutions are there but feel the neighborhoods still need improvement. He suggested for crime and safety to partner with the larger institution security force. Commissioner Engdahl stated the Bradley Police Department does work with the City of Peoria Police department. Commissioner Scheirbeck stated it will be difficult to have private security get involved in public matters. He stated it could cause a lot of problems. Commissioner Wozniak agreed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Nowlan suggested that the Chair persons, councilperson and Bobby Gray meet prior to the meeting to set up the agenda. He stated this will eliminate an item being overlooked.

Commissioner Ewalt asked what the status of the Walgreens site is. Chair Nowlan stated they are having a difficult time finding tenants.

Clerks Note: Councilwoman Van Auken arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Chair Nowlan asked Councilwoman Van Auken about the Walgreens site. She stated the Walgreens project is facing some challenges. They are currently looking for tenants and will need 70% of signed agreements prior to getting the bank loan.

Chair Nowlan asked Councilwoman Van Auken if there is anything else she will like to discuss.

Councilwoman Van Auken stated the City is facing challenges with finances and are planning on ways to prevent a large deficit due to the decline in the economy. She

stated the Peoria area is not bad at this time but they want to be pro-active in ways to ease the impact.

Mr. Gray stated that the Commission and the Advisory Council need to submit a list for Dave Barber and/or Ameren to discuss at the next meeting. He stated the next meeting will be a joint meeting of the Commission and Advisory Council.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoke moved to adjourn the Regular Renaissance Park Commission Meeting; seconded by Commissioner Engdahl.

Motion approved by viva voce vote.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Golda Ewalt, Secretary
sg