

**RENAISSANCE PARK COMMISSION AND ADVISORY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS**

**: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS:**

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

Workforce Network, Peoria, Illinois, March 18, 2009, a Renaissance Park Joint Commission/ Advisory Council Meeting was held this date at 9:05 A.M., at One Technology Plaza, 211 Fulton St., Suite 300, Chair Wayne Nowlan presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following Commissioners present: Ewalt, Fischer, Nowlan, Peters, Schierbeck– 5; Absent: Engdahl, Hoke, Rusch, Wozniak– 4

**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Lynne Binkele, Maryruth Ginn, Nancy Mitchell, Lisa Slane, Daryl Somogyi; Absent: Mike Dugard, Diane Nowlan, Fulvio Zerla

**COUNCIL STAFF & OTHERS**

Councilwoman Barbara Van Auken, Bobby Gray, Economic Development, Stephanie Grayson, Economic Development, Marvin Shoop, Public Works, Scott Reeise, Public Works

**MINUTES**

**Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Renaissance Park Commission Meeting held on January 21, 2009; seconded by Commissioner Schierbeck.**

Motion approved by viva voce vote.

**Council Member Slane moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Renaissance Park Advisory Council Meeting held on November 19, 2008 and January 21, 2009; seconded by Council Member Mitchell.**

Motion approved by viva voce vote.

**I. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE ON COLUMBIA TERRACE**

Mr. Marvin Shoop, City of Peoria -Public Works, gave an update on Columbia Terrace. He stated the design is complete with bids to go out in 30 days. The project consists of 6 feet sidewalks, narrowing street by 1 foot on each side, and add ornamental lighting. He stated the standouts will be vinyl in-lay sidewalks. He passed around samples of what the inlay sidewalks will look like.

Councilwoman Van Auken asked how long the project will take from start to finish, weather permitting. Mr. Shoop stated at this time it is hard to predict depending on which contractual company is chosen. He stated it will most likely not be completed by this year. The project is estimated to cost 1.7 million in construction.

Commissioner Ewalt asked what the feedback was from the public meeting held at the school. Mr. Shoop stated the feedback was positive with support from many of the neighborhood groups. Councilwoman Van Auken stated there is only one individual with a concern due to the special assessment. She stated there is a city program to help with special assessments that is income restricted.

Council Member Slane asked do the bump outs help with parking and does it make it safer. Mr. Shoop stated there will be a problem with snow plows. He stated they are doing the bump outs for the safety of the kids. Instead of a 38 ft. crossing it will only be 26 ft.

Council Member Binkele asked will there be benches and planting. Chair Nowlan stated the neighborhood will be discussing landscaping and trash receptacle which is not included in this project cost. He stated he talked with GP Transit and they will provide 3-4 benches for bus stops along Columbia Terrace.

Commissioner Ewalt asked about the special in-lay material. Mr. Reeise stated this is the first time to use the material in this area. He does not see any problems with the use. The material is a thermo-lay that is melted into the asphalt. Chair Nowlan asked for a report back for more information on the new material to be used.

Mr. Reeise stated he has some information on the West Main Traffic Study. The study stated it may be possible to provide a three lane from Glendale to Sheridan with a turn lane in the middle. He stated this will allow for wider sidewalks or parking, but you can't do both. He stated from Sheridan to University will be similar to what it is now due to the amount of traffic. He stated everything west of University could be shortened to a two lane with no turning lane. Councilwoman Van Auken stated from Glendale to Sheridan, the City has applied for a grant to help on construction costs. Councilwoman Van Auken offered gave options for calming traffic, keeping traffic out of neighborhoods and allowing on street parking for the Main Street business.

Mr. Gray asked about the MLK project. He stated MLK Drive is the fastest way to get to Farmington Road. He stated it is not very well known to use that route to get up on the bluff. Councilwoman Van Auken stated the city has been working on a plan to widen the road but property acquisitions are a long process.

## **II.      UPDATES**

### **A.      Marketing Committee**

Chair Nowlan stated they held two meetings since last Commission meeting with the latest one being on March 16, 2009. They recapped the public review of construction drawings for the Columbia Terrace upgrade which was held at Franklin School on March 5, 2009.

They discussed Wireless Internet Services for the area. Councilwoman Van Auken stated the study test of wireless service was dismal. She stated the City has no plans to go forward with it. Chair Nowlan stated the financial responsibilities will fall on the businesses who want the service.

Chair Nowlan stated they discussed the "Buy West Bluff" Directory. He stated they will need a team of volunteers to go door-to-door to get the business' information. He stated the directory could then be put on the Renaissance Park website. Chair Nowlan stated they are working with Bradley students to survey the Bradley students, Administrators, staff and the West Bluff residents to find out what their needs or wants are for the area.

Chair Nowlan stated the Marketing Committee will start supporting the Grand Tour. He stated they are not having the tour this year.

**B.      Homeownership Committee**

Commissioner Peters stated a meeting was scheduled but did not have a quorum.

**C.      Crime and Public Safety Committee**

Council Member Slane stated they met at Saint Francis and discussed their 2009 goals. They plan on inviting the Police Chief to their next meeting for ideas on public safety. They discussed they are not trying to be police officers but find ways to deter crime. She stated some ideas were to slow down traffic, people being out and more lighting.

**D.      Education Committee**

Commissioner Fischer stated they have an Advisory Committee with 36 members and a Steering Committee. They currently are meeting 2 – 3 times a month. The Committee is on three critical areas; broadening the outreach and support of charter schools, an educational communication plan and developing the focus of the MSTA.

They recently had two bus trips. One trip was to Indianapolis to a school that focused on trade skills. The second bus trip was to a school that has the same focus as Peoria. The schools were located in Chicago with 46 member and citizens attending.

Commissioner Fischer stated they have Net Platform who will help develop and host the website.

Commissioner Fischer stated there are common threads in successful charter schools, such as strong financial bases, strong governance boards and partnerships with communities and parental involvement. The charter schools in Illinois serve 86% of students of poverty and lower income.

The Focus Group will be developing the RFP. The district will send out the RFP which will outline the expectations for finance, governance board, curriculum design and evaluation. The Focus Group will sit on the panel to evaluate all RFP's.

**III.      OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**IV.      NEW BUSINESS**

**A.      Commission summit Forum**

The commission Summit Forum will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at Glen Oak Primary School located at 809 E. Frye Ave. Chair Nowlan stated

all are invited. He stated all Commissions will participate to present to Council and Staff. Mr. Gray stated the purpose of the summit is to get all Commissions together to see if there is any commonality or duplication in service and issues.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Ewalt moved to adjourn the Joint Renaissance Park Commission and Advisory Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Binkele.**

Motion approved by viva voce vote.

The Commission and Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Golda Ewalt, Secretary  
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