

**DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**

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**: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**

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

A regular meeting of the Downtown Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, February 10, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. in the board room of the Peoria Riverfront Museum, 222 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL 61602, with Chairman Mark Misselhorn presiding and with proper notice having been given.

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call confirmed the following Commissioners physically present: Mark Misselhorn, Becky Frye, Ray Lees, Kip Strasma, Katy Shackelford, Jon Jenkins, Adam Hamilton, John Gibson (8).

Absent: Allison Daly (1).

City Council Present: Sid Ruckriegel, Tim Newlin

City Staff Present: Chris Setti, Kim Smith, Madeline Wolf, Scott Reeise

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Frye motioned for approval of the minutes of the regular Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) meeting held on December 8, 2016 as printed; seconded by Commissioner Lees. The motion was approved unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF GRACE ELISCO, BRADLEY UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIASON**

Chairman Misselhorn announced that due to Commissioner Daly's absence, Ms. Elisco would be introduced at the March Commission meeting.

Chairman Misselhorn invited Henry Vicary of Caterpillar to address the Commission. Mr. Vicary discussed the difficult announcement made by Caterpillar earlier regarding the move of their corporate headquarters to Chicago. He assured the Commission that Peoria was still the home of the company and that 12,000 employees still work in the area. He also stated that their philanthropic efforts will remain in Peoria. In response to Chairman Misselhorn, Mr. Vicary said that Caterpillar would partner with the City to determine the best use of the Chase block but that there were no specific plans at the moment. Pat Sullivan stated that while some executive jobs might be leaving, we have the opportunity to make Peoria the engineering capital of the world.

**REVIEW AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE DOWNTOWN MASTER STREETScape PLAN**

Assistant City Manager Chris Setti provided an overview of the efforts to create the Downtown Master Streetscape Plan, which was funded by Caterpillar in conjunction with their headquarters plan. He reviewed the public input efforts of the project, including joint meetings of the Downtown Advisory Commission and Transportation Commission.

Public Works Director Scott Reeise gave a high-level overview of the Plan. He stated that adopting the plan would be helpful in presenting the City's overall vision to IDOT, which controls many of the streets in downtown. He stated that the plan focusses on complete, green streets. The plan seeks to connect the Central Business District with the Warehouse District, West Bluff, Medical District and North Valley.

Mr. Reeise summarized a number of the specific suggestions within the plan, including a realignment of Glendale and Fayette; converting Fayette to a two-way street; converting Perry to two-ways; narrowing Adams and Jefferson and ultimately converting them to two-way streets; and reopening Fulton Street. He also discussed an expansion of

reverse angle parking and increasing bicycle accommodations. He shared some renderings of potential park areas that could be built in the parking lots of the Peoria Civic Center and Methodist Hospital.

In response to Commissioner Frye, Mr. Reeise stated that the City needs to budget for maintenance of its infrastructure but that Special Service Areas were one method of funding. He further stated that green infrastructure maintenance may be funded through a stormwater utility.

Chairman Misselhorn asked if this was being adopted merely as a planning document. Mr. Reeise stated that it was a vision document that would help in making spending decisions as well as helping work with other jurisdictions like IDOT.

Councilman Newlin, in reference to green infrastructure maintenance, asked whether using City staff would be more efficient. Mr. Reeise stated that a recommendation to do so was rejected by the City Council during the last budget discussion.

In response to Commissioner Shackelford, Mr. Reeise stated that the changes to Adams and Jefferson were not included in the first set of priorities because they would have impacted construction of the Caterpillar headquarters. Now that the construction will not be happening, this may be revisited.

The Commission engaged in a brief discussion of the Combined Sewer Overflow issue and how street reconstruction could help alleviate the issue.

Commissioner Shackelford asked whether the Commission was asking the City Council to accept the streetscape plan or adopt it. It was agreed that the request was for adoption.

Commissioner Strasma made a motion to recommend to the City Council that it adopt the Downtown Master Streetscape Plan; seconded by Commissioner Gibson. The motion was approved unanimously.

**UPDATE REGARDING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Michael Freilinger, CEO of the Downtown Development Corporation, announced the opening of Zion Coffee at 803 SW Adams. He also stated that a new retailer in that same building would be announced soon. He briefly discussed a task force of the Downtown Development Corporation that was investigating the creation of a Special Service Area.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Strasma announced that Sculpture Walk 2017 would launch on June 3. This year 17 sculptures would be placed on the walk.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Downtown Advisory Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 pm.

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Chris Setti, City of Peoria  
City Manager's Office