

## **RPPAC Meeting Summary**

### **Monday, May 18, 2015**

**RPPAC Members Present:** Jay Goldberg, Mike Wisdom, Robert Johnson, Pat Sullivan

**Staff Present:** Bill Roeder, Nick Conrad, Chris Setti, Leslie McKnight

**Others Present:** Mayor Jim Ardis, Peoria Park Board President Tim Cassidy

- Objective: determine the relevance of RPPAC moving forward and make a collective decision regarding the future role of RPPAC in the downtown Peoria area.
- Original purpose and mission of RPPAC
  - o Serve as advisory committee to consult the Park District's RiverFront management team on the programming of events and policies
  - o Was formed and comprised of stakeholders in the downtown area as an umbrella organization to coordinate among promoters, the Civic Center, Park District, City officials, radio stations, etc.
  - o It is Park District policy to operate as a civic entity with the input from advisory committees and community members.
- Current issues:
  - o Due to competent management of RiverFront since its creation, RPPAC has not had an active consulting/advisory role in recent years.
  - o RPPAC has also not been brought in to provide insight on development issues in the downtown area that would affect events and programming
  - o Lack of enthusiasm among committee members (last quorum: July 2014)
  - o Creation of new Commissions, Committees and Corporation in downtown
    - Downtown Advisory Commission
      - Formed at the request of City Council; solely advisory in its role; does not make policy
    - Downtown Development Corporation
      - Professional staff in place to champion development in downtown Peoria
      - Funded through investments→Board is made up of representatives from each investor
      - City is an investor in this organization
      - There is an Events and Activities Committee within the DDC
    - Peoria RiverFront Association and Warehouse District Association
      - Membership-based, business-advocacy groups
- Plan of action moving forward?
  - o RPPAC is still relevant; mission, objectives and execution need refinement and redefinition
  - o Potentially could be absorbed by another commission and act as a subcommittee.
  - o Bring in new, fresh members that have a vested interest in the RiverFront.
  - o The RiverFront needs a seat at the table and a group to advocate for its programming
    - RPPAC could act as this advocacy group to protect the RiverFront and its product
  - o RPPAC serves as a good way for overlapping entities and stakeholders to coordinate and share information.
- Next step:
  - o Reconvene: bring in other commission leaders and determine how to proceed

## RPPAC – 5/26/15 Meeting Notes & Recommendations

### Current Committee Members

Jay Goldberg  
Robert Johnson  
Steve Shostrom  
Mike Wisdom  
Susie Stockman  
Pat Sullivan  
Don Welch  
**OPEN SLOT**

### Appointed by

Peoria Park District  
Peoria Park District  
Peoria Park District  
Peoria Park District  
City of Peoria  
City of Peoria  
City of Peoria  
City of Peoria

### STAFF

Bill Roeder (Retiring 5/29/15)  
Nick Conrad  
Leslie McKnight

Peoria Park District  
Peoria Park District  
City of Peoria

The consensus of the committee is to continue forward with RPPAC and re-define & focus on its mission/purpose. RPPAC's purpose will remain centered around advising and consulting the Peoria Park District and its management of the public spaces on the RiverFront. The RPPAC Committee would also like to see more coordination between public & private events held in the RiverFront Entertainment District.

RPPAC's challenges over the past year have included limited meetings with a quorum. The RPPAC's members are recommending increasing the size of the committee to offset some of the past challenges and re-energize the group. Below are the recommendations/suggestions discussed at the meeting held on May 26, 2015 at Kellehers.

1. Fill the open slot on the committee vacated by Bobby Gray (City of Peoria appointee)
2. Increase the number of slots on the committee; 5 City of Peoria & 5 Peoria Park District or 6 City of Peoria & 6 Peoria Park District members
3. RPPAC's recommended additions to the committee:
  - a. Sharon Gramm – Peoria RiverFront Association
  - b. Caterpillar Representative that could inform RPPAC of the downtown development plans and its affect on RiverFront Programming and/or a Caterpillar Visitor's Center employee (Henry Vicary, Kathryn Spitznagle, or Autumn Wickenhauser)
  - c. Representative from the Young Professionals Organization
  - d. Adam White – Running Central/Shazam Racing
  - e. Representative from the RiverFront Museum