Mayor’s Advisory Committee for the Disabled Proceedings

: OFFICIAL MINUTES

The meeting was held on August 13, 2013, at 4:08 p.m., at City Hall Building, 419 Fulton St, Room 112, Committee Member Roger Sparks, Vice Chair presided until Joy Kneebone, Chair, arrived.

ROLL CALL
Roll call showed the following committee members present: Joy Kneebone, Greg Speck, Mike Van Cleve, Roger Sparks and Teri Miller – 5. Absent: none. Also present were Councilman Casey Johnson and Staff Liaison David Watkins, Equal Opportunity Manager.

MINUTES
Committee Member Mike Van Cleve motioned to approve the July meeting minutes; seconded by Committee Member Teri Miller.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote

COMMUNITY INPUT
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Publicity Committee
No Report

Events Committee
No Report

NEW BUSINESS
Consolidated Plan
Mike Sims from Community Development Department reported every five years the City of Peoria develops a five-year consolidated plan and an annual plan. The five-year plan looks at the needs of the community and how the City of Peoria plans to expend Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership and Emergency Solutions funds.
The annual plan covers what is going to be done annually.

Mike Sims came to the meeting to seek the committee’s input on what they saw as the needs within the community. He also wanted to know what they thought was going well and needed to be continued.

Mike Sims briefly described what each of the funding sources could be used for. He stated Community Development Block Grant funds were the most flexible they could be used for construction of public facilities, real estate construction, etc. HOME Investment Partnership funds were limited to housing activities only. Emergency Solutions funds could only be used for rapid re-housing activities.

Mike invited the members to e-mail him their ideas on how to expend the monies. He explained their comments would be added to the application.

**Disabled Parking Space Dimension Changes**

Staff Liaison David Watkins mentioned Kimberely Smith from Community Development Department was there to get the MACD’s feedback on changing the dimensions of a disabled parking space.

Staff Liaison Watkins reported the issue has come up because some developers approached the city about changing from the required 11ft by 5ft space to 8ft by 8ft space.

Committee Member Mike Van Cleve said when he did accessibility consulting in Chicago the 8ft by 8ft space was required. He supports the change because it creates less confusion when doing striping.

Committee Member Roger Sparks talked about under the 8ft by 8ft space had problems with individuals trying to park in the 8ft access isle because the driver thought it was another parking space.

As discussion continued, the members voiced their thoughts on changing. Committee Members Mike Van Cleve and Greg Speck favored changing to the 8ft by 8ft design. Committee Members Roger Sparks favored keeping everything the same.
The members also discussed contacting other agencies servicing individuals with disabilities to get their thoughts on making the change. Committee Member Teri Miller asked if the change is passed would everyone have to redo their parking lots. Kimberely Smith said no. Generally, changes are not retroactive.

The members wondered if the city was trying to fix something that was not broken. They also wanted to know when the department needed an answer. Kimberely Smith reported if the change is going to zoning commission will need to have an answer within one or two weeks.

Committee Member Roger Sparks reported the proposed change has already gone before the zoning commission. He stated the zoning commission decided to approve a text change that would match the State of Illinois. The State allows either the 11ft by 5ft or the 8ft by 8ft space to be installed.

Kimberely Smith stated if the zoning commission has already took action on the issue then her department, perhaps, is coming to this body before going to council because some additional public interest may have been raised after the meeting.

Committee Member Teri Miller mentioned if it is not broken then do not fix it.

Staff Liaison David Watkins suggested getting a copy of the zoning commission minutes dealing with this topic to each member for review. They may provide the background on why this came up for consideration. Kimberely Smith said she would send minutes to the staff liaison for distribution to the members.

**University Street Design Options**

Stephen Letsky from the Public Works Department came to update the members and get their thoughts on the three design options under consideration for University Street (Nebraska to Forrest Hill).

The three design options are as follows.
1. Five lane roadway adding 2 feet of sidewalk to Eastside and Westside of the road. Must acquire 4 feet of right-a-way Westside of road.

2. Four lane roadway. Remove center turn lane. Sidewalks added to both sides of the road. No extra right-a-way needed.

3. Three lane roadway with center turn lane. Sidewalks added to both sides of the road. No extra right-a-way needed. Bike lanes are possible with this option.

Stephen Letsky requested all comments be sent to him by September 10th. Staff Liaison David Watkins he would forward to Stephen the members e-mail address so he could send them the latest literature on the project.

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

1. 

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Member Teri Miler motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Committee Member Greg Speck.