Minutes from the RiverFront Program and Policy Advisory Committee (RPPAC) Meeting

Held Tuesday, September 26, 2017 at 11:30am
Gateway Building – 200 NE Water St., Peoria, IL

Susie Stockman called the meeting to order 11:36am.

Roll Call:

Welcomed Rachel Colgin and introduced everyone

Members Present: Robert Johnson, Jim Waller, Greg Rashid, Rachel Colgin, Sharon Gramm, Susie Stockman, Mike Wisdom

Staff Present: Nick Conrad, Leslie McKnight – City of Peoria, Brittany Moldenhauer, Chris Setti – City of Peoria

Other Present: Nick Johnson - Harbor Point Home Owner’s Association, Community Relations

Members Absent: Pat Sullivan, Matt Ryan

Welcome:

Minutes: Motion: Sharon Gramm Second: Greg Rashid

Old Business

1. Update on events June 27-September 25

Susie S.: Gave an update on Steamboat Days. New partnership with Inked Entertainment (brought Jake Owen in as entertainment on Friday night). Great weekend and great partnership.

Nick C.: General overview of the summer since June. Fortunate with good weather. All of our cultural festivals attendance up. Partnerships with concert promoters was great for increased attendance on the RiverFront.

Robert J.: Soul Fest was a success. Personal experience, saw significant increase in hotel stays at the hotel he works for. Phenomenal summer and concert series.

Jim W.: Budlight Concert Series and Tailgate N Tallboys concerts overview. Very successful summer in bringing people to Peoria. Still have the three day festival this weekend (Sept. 28-30). Hope for 10-12,000 people in attendance.

Greg R.: Fine Art Fair overview. The weather was very hot for this time of year. Gate was down, probably due to heat.
Sharon G.: RiverFront Market overview. Record number of vendors and attendance – weather was on our side. 4-5,000 people every Saturday. 80-85 vendors each Saturday.

Susie S.: Taste of Peoria overview. New layout (incorporated the field) helped with lines (positive feedback). Very well attended.

Citizen’s Address to the Board

Nick Johnson - Harbor Point Home owner’s association, community relations: Came to address some noise complaints by the homeowners of Harbor Point. Gave history of how issues with noise were handled 3 years ago between homeowners and boaters/bar area. Address noise from two perspectives: Noise levels & people’s acceptance of noise. List of lessons learned was passed out. We don’t want the concerts to go away. How do we address these issues to keep the concerts but address the noise so it’s more acceptable to everyone. Base and timeframe seem to be the major issues. (handout included)

Robert J.: Mr. Johnson came to the PPD with concerns. The Park District is trying to be mindful of the noise, has made some adjustments and is working on it.

Chris S.: Thank you for this great list. We have tried to address the noise. Some things we have talked about included ending events earlier. We will take these suggestions into consideration moving forward.

Nick C: Blues Fest had the stage the “old” direction. We are seriously looking at curfew times.

Nick J.: Our intent is not for the events to go away.

Old Business Continued:

2. Upcoming Events

Nick C: Tailgate N Tallboys festival September 28-30, Whiskey Daddle games / marathon with Matt Nathanson concert October 7-8, Bark in the Park October 15.

3. RiverFront Village Demo:

Chris S.: RiverFront demo update. Continued communication with the Peoria RiverFront Association. Demo still slated for this winter. Plan includes building in some “natural” flood defenses. IEPA needs to grant permits for these “flood defenses”. Plan is still for passive park. Communication with the Peoria Park District with bridge to bridge planning. We want to attract people year round.

Susie S.: Will it be useable by next summer?

Chris S.: Yes – That’s the plan. Phase 1 – demo of structure, grading (requires IEPA permitting), seeding, conduit for utilities, restoring parking (45 spaces) around Clock Tower and RiverStation. Liberty Park changes. Goal is to have these things done before the start of the heavy use. Promenade, sidewalks
and other additions would be in Phase 2 or as the budget allows. Everyone has to give a little to ensure the overall success of the RiverFront.

4. Public Events Spreadsheet / Master Plan

Leslie: Master planning from our planning department has been stalled until we get the logistics worked out with permits and parking for the existing businesses in that area.

Public events spreadsheet: Events we have for permits are the Tailgate N Tallboys Festival and Matt Nathanson concert. We will look for the Whiskey Daddle permit.

Mike W.: Limelight series was fantastic. Many people, different ages enjoying the RiverFront.

Jim W.: The Limelight is able to track where people are from when purchasing tickets online and it’s amazing to see all of the states people are coming from.

Discussion continued.

Sharon G. made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Susie S. seconded the motion.

Next meeting October 24, 2017 – Lunch will be ordered.