A regular meeting of the Downtown Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. 200 NE Water St, with Chairman Mark Misselhorn presiding and with proper notice having been given.

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

Roll Call confirmed the following Commissioners physically present: Mark Misselhorn, Ray Lees, John Gibson, Jon Jenkins, Kathy Shackelford, Becky Frye, and Jon Neidy

Absent: Paige Dodson, Alma Brown

City Staff Present: Dr. Leslie McKnight, Nick Stoffer, Scott Reeise, Stacy Peterson

Others Present: Grace Elisco, Bradley Student Liaison to the DAC

Chairman Misselhorn thanked the City of Peoria and Park District for hosting the Commission meeting. He also welcomed Jon Neidy, Director of the Smith Career Center. Jon shared his background and thanked the DAC for the opportunity to serve.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Gibson motioned for approval of the minutes of the regular Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) meeting held on February 8, 2018; seconded by Commissioner Lees. The motion was approved unanimously.

**UPDATED ON DOWNTOWN WAYFINDING STUDY**

Nick Stoffer, Public Works gave a presentation on the Wayfinding Study. Funds were received by the Tri-County Planning Commission to conduct a downtown wayfinding study. A dozen firms applied. Corbin Group was selected by a review committee. Nick discussed the wayfinding plan schedule and presented wayfinding systems in other cities. The City of Peoria’s wayfinding report will include proposals for sign designs, location suggestions, drawings to take the manufactures, and budget estimates. The report will also take into consideration hand helds, websites and touch kiosks. The plan should be completed by June, 2018.

**UPDATE ON RIVERFRONT VILLAGE PLATFORM DEMOLITION AND FUTURE PARK PLANNING**

Scott Reeise, Public Works stated the Riverfront Village platform demolition is three-quarters completed. The plan is to keep a row of pavement for perpendicular parking. There will also be parking at Liberty St. and the Riverstation. In regards to the Park planning efforts, there will be a series of public meetings to plan the Riverfront from the Bob Michael Bridge to the Riverplex in early May. The purpose of the park planning will be to develop flexible, active, recreational space. The City is also looking for philanthropic partners to assist in developing the space.
UPDATE ON BRADLEY UNIVERSITY DOWNTOWN RESIDENT AND EMPLOYEE SURVEY

A.J. Friedrich and Lexy Franco presented their efforts in administering a downtown employment and employee survey that was distributed through the assistance of Angie Walker, Downtown Development Authority. The goal is to gather over 300 responses. The survey asks employers and employees about the availability and the desire of present and future amenities for the downtown which include food, fitness, salons, parking, safety, events, and activities. The survey report should be completed by May 9th and will be presented to the DAC at the May 10th DAC meeting.

PRESENTATION ON SCULPTURE WALK PEORIA 2018

Jen Gordon, Arts Partners gave a brief presentation on the Sculpture Walk selections and timeline for installations for 2018. There were over 50 submissions by artists. This will be the fourth year of the Sculpture Walk. The Walk is dependent on private donations. There were 8 sculptures selected for this year’s walk. The Sculpture Walk will begin May 19th and start at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. All 8 artist will be on site to kick off the event. Ms. Gordon then showed the artists work to the DAC through a slideshow.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Misselhorn mentioned the recent Downtown Peoria Rental Market Study Press Conference. The study reinforces that there is a huge market for downtown residents. The market rates are rising which indicates that downtown is a desirable place to live. Also, there was a press conference at the Marquette St. Building. Academy of Awards moved into the building. Finally, Rumbergers restaurant recently moved into the Madison location.

Grace Elisco mentioned that she will be developing a newsletter at Bradley University entitled Beyond Bradley. The newsletter will highlight and showcase businesses, events, and activities outside of the Bradley Campus.

ADJOURNMENT

The Downtown Advisory Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:28 p.m. Motioned by Commissioner Lees; seconded by Commissioner Frye. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next meeting is May 11, 2018.

Leslie L. McKnight, PhD
Leslie L. McKnight, PhD, City of Peoria
City Manager’s Office