A regular meeting of the Downtown Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at Twin Towers HR Training Room, 456 Fulton, Room 420, with Chairman Mark Misselhorn presiding and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. Roll Call confirmed the following Commissioners:

Absent (2): Kevin Evans, Alma Brown,
City Liaison: Deborah Roethler – Assistant City Manager
Others Present: Councilwoman Moore, Angalls, Jake Hammon, Francie Hinrichsen, Philip Lockwood, Michael Freilingher
City Staff: Josh Naven, Senior Planner

Chairman Misselhorn opened the meeting at 4:10 PM.

MINUTES

Neidy motioned and Jenkins seconded to approve the minutes of the regular Downtown Advisory Commission (DAC) meeting held on June 13, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.

MEETING OPENING

Misselhorn opened the meeting by requesting a change in agenda order due to the late arrival expected for Peter Kobak. And the Agenda began with a Presentation by Jake Hammon on the Peoria Innovation Alliance.

PRESENTATION: PEORIA INNOVATION ALLIANCE

The presentation briefly introduced the Peoria Innovation Alliance (PIA) and focused on the Innovation District proposal of the group. The group is pursuing five strategic pillars: Events and Education, Seed Funding, Smart Mobility, Peoria Made and Peoria on Purpose. Each of these strategies are working together to change the narrative about Peoria.

The Innovation district is a core element that focuses that conversation and storytelling and works to create a flexible business environment to encourage innovation and experimentation. Staff member Naven reported that the PIA is currently working with the Community Development team to develop an overlay district that can quickly alter the requirements of that specific area. Chairman Misselhorn commented that the Innovation District will be an ideal place for businesses and the City to test things and enable growth.

Ray Lees shared that he wanted to follow up to better align other organizations with what PIA is working on.

MOTION: The DAC supports the Peoria Innovation Alliance and their plans for an Innovation District.
Proposed by Commissioner Neidy, seconded by Commissioner Jenkins and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED (Kobak Abstained).

WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSIONERS & COMMISSIONER CHANGE

The New commissioners, Kim McGhee and Peter Kobak introduced themselves.

Kim is currently the Health Information Supervisor at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. In this role, Kim supervises the daily clerical duties in the medical records department, handles legal release of information requests, and
maintains updates for the department as they pertain to HIPAA guidelines. Kim has been in management for five years.

Kim is a 2014 Midstate College graduate in the field of Health Information Technology. Prior to their recent closing she was actively engaged with her alma mater and was available to students who are studying for their RHIT exam. Also, she served on the Midstate College HIM Advisory Board.

Peter Kobak is a human rights activist, community advocate, and government nerd. He has worked as a community organizer for criminal justice reform, an Innovation Consultant in Peoria's City Hall, and now serves as a Recruiter for Peoria Public Schools. He earned his BA in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago and MA in Human Rights & Democratization from the European Inter-University Centre in Italy and Poland. In 2019, he ran for City Council in Peoria on a campaign of human rights, racial equity, and innovative government.

They also discussed that Commissioner Evans will be joining City Staff. As a result, he will become staff liaison for the DAC and they have a new opening to fill. Chairman Misselhorn discussed the desire for diversity and a resident of downtown. Commissioner Jenkins echoed his thoughts on a downtown resident, because that is why he joined the commission. ACM Roethler commented that Commissioner Evans had a special view on engaging and building business that might be valuable. Chairman Misselhorn advised that if anyone had someone in mind to send them to him and he would make himself available to discuss the commitment and advised that the process required signing up online at the City of Peoria website.

DEBRIEF ON POLICY SESSION
The policy session was seen as successful. Liaison Roethler discussed the next steps with Wayfinding. And the group requested a full review of the plan be presented for discussion with the Commission.

Riverfront plan status was discussed and Staff member Naven shared that it was ready for public review and they were just getting ready to post online – once some IT processing could be worked on.

Combined Sewer Overflow recommendation was widely viewed as a no-brainer for staff and the Commission further discussed the desire that City work to eliminate silos in its approach to CSO. The Staff Liaison will invite a member of Public Works to do an update after the budget is approved.

OPTIONS FOR NEXT RECOMMENDATION
The Commission then decided to use the next meeting to focus on Options and get new Commissioners information on what has happened in the last year with the recommendation process. Chairman Misselhorn then shared that the presentation in June included suggestions around:

- A vision for downtown Peoria
- The value and importance of downtown
- Downtown branding and marketing
- Downtown streetscape master
- Downtown boundary map
- Murray Baker bridge lighting – followed by a discussion and request for an update on funding once appropriate.

Councilwoman Moore commented that the new process with the DAC was a good change.

NEW BUSINESS & PUBLIC COMMENT
Michael Freilinger thanked the Commission for their support of Air Rights and shared that the proposal was positively reviewed by the Construction Commission and is going to Council.
There was an extended discussion of an opportunity for the City to partner with the Monticello Railway Museum to put the abandoned railroad turntable in Constitution Garden back into productive use. This project will be reviewed in greater detail at a public meeting in the coming weeks. Location and time will be forwarded to the Commissioners once established by the team. There was then a round of comments including supportive comments from Councilwoman Moore and public comments on the various constituents and views to consider as we prepare for the public meeting. Councilwoman Moore also commented that when speaking with museum representatives they were open to installing a plaque or other recognition for the gift from the City.

Councilwoman Moore also discussed the opportunity of the City to restructure rather than hire to make changes to our outcomes around the City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Lee made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Boyle and approved unanimously. The Downtown Advisory Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

[Signature]
Deborah Roethler, ACM, City of Peoria
City Manager’s Office