

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

URBANA PLAN COMMISSION

APPROVED

DATE: April 20, 2023

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Council Chambers, City Building, 400 South Vine Street, Urbana, Illinois

PLAN COMMISSION

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Dustin Allred, Will Andresen, Debarah McFarland, Karen Simms, Chenxi Yu

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Andrew Fell, Lew Hopkins

STAFF PRESENT: UPTV Camera Operator; Kevin Garcia, Principal Planner; Lily Wilcock, Planner II; Andrea Ruedi, Senior Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development

PUBLIC PRESENT: There was none.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Chair Allred called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken, and there was a quorum of the members present.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 23, 2023; March 9, 2023; and April 6, 2023 regular meetings were presented for approval. Ms. Yu moved to approve all three documents. Ms. Simms seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

Plan Case No. 2468-T-23 – An application by the Urbana Zoning Administrator to amend the Urbana Zoning Ordinance to allow more than one residential building on any lot zoned for multifamily use.

Chair Allred stated that this case was continued to the next regular meeting.

Plan Case No. 2469-SU-23 – An application by 1919 Architects, on behalf of the Housing Authority of Champaign County, for a special use permit to allow renovation of Steer Place apartments at 1202 East Harding Drive, a property in the Southeast Urbana Overlay District.

Chair Allred stated this case was continued to the May 18, 2023 regular meeting of the Plan Commission. Mr. Garcia, Principal Planner, explained that this case was continued to allow the Housing Authority of Champaign County time to get funding from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, which has been granted.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

6. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

9. STAFF REPORT

There was none.

10. STUDY SESSION

Examine Urbana

Chair Allred opened the study session for this item.

Andrea Ruedi, Senior Advisor for Integrated Strategy Development, and Lily Wilcock, Planner II, gave a presentation on Examine Urbana, an online version located at examine.urbanaininois.us. Ms. Wilcock began by noting how to access the website and reviewed each of the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Development and Taxes
3. Transportation
4. Arts and Culture
5. Housing
6. Energy and the Environment
7. Health and Safety [Upcoming Chapter]
8. 2005 Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Yu asked about the specific neighborhood goals and objectives in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan that were not achieved. Ms. Wilcock explained that one or two neighborhoods had big goals and objectives and other neighborhoods' items were tied to actionable goals and objectives. Oddly, she said, the goals and objectives that were more detailed were not as successful in being implemented as the goals and objectives that were general.

Chair Allred stated that this [Examine Urbana] is an amazing resource. He thanked Ms. Ruedi and Ms. Wilcock for their hard work and for the presentation.

Ms. Ruedi noted that Ms. Wilcock had done much of the work with some assistance from other staff and was using it as her capstone project for her Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree at the University of Illinois.

Ms. Simms stated that the vision of making sure it is accessible, linguistically competent, and visually appealing is evident.

Chair Allred asked where the document would live long term. Ms. Wilcock restated that it is located at examine.urbanainillinois.us. It should be available for several years. There are links also available on the City of Urbana website.

Ms. Yu suggested making a brochure/poster or a QR code would also help let people know about this and how to find it. Ms. Ruedi and Ms. Wilcock felt these were great suggestions.

Chair Allred asked if Examine Urbana was shared with different groups and with the media. Ms. Ruedi stated that they have shared it with the media, neighborhood groups, anyone that they met in the first round of community engagement, and everyone that signed up for the Imagine Urbana newsletter.

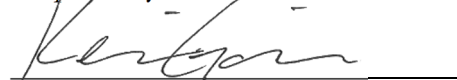
Ms. Yu added that sending multiple messages/newsletters and highlighting a section at a time will be a good way to get repeat exposure. Ms. Ruedi stated that this is similar to their presenting a different chapter at Council each week. Ms. Simms suggested giving deadlines for people to read each chapter.

Chair Allred asked what comes next. Ms. Ruedi stated that it will be an interactive exercise where one can "spend" City money on their own priorities, and then see what the tradeoffs are. Ms. Wilcock added there will be complications in the exercise showing people how some things do not get solved overnight. They plan to launch the exercise in June 2023.

11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Garcia, Secretary
Urbana Plan Commission