

Riverfront Improvement Commission
Minutes
January 25, 2022

Present (Physical): Bill Ashton, Dee Bruemmer, Bill Churchill, Randall Goblirsch, Kelli Grubbs, Tom Guy, Gwendolyn Lee; Breanna Pairrett, and Julie Tonn

Present (Virtual):

Others Present: Ald. Kyle Gripp, Council Liaison; Chris Meyer, Parks Liaison; Zach Peterson, Public Works; Dawn Carlson, Bill Schierbrock, MidAmerican Energy Company; and Steve Ahrens, Riverfront Improvement Commission

Chairwoman Grubbs called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Ahrens announced that a quorum for the meeting had been met, and instructions were provided regarding tonight's meeting protocol.

Approval of Minutes

Grubbs asked for the approval of the minutes. Ashton moved to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2021 meeting. Churchill seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Finance

Ahrens presented and provided updates regarding the month's disbursements, aged receivables report and the FY2022 Lease Report. Ashton moved to approve the disbursements. Churchill seconded the motion and it carried.

Leases

Staff presented the draft temporary license agreement with Bhavna, LLC for a COVID Testing Site in a portion of the Florian Keen Parking Lot. Following discussion, Churchill moved to approve the agreement. Bruemmer seconded the motion and it carried.

Projects

Ahrens introduced staff from MidAmerican Energy Company, which included Dawn Carlson and Bill Schierbrock, and provided a summary of the draft Electric Transmission Line Easement Agreement. Discussion included providing a more precise visual illustration of the transmission line easement and how to ensure synergy with future development in the area (i.e. Veterans Memorial Park). Staff will provide the Commission with responses at the next meeting when the item will be considered.

Following the February meeting, if supported by the Commission, the item will have a public hearing and be considered by the City Council for concurrent approval.

Zach Peterson with Public Works provided the Commission with a presentation regarding Phase II, or The Overlook at Veteran's Memorial Park. Peterson discussed the history of the park, the initial phase, as well as the highlights of the upcoming phase. Project construction will begin this spring.

Ahrens again briefly presented the draft FY2023 Riverfront Fund Operating Budget for the Commission to review, with additional discussion surrounding the draft proposal for Riverfront Refresh 2022 programming and operation funding. Following discussion, the Commission will consider the operating budget approval at the next meeting.

In presenting the proposal, Ahrens touched on the ongoing planning for the 2022 calendar of events and activities along Davenport's Riverfront.

Staff Report

Chris Meyer, Parks Liaison to the Commission, provided a report, which included an update on the Parks master planning efforts and park development funding prioritization.

Ahrens briefed the Commission on this year's Christkindlmarkt Quad Cities, which occurred at the Freight House during the weekend of December 3-5, and was a huge success. Additionally, ICEtravaganza turned out hundreds of families to enjoy twenty ice sculptures and related activities at the Freight House. In addition, Ahrens updated the Commission on the 2022 scheduled stops at River Heritage Park for the two Cruise Lines and the discussions regarding the Canadian Pacific Railroad / Kansas City Southern merger.

Other Business

With no public with business to present to the Commission, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.


Gwendolyn Lee, Secretary