

MINUTES OF THE OTTAWA PLAN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING February 7, 2022

Chairman Brent Barron called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Ottawa City Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL - Present: Barron, McConville, Stone, Hughes, Burns, Mangold, Volker (via video conference). Absent: Ruiz, Sesto. Others: City Planner Doug Carroll, Michael Hoffman and Emma Swanson of Teska and Associates.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public hearing to consider the updated Comprehensive Plan.

Barron opened the public hearing. Michael Hoffman of Teska and Associates appeared before the Plan Commission. He went over a prepared presentation (attached).

Barron noted the Plan should include the possible Peoria to Chicago, Amtrak service. Hoffman stated he would.

Hoffman continued the presentation.

Burns shared her concerns with having buildings front onto the park instead of having a public road. She is concerned with possible lack of public access. Hoffman noted he thought there is advantages to both and he has seen it work as proposed. Burns noted she thought there shouldn't be cost comparisons between the two plans. Hoffman said he understood and added it to help the Plan Commission understand the difference. Hoffman noted perhaps a better idea is to add a sentence instead. Barron agreed with Burns and stated concerns with the scale of proposed buildings. Burns referenced Debbie Reagan's letter (attached). Burns questioned using half of the Jordan Block for open space. Barron said the citizens like that area and are used to it being open.

Hoffman continued the presentation.

Emma Swanson of Teska and Associates continued with the presentation.

Hoffman presented the implementation schedule.

Stone asked if on the digital version a flyover could be added. Hoffman stated they probably could.

Hoffman presented his list of corrections from the meeting: (1.) Take Crystal Metals out. (2.) Highlight Chicago to Peoria Amtrak possibility. (3.) Note waterfront area is a brownfield site. (4.) Highlight some of the benefits of 2016 riverfront plan. (5.) Take out dollar comparison between 2016 plan and proposed plan. (6.) Highlight Millenium Park comparison. (7.) Control

access to riverfront event space. (8.) Show bridge coming over Illinois River on IL 71/I80 sketch. (9.) Modify and add pictures and video link. (10.) Correct spelling of Jordan Building. (11.) Note location of hotel along river front is flexible.

The Plan Commission members agreed they would like to see a final draft before passing it on to the City Council. Stone suggested we look at it at the February meeting.

Barron proposed we continue the public hearing and vote at the February meeting. The public hearing was continued until February 28, 2022.

Being no further business, Barron adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Carroll, AICP
Carroll Planning, LLC