

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

A regular meeting of the Downtown Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 456 Fulton Plaza, Room 420, Peoria, IL, with Commissioner Ray Lees presiding as Chairman and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Sign in confirmed the following Commissioners:

Present (4): Ray Lees, Dorsey Hill, John Drea, Beau Sutherland, Kamlesh Macwan, Lenora Fisher

Absent (2): Franklin Foulger, Kari Snyder, Kaveri Rochford

City Liaison: Uriah Kilgallin

Others Present: Shawn Johnson (City of Peoria – Program Supervisor / Forestry Public Works), Darren Graves (City of Peoria – Green Infrastructure Coordinator / Public Works), Leah Allison (City of Peoria – Assistant Director of Community Development), Kerilyn Weick (City of Peoria – Senior Urban Planner / Community Development), Gavin Hunt

MEETING OPENING

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm.

NOTE: The agenda calls for welcoming of New Commission Members, there are no new members for the commission, so this agenda item was disregarded.

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Commissioner John Drea and seconded by Commissioner Beau Sutherland to approve the September 11, 2025 & November 13, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion was approved unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Speaker Leah Allison and Speaker Kerilyn Weick shared their departments focus. Shared working on applications for zoning uses, for permitting, for historic districts, form code districts. They also developed things like the Riverfront Development Plan. The department holds a weekly One Stop Shop in person on the first Monday of the month at 1:30 PM. Each other One Stop Shop is held the remaining Mondays at 1:30 PM virtually. Many different departments attend this meeting which allows for opportunities for feedback. Community Development also does neighborhood development. Commissioner Drea inquired about if Community Development was involved with code enforcement and ensuring that properties are maintained. Speaker Weick confirmed that Community Development would be involved in that through Code Enforcement. Commissioner Lees inquired about One Stop Shop about if the staff in attendance are also the ones that make the decisions regarding approving developments. Speaker Allison confirmed. Commissioner Hill referenced the Mayor discussing the Main Street plan and Community Development's involvement. She asked if it is still a priority for the department. Speaker Allison confirmed that it is a priority but does not have a specific update on it. Commissioner Hill inquired about the Riverfront Master Plan and its' implementation and Community Development involvement. Speaker Allison confirmed it is a priority and an upcoming amphitheater development is a piece of it, however, that we are still waiting on the funding to be fulfilled.

Speaker Shawn Johnson shared responsibilities regarding forestry and ensuring the City meets standards for tree height, landscaping (such as Fulton Plaza), contracts mowers for vacant lots, contracts for medians & city lots. During snow, is responsible for supervising that the snow fighters are completing appropriate road cleaning. Also oversees the alley

lighting program. Commissioner Drea inquired if Speaker Johnson oversees the lot maintenance. Speaker Johnson stated this was a Code Enforcement responsibility. Speaker Allison interjected about their responsibility and the discussion continued around ways to ensure residents maintain their own lots and yards. Commissioner Hill inquired about dumpsters being made available for neighborhood cleanup. Speaker Allison answered that the City does have staff involved to provide cleanups for the City. Commissioner Lees inquired about the City's involvement on the Urban Forestry Board, which Speaker Johnson confirmed that he sits on the board. Commissioner Drea inquired about if the City had a list of recommended trees that were preferred for our area. Speaker Johnson affirmed that they have a recommended list. Commissioner Lees inquired asking about climate change and the changes we have seen. Speaker Johnson shared that snow events have gone down by a total of around 14". Commissioner Macwan inquired about the City's response to ice on power lines. Speaker Johnson said anything within 10 feet of the power lines is an Ameren responsibility.

Speaker Darren Graves shared his green infrastructure position for 2.5 years. Oversees green infrastructure contracts throughout the City and works with operations for maintenance programs involving stormwater pavers, pervious pavement, plant materials side, and other similar materials. Often checks areas to determine if there are any things that are happening that shouldn't be happening. Does a significant amount of landscape architecture on City properties, including City Hall and other public buildings. Guest Gavin Hunt inquired about measuring stormwater runoff and how that intersects with the green infrastructure goals. Speaker Graves shared some of the partner contractors and their involvement in ensure the objectives are met. The City measures stormwater runoff by rain gauges that are part of sewers. Since implementation of rainwater mitigation efforts through pavers, plant materials, etc, it has helped reduce the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) events. Speaker Graves gave perspective and information on the removal of historic trees from Moss Avenue. Spoke to encouraging people to plant trees on their own properties but expressed the challenge of planting trees on the right of way. Speaker Johnson referenced wildflower.org as an informational resource for planting and choosing plants appropriate for our region.

Commissioner Sutherland inquired about exciting projects that each department may have had. Speaker Allison shared that Fulton Plaza is one of the projects that she was excited about. Commissioner Sutherland inquired about the streets and when they would be completed. All information shared from Speaker Graves was based on indirect information and that the program is approaching completion. An estimation of 85% was given, but this is noted as only an estimation. Speaker Graves shared the project that he is excited about restoration of planter boxes in the Warehouse District. Total, there are 167 planter boxes downtown and he oversees the contractor that manages them. Speaker Johnson provided a handout titled "Taylor's Way" that was focusing on enhancing green spaces and improving tree canopy on Fulton Plaza and Adam to Glendale. This is a recommendation from a contractor. Commissioner Hill inquired about seating in the area and Speaker Johnson stated that the City recently installed benches. Speaker Johnson brought up the primary challenge of animal feces in the plaza. Commissioner Sutherland shared information about similar challenges for the space next to the Civic Center, which will be unavailable starting March 2nd due to it being used as a staging area for the work on the glass arcade. Commissioner Fisher asked about the timeline of providing feedback of solutions for some of these issues, which would be answered as whenever possible.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Commission Chair Recommendations as the group needs a person who will lead the meeting. No volunteers at this point in time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisher and seconded by Commissioner Drea to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The Downtown Advisory Commission Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Uriah Kilgallin, Economic Development Specialist and
Staff Liaison