

DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS

A regular meeting of the Downtown Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 456 Fulton Plaza, Room 420, Peoria, IL, with Commissioner Lenora Fisher presiding as Chairman and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Sign in confirmed the following Commissioners:

Present (7): Ray Lees, John Drea, Lenora Fisher, Dorsey Hill, Kari Snyder, Kaveri Rochford, Kamlesh Macwan

Absent (2): Franklin Foulger, Beau Sutherland

City Liaison: Debbie Van Sickle

Others Present: Shawn Johnson, Darren Graves

MEETING OPENING

Meeting called to order at 4:34 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED

A motion was made by Commissioner Drea and seconded by Commissioner Lees to approve the February 12, 2026 & March 12, 2026, meeting minutes.

GUEST SPEAKER:

None present

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion centered on Fulton Plaza and began with lighting discussions including what's important in design and function. The commission was provided with examples of 'shoebox' lights as well as pedestrian level acorn lights. Staff is going to provide an update on what is still in city inventory and the cost to purchase similar lights found in the Warehouse District.

Discussion continued with the issue of pet waste in Fulton Plaza and current methods of cleanup. The city is now paying ScoopDaddy to clean up three times a week. Police are adding a trailer to monitor with a camera those who do not clean up after their pets. Staff confirmed there is an ordinance that pets must be leashed and cleaned up after and citations can be issued. The commission discussed walking Fulton Plaza at the start of the next meeting.

City staff will provide information regarding the \$250 shoebox light, landscaping budget, and total budget for Fulton Plaza.

The Downtown Advisory Commission recommends the following enhancements for Fulton Plaza to improve its functionality, appearance, and overall user experience:

- Install adjustable lighting controls that allow brightness levels to be modified based on the time of day and seasonal needs, improving both safety and energy efficiency.
- Add decorative string lighting throughout the plaza to create a warm, inviting ambiance and enhance the pedestrian experience during evening hours.
- Ensure all lighting fixtures are consistent with the warehouse-industrial character of Fulton Plaza, using designs and finishes that complement the surrounding architecture.

- Increase signage related to pet waste cleanup, including clear reminders for visitors to pick up after their dogs. Because many plaza users do not live adjacent to Fulton Plaza, signage should be visible and informative at key access points.
- Install pet waste bag dispensers and disposal stations (“poop collectors”) at each plaza entrance to encourage responsible pet ownership and maintain cleanliness.
- Add marquee-style gateway signs at each end of Fulton Plaza to strengthen the identity of the space, improve visibility, and create a stronger sense of arrival.
- Install black trash receptacles with vertical slat detailing to provide durable waste collection while maintaining an attractive streetscape aesthetic that aligns with the plaza’s design character.

Commissioner Hill provided a summary of the downtown safety meeting that she attended with city staff. Discussion was regarding unsheltered individuals sleeping in the parking decks and ways to get them appropriate assistance, not just moving them along. Signs will be made providing guidance to visitors if they see anyone sleeping or in need of help. Additional meetings to coordinate efforts will be scheduled.

Commissioner Fisher agreed to continue to be Chairperson of the commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Liaison Van Sickle presented the most recent Downtown Update Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved unanimously.

The Downtown Advisory Commission Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Debbie Van Sickle, Economic Development Manager and
Staff Liaison