



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Hiring of Planning Director

Following the retirement of Planning Director Steve Ervin in March of this year, the City of Paducah held a nationwide search for the next planning director. At this meeting, the Paducah Board of Commissioners approved the recommendation by City Manager Jeff Pederson to hire Tammara Tracy as Planning Director for the City of Paducah. Tracy comes to Paducah from the City of Indianapolis where she has been serving in the role of Principal Planner in the Department of Metropolitan Development. Tracy began working for the City of Indianapolis in 1988. She has a long history working for Indianapolis except for a three-year period as Pike Township Administrator.

Pederson says, “She brings a lot of enthusiasm. She brings some identity to Paducah by virtue of having been a visitor on multiple occasions and a broad array of experience in areas that, I think, are going to strengthen what is already a strong team in the Planning Department.”

Tracy says, “I’m very glad about this choice I’m making to join a most creative team, a most talented team of directors and Planning staff. When I came to Paducah from Indianapolis I was struck by the forward thinking and the attitude of the people wanting to make their community better. That’s the kind of community I want to live in. That’s the kind of community I want to work in.”

Tracy officially starts her role with as Planning Director on August 17.



Grant Application for Health Park Obstacle Course

The Paducah Board of Commissioners approved a municipal order to apply for a grant through the Tennessee Titans Foundation for a PLAY 60 Challenge Course to be installed at the Health Park located in the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood at 421 North 13th Street. There is no match for this grant. The grant application is for \$62,500 and will be submitted with the George Wilson SAFETY Foundation as the co-applicant. George Wilson, a Paducah Tilghman High School graduate, currently plays football for the Tennessee Titans. The SAFETY Foundation encourages youth to exercise and make their health a priority. The Paducah Rotary Club also is a partner in this grant application since the Club plans to fund half of the estimated cost of the obstacle course and coordinate volunteers for the construction in a method similar to the successful Paducah Rotary Playground that opened in June 2016 at the Health Park. The obstacle course project is estimated to cost \$125,000. The Health Park currently offers a 1/3 mile walking trail, a fitness equipment area, the Rotary Playground, and the Community Garden. For more information about the Health Park, visit <http://paducahky.gov/fountain-avenue-health-park>.



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American Municipal Power, Inc. Scholarship Award

Harry Phillips, director of marketing/member relations with American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) made a presentation to the Paducah Board of Commissioners about the organization's Richard H. Gorsuch Scholarship Program. Each year up to four \$2500 scholarships are presented to students graduating from high school. Each student must have a parent or guardian who is an employee of AMP or one of its municipal communities. Paducah Power System is one of AMP's 135 member communities. One of the students receiving this year's scholarship is Peighton Wix, the daughter of John and Cathy Wix. John Wix works as a service technician for Paducah Power. Peighton is a graduate of McCracken County High School and plans to attend the University of Kentucky. AMP is a non-profit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 electric systems in nine states.

McCracken County Public Library Seeks Community Feedback

McCracken County Public Library Director Susan Baier informed the Paducah Board of Commissioners of the Library's effort to receive community feedback as it develops a new strategic plan. The public is invited to take an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/mymclib. The survey will be available through August 5. Each person who completes the survey will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 Books-A-Million gift card. Four winners will be chosen. The library wants to hear from current users of the facility in addition to those who have never used the library or who haven't visited in a while. The library aims to have its new strategic plan finalized and ready for implementation by early 2018. More information about the survey and the McCracken County Library can be found at www.mclib.net.

Quick Highlights

- For each of the following ordinances approved for alley closures, the Paducah Planning Commission held public hearings and made positive recommendations to the City Commission. All of the alley closures were initiated by the adjacent property owners.
 - Closure of the bricked paved portion of the alley from Kentucky Avenue to the alley that originates at Marine Way.
 - Closure of the 15-foot alley located between 2054 and 2062 Broad Street.
 - Closure of the 16-foot alley between Ohio Street to the 16.5-foot alley between South 11th Street to South 12th Street.
 - Closure of a 16-foot and a 12-foot alley between Bridge Street, Locust Drive, Maggie Street, and Irvin Cobb Drive.
- Several residents who live near the Dar Pro Ingredients plant at 1350 North 10th Street attended the Paducah Board of Commissioners meeting regarding the June 30 explosion that occurred at the plant. A boiler exploded which injured a Dar Pro employee and sent fragments of debris into the neighborhood. The residents are concerned about the facility and its future. City Manager Jeff Pederson suggested that a neighborhood meeting be coordinated to facilitate conversations among the residents, Dar Pro administration, and City leaders.
- Mayor Brandi Harless spoke about her recent visit to France for the UNESCO Creative Cities Annual Meeting. Read about her visit and the importance of Paducah's UNESCO designation as a City of Crafts & Folk Art by visiting the Mayor's blog at <http://www.brandiharless.com/blog/>.

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