



# City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at City Hall

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## **Presentation about Jeff Speck Recommendations**

Planning Director Steve Ervin presented to the Mayor and Commissioners a summary of the recommendations for Paducah by Jeff Speck, the author of Walkable City, How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at A Time. The City of Paducah contracted for Speck, an internationally-known author and city planner who advocates for smart growth and sustainable design, to visit Paducah August 6 and 7. While in Paducah, Speck toured the City, spoke at the Chamber breakfast, and made a public presentation at Maiden Alley Cinema. He met with City staff and provided a summary of recommendations on Paducah's walkability, pedestrian and street connectivity, and appearance.

Ervin began with a summary of Speck's 10 considerations for a walkable city. For a city to be walkable it should include a network of many small blocks, the proper number of driving lanes and lane width (the more lanes a street has and the wider the lanes, the faster the traffic moves), a lack of one-way streets (one-way streets also promote a faster flow of traffic), the avoidance of using turn lanes and swooping geometries, the addition of bike lanes, continuous on-street parking, shade trees, and the replacement of unwarranted traffic signals with stop signs. After reviewing Paducah's downtown area, Speck recommends the following:

- Convert Broadway and Jefferson in addition to Water Street to two-way streets and incorporate bike lanes on Broadway and Jefferson.
- Modify Jefferson by adding a signal at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, adjusting the signal at 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and adding stop signs instead of signals at 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Modify Broadway by replacing traffic signals with stop signs at 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets.
- Work with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) to restripe Kentucky Avenue as a three-lane with parking on one side.
- Work to return more trees to downtown streets to provide canopies and to beautify parking lots with landscaping and tree canopies.

Several of Speck's recommendations, including bike lanes and street and sidewalk improvements, correlate with the recommendations of the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee which was recreated in response to the National Citizen Survey conducted by Paducah in 2013. Ervin says, "These are achievable goals." The next step will be to gather more information about the process of conducting a warrant traffic analysis. City Engineer-Public Works Director Rick Murphy says that there are 11 warrants to be met for a traffic signal with four warrants necessary for a stop sign. Each intersection will need to be reviewed to make sure that it is acceptable to remove a signal and instead install stop signs. Murphy and Ervin also say that there will be a significant public education process necessary with this scale of change.

## **Contract for Master Planning and Design Services for Section of City-Owned Riverfront Land**

The Mayor and Commissioners approved an ordinance for a contract in an amount not to exceed \$34,000 with RATIO Architects, Inc. and Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc. for planning and design services for the approximately six acres of land along the riverfront located between the parking area for the new hotel and Schultz Park. This city-owned section of land is the site of the former Executive Inn. Paducah Riverfront Development Authority Executive Director Steve Doolittle says, "It's a big, expansive site with a lot of opportunity to get it right." The open area is a critical link between the hotel and convention center, the new riverfront park, Schultz Park, and the downtown area. One of the critical components of the plan will be to determine the transportation component that will link vehicles and pedestrians through the former Executive Inn property. The plan also will identify land use opportunities and their locations for the property in addition to documenting the existing utilities and their capacities and proposing interim and transitional uses for the property. At the August 27 meeting of the Paducah Riverfront Development Authority, the PRDA Board approved moving forward with RATIO's proposal with a positive recommendation for the City Commission. Doolittle says the process to create the plan should take approximately six weeks. The consultants are able to start working on the plan later this month.

## **TAP Funding Application for Greenway Trail Extension at Riverfront**



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The Mayor and Commissioners approved a municipal order to apply for the Kentucky Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. These are Federal Highway Administration funds that can be used for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The grant request will be for \$403,156 which requires a local match of \$100,789. The local match would come from the City's budget for fiscal year 2016. If awarded, the grant will be used for an extension of the Greenway Trail (called Phase V) between Madison and Jefferson Streets. At the September 2 Commission meeting, Planning Director Steve Ervin discussed using this grant to upgrade Schultz Park along the riverfront. If awarded, the grant will be used for the demolition of asphalt, erosion control, earthwork, drainage feature construction, curb and gutters, paving, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting. Enhancing Schultz Park will provide for a cohesive design with the new riverfront park under construction.

### **Greenway Trail Project Update**

City Engineer-Public Works Director Rick Murphy updated the Mayor and Commissioners on the Greenway Trail project. A 1.2 mile stretch of trail is under construction on the City's floodwall levee between the Skatepark at Noble Park and U.S. 45 behind the Smoke Shop. In July and August, crews worked to install the 52-foot long underpass at U.S. 45. Since then, crews have been working on the trail on either side of the underpass. The project is expected to be substantially complete by Friday, October 3.

### **Firefighters for Operation Warm**

Paducah Fire Captain Barry Carter made a presentation about Paducah Firefighters for Operation Warm. Operation Warm is a national program that provides American-made coats to children in need. The coats cost \$34 each which includes shipping. Firefighters with the Paducah Fire Department and IAFF Local 168 decided to participate in the program by donating funds this year to be able to purchase a coat for every first grade student at Morgan Elementary. That was their initial goal, and they met it. They now want the community's help in achieving their next goal which is to provide every first-grader in Paducah a new coat. Their ultimate goal is to be able to provide a new coat to every elementary student in Paducah. Carter says, "When a kid has a new coat, they have a lot of pride." To learn more about the program and to make a donation, visit [www.iafflocal168.org](http://www.iafflocal168.org).

### **Quick Highlights**

- Mayor Gayle Kaler presented a proclamation to Cynthia Byrd and Cheryl Bendick with the Daughters of the American Revolution proclaiming September 17-23 as Constitution Week to commemorate the 227<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the drafting of the U.S. Constitution.
- Mayor Kaler presented the Mayor's Award of Merit, the highest honor issued by the Mayor's office, to Glen Anderson. Anderson recently retired after 36 years of service to Paducah Water.
- Mayor Kaler recognized the 30 students selected to serve on the Mayor's Anti-Bullying Youth Council. The students will assist the Mayor's Anti-Bullying Task Force in designing prevention and intervention recommendations and strategies to address bullying of school-age children in our community. The Task Force received 127 student applications to serve on the council.
- Mayor Kaler recognized Sam Kern and Troop 4 for their work on Kern's Eagle Scout Project. Kern and troop members rehabilitated the Noble Park Duck House.
- Ordinance approved for a contract with Plante & Moran, PLLC in an amount of \$70,840 for consulting services to assist with the creation and evaluation of a Request for Proposals for the upgrade or replacement of the City's current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software. Examples of business management that our software currently utilizes include purchasing, code enforcement, land management, accounts receivable, payroll, building permits, and business licenses. IT Director Greg Mueller says, "ERP software touches all of our departments. It's expensive and technologically complex."
- Ordinance approved accepting the 2009 Boating Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$910,000. The local match is \$320,000. The funds will be used on the next phase of the Riverfront Project specifically for the 400-foot transient dock and its amenities for boaters including fuel and power. This action officially accepts the 2009 grant.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) to renew the local jurisdiction HVAC program agreement between the City of Paducah and the State Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction. This is a contract that is up for renewal every three years.



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- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) for change order #4 with Bluegrass Uniforms for the Paducah Fire Department. This change order adds items that were not previously incorporated into the contract or have been changed due to product discontinuations.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) for a contract between the City of Paducah and the Paducah Transit Authority with the City providing \$215,000 for this fiscal year.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) for a contract between the City of Paducah and the Paducah Junior College, Inc. with the City providing \$125,000 for this fiscal year for the Community Scholarship Program. The program guarantees any Paducah or McCracken County student a scholarship for up to 60 hours of college credit at West Kentucky Community & Technical College provided that they enroll in the program in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and meet a set of behavior and academic standards.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) for a contract between the City of Paducah and Barkley Regional Airport with the City providing \$136,430 for this fiscal year to assist with general aviation and air carrier services.
- Ordinance introduced (vote Sept. 23) to amend Section 2-442 of the Paducah Code of Ordinances governing the Paducah-McCracken County Riverport Authority stating that all members shall reside within McCracken County. The amendment would be to delete the McCracken County residency requirement.
- Paducah Riverfront Development Authority Executive Director Steve Doolittle says the design plans are about 50% complete for the new hotel adjacent to the Convention Center. The developers have completed negotiations with the Convention Center Corporation (CCC) for the operation of the Convention Center. The CCC still needs to approve the operation plan. The developers also expect to close on their loan in the next six or seven weeks. Doolittle says the design is underway for the renovation of the former Showroom at the back of the Julian Carroll Convention Center.

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