

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
APRIL 9, 2014
2:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT	Timothy Riggerbach Andrew Rand Mary Ardapple	Michael Phelan Ryan Spain W. Eric Turner
MEMBERS ABSENT	None	
OTHERS PRESENT	Amy McClaren, County Engineer Audrey Wise, WEEK News Beth Akeson, City Council Carol Trumpe, County Board Chris Setti, Assistant City Manager Denise Moore, City Council Elizabeth Gannon, City Election Commission Jim Montelongo, City Council Jo Ann Thomas, City Election Commission Kate Green, Assistant to the City Manager Lori Curtis Luther, County Administrator	Lyn Schmidt, County Clerk's Office Mark Rothert, Assistant County Administrator Mike Deluhery, County Clerk's Office Mike Rogers, City Public Works Director Patrick Urich, City Manager Scott Reeise, City Engineer Scott Sorrel, Assistant County Administrator Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk Tom Bride, City Election Commission Executive Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Riggerbach at 2:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2014, meeting was made by Member Ardapple; seconded by Member Turner. The motion was approved unanimously by viva voce vote.

DISCUSSION

Peoria County Economic Development Strategy

Mr. Rothert provided an outline of the County's adopted five-year economic development strategic plan. He noted that following the creation of the five-year plan by Focus Forward Central Illinois (FFCI), each member county was charged with creating one as well. He said that the County's plan took a year and a half to create through a process that included a wide array of stakeholders.

Mr. Rothert discussed the four main goals within the plan which included:

- Act Regionally, Intra-County, and Intergovernmentally;
- Expand Economic Performance;

- Improve Human Capital and Workforce; and
- Value and Enhance the Quality of Life.

He noted that the vision and strategy included a timeline to hold the County accountable. He also mentioned that the plan is a living document that will be revisited with adjustments over time.

Member Spain commented that cities such as Rockford, Illinois, work toward wellness initiatives as a cooperative effort between the City and County, which could be considered a quality of life factor. He said that local government can champion healthy lifestyles and an overall healthy community. He suggested that the concept be explored further with a review of best practices from other communities.

Member Ardapple pointed out that the strategy which outlines the County's approach to fighting poverty is indicative of its intent to make this issue a high priority. She said that a collaborative effort will be undertaken to effect change in the zip codes that need it.

Cooperation concerning Country Life Festival

City Councilman Montelongo inquired about the joint efforts to adequately plan and prepare for the concert that is to be held at the Ravina on the Lakes on July 18-20, 2014. Ms. Curtis Luther went into detail about the event. She said that it crossed many jurisdictions, and that those entities had not been involved in any level of preparation until recently. She said that the first coordination meeting took place on April 7, 2014. She continued to say that the majority of the key issues had not yet been addressed including traffic and parking plans.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that this event highlighted the need for an overarching resolution for large scale events that involve multiple entities. She said that her intention was to bring together all concerns across all departments, and summarize the information in one work plan. She noted that communication with residents needs to be planned and executed. She also mentioned the necessity for plans should extreme weather occur including heat.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that an agreement or contract needs to be signed by the promoter and the governing bodies involved with the concert. She voiced concern about financial issues including policing and permitting. She commented that a previous jurisdiction for which she had worked included a clause in contracts regarding repayment even in the case of under attendance or lack of profit from the event.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that given the circumstances, the different jurisdictions involved are working to the best of their abilities to plan for the event. She said that as much detail as possible was to be put in writing. She also stated the need for clear expectations on behalf of the promoter. Mr. Urich said that the promoter requested a template used for agreements for other large scale events. He said that the agreement used for the 4th of July event would be provided. He noted that the promoter was supposed to provide a written document by the middle of May, which was to be

finalized by June 1, 2014. Ms. Curtis Luther also explained that the event is not just limited to one site, as the promoter is also renting other land for RV parking. She said that the concert is going to be complex and disruptive, but a coordinated effort is now coming together to address the issues.

Chairman Riggensbach asked who the promoter was for the event, which was Brad Maloney of Blu Entertainment Group. In response to a question about attendance, Ms. Curtis Luther said that the promoter informed the group at the coordination meeting that 6,000 to 8,000 were expected, but 10,000 was being advertised. Member Spain asked how the City's noise ordinance was enforced when the noise was generated outside of the City's jurisdiction. The answer was not clear to the Committee.

Progress on County-City Road Transfer Agreement

Mr. Sorrel reviewed with the Committee that both the City and County agree that the existing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the two entities was outdated and needed to be addressed in order to promote future progress. He then covered the County's sources of funding for road improvements. These funds were mostly comprised of property tax supported funds including the Highway Fund, County Bridge Fund and Federal Aid Matching Tax Fund. The remaining source of funding that is not property tax based is County Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), but these funds are restricted to IDOT standards for projects. Mr. Sorrel commented on the declining levels of MFT funding.

Mr. Rogers covered the City's operating expenses and funding sources. The funding sources included unrestricted capital, local MFT, state MFT, reimbursements and grants, sewer funds and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District funds. He noted the downward trend in grant funds over the past couple years.

Mr. Sorrel discussed the four main concerns about a new IGA between the City and County. The first was that there should not be a standard cross section, but the County Highways within the corporate limits of the City should be classified as arterial streets. Second, the ideal pavement cross section for an arterial street is 12 inches of aggregate base course and 10 inches of asphalt. Third, this pavement cross section is ideal, but each County Highway is unique and should be approached as such. Lastly, walkability is an important factor when determining improvements to a County Highway within the City.

Mr. Sorrel continued to discuss the financial concerns surrounding jurisdictional transfers. He said that all associated project costs would continue to be split 50/50 between the City and County unless there was a mutual agreement for another arrangement. He commented that the County is more oriented toward bridges whereas the City is more concerned with roads. He said that the County is willing to trade the replacement of bridges in exchange for center lane miles with the City on a negotiated basis. He also discussed a focus on alternate funding sources including grant dollars.

Mr. Sorrel talked about the concept of an infrastructure bank to which both the City and County would contribute funds. The conditions of the bank would be included in the new road transfer agreement and would include:

- A determined annual investment amount;
- The condition that both governments are unrestricted in the source of funds used;
- A separate accounting method for County (MFT) dollars that would need to be used in accordance with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requirements;
- All other funds shall have no restricted use;
- Withdrawals from the bank may be pay-as-you-go or in the form of debt financing;
- Withdrawals are strictly limited to improvements to County highways within City limits that are intended for jurisdictional transfer, unless mutually agreed upon by the two parties; and
- Both the City and County would act as custodian of its respective contributions to the bank.

Mr. Sorrel covered a number of potential quick wins that were identified including:

- County payment of amount owed to the City for the Growth Cell 1A project;
- Design and improvement of the intersection of Allen and Willow Knolls Road;
- Mill and overlay of Willow Knolls Road; and
- Design and installation of sidewalks on Gale Avenue.

Mr. Sorrel noted that each project would be led by one governing body. Ms. Curtis Luther commented that the current IGA was freezing improvements. She said a new agreement that maximized flexibility but also provided each party with authority in decision making would be ideal. Chairman Riggerbach stated that Mr. Rogers had already developed a reputation for public engagement which had been well received, and that should continue with these joint efforts for improvements.

Member Rand asked if the definition of a cross section would be different in a new agreement than what was in the old IGA. Mr. Sorrel said that the terms are similar but the new definition would consider extraneous items outside of road pavement, and that it would not lock the governing bodies into one design standard.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that the identification of funding sources was the next hurdle, and that neither entity could rely on future MFT funds. Member Spain commented that the infrastructure bank was inventive. He asked if parity would be expected in terms of contributions from each entity. Mr. Sorrel said that the overall expectation was for equivalent contributions, but it may fluctuate depending on funding sources year-over-year. Member Spain also noted that the quick wins were a good idea. The Committee discussed what means it would take to achieve these. Member Rand suggested working with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to identify and leverage dollars for projects.

Member Spain asked if the new IGA would need to come before the quick wins. Mr. Sorrel said that the City and County could work down parallel paths until such time as the new IGA was approved. Member Spain asked if the City and County could bring back a proposed IGA to replace the old one. He said that the Committee could then endorse it and Members could then take the IGA back to their respective bodies. Chairman Riggerbach agreed to place the new proposed IGA on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Update on Legislative Agenda

Mr. Urich provided an update on the City-County legislative agenda. He said that the legislation proposing to allow the City to declare land without a structure abandoned was opposed by the Illinois Association of Realtors (IAR), which prevented its progress. He said that City Staff had worked to make changes to the legislation to make it more palatable for IAR, but it may require media attention in order to advance. He said that the legislation to get the garbage bill on the property tax bill had been introduced, and that the City continued to work with Representative Leitch to amend the proposed language so that it aligned with the City's original intent. In terms of walkable urban areas, Mr. Urich said that language had not been introduced, but discussions were taking place with local IDOT officials. Finally, for the speeding enforcement cameras, he noted that the City supported a bill introduced by Representative Hoffman of Belleville, but it was not likely to get out of the Rules Committee.

Ms. Curtis Luther said that the timing of the County's lobbyist contract interfered with progress on the County's agenda items. She said that the professional services bidding took place after the deadline to present new legislation, so there were no bills for County specific items. She noted that the County is working with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DECO) to find an avenue to reinstate the appropriated funds for the Museum project.

Member Ardapple thanked Mr. Urich and Ms. Curtis Luther for the update. She requested that the legislative agenda continue to be a working document with updates so that local elected officials could use these talking points when speaking to legislators.

County Clerk Sonnemaker and Mr. Bride discussed the proposition of joining the County and City Election Commissions with the Committee. They discussed the efforts between the two bodies to work closely together including joint purchasing and voter registration. Mr. Bride commented that cooperation between the two entities had improved drastically since 2007. He commented that the City and County share information and participate in joint promotional activities.

Clerk Sonnemaker stated that additional costs may be incurred from a consolidated commission due to the need for additional space. He noted the peak and slow times of the election cycle worked well in his office as Staff adapted their work to the schedule. Mr. Bride said that the City Election Commission is not taking an official stance on consolidation. He said that the value consolidation held to voters was the elimination of confusion between the two Commissions. He said that the only real avenue for savings

would be a small amount in terms of staffing levels, but not a dramatic overall reduction. He also noted that Illinois has one of the most expensive election systems due to the full range of election options that the Commissions must provide.

Member Rand commented that the legislation for consolidation was inadequate because it did not address the funding issue of basing election costs on Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), which had no correlation with the cost of conducting elections. Chairman Riggerbach asked if the item should be removed from the agenda. Member Rand said that he would connect with Senator Koehler to see if any additional information was available on a trailer bill to address the funding issue. He said he would report back the information at the next Committee meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

City-County Road Transfer Agreement Revisions, May 2014

Discussion of Revised IGA regarding Springdale Cemetery, May 2014

Report on Regional Food Summit, May 2014

Sustainability Planning Contract, May 2014

Update on Election Commission Trailer Bill, May 2014

Update on Sustainability Planning Contract, May 2014

Joint Legislative Agenda Update, Monthly

Stormwater Management Update, Following Receipt of Final Report from TCRPC

MISCELLANEOUS

Member Ardapple spoke briefly about the success of the first Greater Peoria Regional Food Summit, and said that she would provide a more thorough update at the next Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Riggerbach at 4:11 PM.