

MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
February 11, 2015
2:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT	Michael Phelan Mary Ardapple Ryan Spain	Timothy Riggerbach W. Eric Turner
MEMBERS ABSENT	Andrew Rand	
OTHERS PRESENT	Becca Cottrell, Peoria County Sustainability & Resource Conservation Brad Harding, County Board Member Carol Trumpe, County Board Member Chris Setti, Assistant City Manager Denise Moore, Peoria City Council/MBE Committee Jason Meeks, City of Peoria Joyce Blumenshine, Heart of IL Sierra Club Joyce Harant, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste	Karen Raithel, Sustainability & Resource Conservation Lori Curtis Luther, County Administrator Mark Rothert, Assistant County Administrator Mark Little, Peoria County CIO Pat Lewis, Citizen Sam Rivera, City of Peoria CIO Scott Sorrel, Assistant County Administrator William Atkins, State's Attorney's Office

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Phelan at 2:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014, meeting was made by Mr. Turner; seconded by Mr. Riggerbach. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Pat Lewis addressed the committee regarding the role of the City and County in Springdale Cemetery.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Health & Sustainability Initiatives

- Seeds 2 Success 2015 - Update

Ms. Cottrell advised that the summit scheduled for March has been postponed to late 2015/early 2016. She stated that although there has been good community support, there were no assurances that the event could be adequately funded. She advised that

it was the recommendation of the planning committee that a food policy council could be beneficial in navigating future planning for the summit, as well as the overall success of Peoria area food systems. A food policy council would consist, in part, of representatives from city/county government, local partners from the U of I Extension, Farm Bureau, and grocers. She stated that establishing a regional or local food policy council would assist in setting priorities on food system planning and ensuring residents have access to nutritious, fresh food. She advised that although the registration site has been closed, the Seeds 2 Success Facebook page remains active. Ms. Ardapple stated that the initiatives that Peoria County has championed have resulted in community traction for individuals that want to see expansion in food based economy. She encouraged the committee to take action on the development of a food policy council, which would incorporate not only ongoing initiatives but economic development from a food based concept.

- City Sustainability Plan - Update

Ms. Cottrell distributed the final draft of the City Sustainability Plan. She stated that the Plan focuses on five elements: Facilities, Operations, Purchasing, Employees and Solid Waste, with actions and goals and action items identified for each area.

- Resource Management Plan - Update

Ms. Raithel stated that public meetings were held in January, with approximately a dozen written comments. The Advisory Committee meets tomorrow to discuss final revisions before submission to the Health, Public Safety and Justice Committee later this month.

Department Coordination

- Economic Development Coordination - Update

Mr. Sorrel noted that the County will be engaging the same consulting firm that the City utilized for pavement inventory, in order to perform an economic model closely aligned with that process. He stated that the County currently contracts with Bradley University in terms of pavement inventory for the County road network; however, it lacks a financial component. He advised that portion will be underway shortly, with a report to the County Board so financial planning can begin for the improvement of County highways as it relates to highways within the City limits.

Mr. Setti advised that he meets monthly with Mr. Rothert to discuss ways in which the City and County can best work together on economic development.

Mr. Rothert advised that the State is currently reviewing Enterprise Zone applications. He said that 67 total applications were submitted, with 47 to be awarded. Mr. Setti stated that final decisions on Enterprise Zone designations will be made in June/July, and when those are determined, the City and County will begin the process of jointly managing those Zones, if so awarded. Mr. Rothert also advised that a Promise Zone

application, which provides preference points when applying for Federal grants, has been applied for jointly with the City.

Ms. Ardapple lauded the strengthened approach to economic development between the City and County. She noted that there was much asset inventory done as part of the FFCI initiative, and with the transition from FFCI to the EDC, asked if efforts will be focused on specific development areas based on that research, or if there will be more of an "open door" policy. Mr. Setti stated that the FFCI plan provides a good framework for the future. He stated that the development of a joint Incentive Policy that incentivizes job creation is a topic of interest for both entities, and that a good policy would clarify and ensure qualification parameters, but also provide some flexibility. Mr. Rothert stated that one of the goals of the EDC is regional marketing, and are marketing the region to firms and outside groups to encourage local investment. He advised that the investment of the City and County in that organization is assisting in that external communication and outreach.

Mr. Phelan asked if incentives for job creation in heritage neighborhoods would include incentivizing individuals to not only work in those neighborhoods but live there as well. Mr. Setti stated that while the Incentive Policy under discussion is more about job space, it is also incumbent to determine how best to draw people to properties throughout the city, particularly the heritage neighborhoods. He stated that this is a cross departmental issue that goes from policing and code enforcement to economic and community development. Mr. Phelan asked if a plan will be developed that would include being prepared for the construction of Caterpillar World Headquarters and the influx of individuals moving back to the area as a result; that would appeal to potential employees to live in Peoria City/County vs. other areas of the region. Mr. Setti advised that the general strategy of the City is to create an interest in both urban living and single-family home neighborhoods.

Mr. Rothert updated the committee on the progress of the Minority Contractor Development Initiative, a program which allows minority contractors access to training and consultation, and to become bonded. He stated that a large spectrum of minority and women owned construction business owners have been actively engaged with consultants from the Cayemitte Group, with approximately 20 enrolled in a bond readiness program and another 20 enrolled in a general business assistance program. The end goal of the program is an increase in the number of minority and women owned contractors available for major projects. Mr. Spain asked if there is a funding source behind the program in order for it to remain sustainable. Mr. Rothert stated that Peoria County has funded the first year of the program. A funding strategy for long term sustainability is currently being explored, which would entail working with local partners such as the City, local governments, prime contractors and building trades to assure future funding. Mr. Ryan also suggested contacting area large employers.

- Information Technology - Data Storage and Disaster Services

Mr. Little updated the committee on collaborative IT projects between the City and County in the past year. He advised that the fiber connectivity between City and County was activated February 2014, and is being utilized to share applications between the two entities, such as Odyssey, GIS services and the Records system. The connection speed was also upgraded, and hardware upgrades were done. On November 25th, Peoria County moved its disc-to-disc back-up system to the City data center. He stated that City and County IT staff, along with Peoria County Planning & Zoning staff, have begun discussions on a potential 2016 project to implement a shared and standardized community development software system. Ms. Curtis Luther noted that this collaborative project will maximize efficiencies between the two governmental entities and provide a cost savings to taxpayers.

Springdale Cemetery

Mr. Sorrel advised that he, the Mayor, City Manager, and County Board Chairman met yesterday to discuss options for Springdale Cemetery. He stated that there was no consensus reached, with participants desiring further review before going back to their respective bodies with any final solutions. He stressed that that Mayor and County Board Chairman continue to have active discussion regarding solutions.

Work Plan Update

Ms. Curtis Luther directed committee members to the update included in the packet, and asked that any requests for revised timelines or suggested improvements be brought to Staff's attention.

Ms. Ardapple asked that the section on Health and Sustainability Initiatives be retooled, as the Seeds2Success conference has been postponed. She noted that she will seek clarification as to where a conversation around a food policy council would transpire.

Mr. Spain advised that in the Governors State of the State Address, it was noted that Illinois has more units of government than any other state in the country. He stated that the Governor is seeking to develop programs or incentives to assist in efforts to reduce governmental units, either by consolidation of taxing districts or enhancing coordination and cooperation efforts, which is a task already being undertaken by the City and County of Peoria. He stated that although it will be up to Staff as to whether the topic would be a part of the work plan, he lauded the work that this committee has championed and noted that efforts should be highlighted by the Governor.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Moore advised that she addressed the City Council at their meeting last night on the work the MBE Committee has done in developing the Minority Contractor Initiative as a way to generate more minority contractors. She lauded the work initiated by Peoria County, and said that the City should be able to assist and become a partner in the

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initiative. She stated that the topic will be placed on a future City Council agenda. Mr. Setti advised that the City Manager suggested that this committee may also be a forum for a discussion at a policy-maker level. He noted that while Peoria County has focused on developing contractors, the City is working on developing employees by working with the NAACP and the West Central Building Trades on placing more minorities into the union trades. He stated that these activities would inform a City Council agenda item as to ways in which the City and County can coordinate and assist each other with goals and objectives.

Ms. Trumpe noted that veterans have not been included in recent discussion of minority initiatives, although that group was included in initial discussions. Mr. Rothert advised that minority veterans are included, and noted that he believes there are veterans currently participating in the program.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Phelan at 3:25 PM.