

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
November 12, 2014
2:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT	Michael Phelan Mary Ardapple	Andrew Rand Timothy Riggerbach
MEMBERS ABSENT	Ryan Spain W. Eric Turner	
OTHERS PRESENT	Amy Benecke McLaren, County Highway Engineer Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women Voters Carol Trumpe, County Board Member Chris Setti, Assistant City Manager Don Shafer, Chamber of Commerce Jeff Griffin, Chamber of Commerce Joyce Harant, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste	Karen Raithel, Recycling & Resource Conservation Kate Van Beek, Assistant County Administrator Lori Curtis Luther, County Administrator Mark Rothert, Assistant County Administrator Patrick Urich, City Manager Rebecca Cottrell, Recycling & Resource Conservation Tracy Fox, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014, meeting was made by Mr. Rand; seconded by Ms. Ardapple. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

City/County Legislative Issues

- Legislative Program for the 99th General Assembly

Ms. Curtis Luther reminded the committee that the last legislative breakfast was held in January at the legislator's request. She recommended moving forward with the anticipation of a January breakfast this year as well, if agreeable with City and County representatives.

Ms. Curtis Luther opened the conversation to committee members regarding any recommended/requested joint legislative issues to bring forward to the legislative program. It was suggested by Mr. Setti that all legislative issues brought forward in January 2014, with the exception of the Election Commission, remain on the proposal.

He particularly noted a request made last year for direct sponsorship of bills, including a joint initiative regarding vacant land abandonment. He also noted several City and County requests, including adding non-ad valorem items to property tax bills, more walkable urban areas, speed enforcement cameras, and addition of a DCEO grant for the museum.

Mr. Rand asked if the change in the Governor's office would impact how the legislative proposals are pursued or phrased. Mr. Setti stated that the larger issue would be a calendar issue, although he does not anticipate a big difference in the calendar. Mr. Phelan stated that the position of the Governor-elect on issues is unknown at this point. Mr. Urich stated that if the Governor-elect is intent on moving forward with discussion on service tax, this is a topic that should be considered by all parties for further conversation. Ms. Curtis Luther advised that Taylor Anderson will be attending a meeting of the Finance & Legislative Committee to provide a report and update.

Health & Sustainability Initiatives

Ms. Cottrell noted that she and Ms. Raithel have met with City staff numerous times over the past year to work on the Sustainability Plan for internal operations at the City, and anticipate bringing forward a draft to this committee in December.

- **Seeds 2 Success 2015 - Update**

Ms. Cottrell advised that planning continues for the March 6-7, 2015 Seeds 2 Success conference. Senator Koehler has agreed to serve as Honorary Chairperson. The expanded 2015 conference will allow participants to better establish connections and discover Peoria area establishments. The *Farm to Market*, *Farm to School* and *Farm to Veterans* tracks will be covered through plenary sessions, films and networking opportunities. The organizing committee consists of representation from the County, Richwoods Township, Hanna City, U of I Extension, Spoon River College, Peoria International Airport and The Land Connection.

- **Resource Management Plan - Update**

Ms. Raithel distributed a calendar relating to the progress of the Plan. She noted that the Advisory Committee will be meeting in early December, with public meetings and public comments process beginning in January. The Advisory Committee will reconvene in February to review public comments, with submission of a final Plan to the Health, Environmental and Welfare Issues Committee anticipated in February.

Mr. Urich stated that although the City has no major issues with the Plan, there are several items that are currently unknown in terms of timing in relation to waste hauling and collection contract expiration and how that ties into the opening of Landfill #3.

Ms. Ardapple noted that food waste diversion from the Landfill is an impactful area that should be closely monitored and encouraged. She also suggested consideration of the Health Department having oversight of the food diversion component. Mr. Urich stated that ASCFME would need to be consulted before moving forward on that initiative. Ms. Curtis Luther stated that partnering with multiple agencies is a positive in a general sense, in order to have a stronger and multi-tiered approach.

- *Green Office Challenge - Update*

Ms. Raithel advised that ten attendees participated in the kick-off for the Green Office Challenge. She stated that the six-month Challenge is being held in partnership with the Illinois Sustainable Technical Center, U of I Extension and several other agencies. She noted that participants may choose from activities including reduction of energy, purchasing, waste, and/or transportation, water management and outreach. Additional information regarding the Challenge may be found on the Green Office Challenge website illinoisGOC.com.

Department Coordination - Economic Development

- *Enterprise Zone Application Status*

Mr. Rothert noted that the County is partnering with the City of Peoria, Peoria Heights and West Peoria for an Enterprise Zone application to the State of Illinois at the end of this year. Staff has been in the process of determining what properties should be included in the proposed zone, how much square mileage each community would be designated, and local incentives, as well as discussion on prevailing wage. He stated that the prevailing wage issue is the only remaining outstanding issue of agreement, and stated that the City has indicated a willingness to set the prevailing wage threshold at \$50,000.00, with the Executive Committee of Peoria County preferring a threshold of \$100,000.00. He stated that the adoption of the Designating Ordinances and Intergovernmental Agreements are slated for approval at the November County Board meeting, and Ms. Curtis Luther stressed that the City and County must reach an agreement on the threshold in order to have a joint application. Ms. Ardapple stated that the lower threshold is prohibitive to smaller businesses, and requested additional information regarding prevailing wages and trades from Mr. Rothert.

Mr. Rothert stated that the primary local incentives of an Enterprise Zone are the sales tax exemption and property tax abatements. Ms. Curtis Luther noted that from a County perspective, a joint application is valuable due to the ability to abate property taxes by all consenting taxing entities.

- *Promise Zone Application Status*

Mr. Rothert explained that Promise Zones were created to focus on the issue of poverty issues in urban areas. The first round of Promise Zone designations has already taken place, and the Federal Government has issued a second round of applications, which are

due November 21, 2014. He stated that although a Promise Zone is not a grant, the designation does provide preferential scoring when applying for Federal grants, and there are multiple agencies at the Federal level partnering together to provide such preferential "points". To qualify for a designation, an area must have over 33% poverty, and the census tracts within Peoria County which qualify for a Promise Zone includes the South Side, East Bluff and along the riverfront. He also stated that the area must partner with a local government, and City of Peoria stakeholders have indicated interest in applying for the designation. Ms. Curtis Luther although it is unusual for a first-round application to be selected, continued collaborative efforts with engaged partners on addressing issues will enable additional preparation for next-round applications.

- NACo Economic Development Summit

Mr. Rothert stated that NACo is sponsoring funding to local governments/counties interested in staging a summit. He advised that Staff has applied for funding for a local food summit, which has been planned for early next year. He stated that an announcement on funding will be made in mid-November.

- Buy Local Campaign

Mr. Rothert advised that collateral material has been distributed over the last two months regarding shopping local, including e-newsletter, County Courier, Facebook, Twitter, email blasts, newspaper articles, an article in InterBusiness Issues, and press releases. He noted that several other options such as posters and updates to the Metro Peoria website are being considered. He also commented on an event being held in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, whereby residents shopping within Peoria County may enter a contest for daily prizes by showing initiative in shopping within the County. Mr. Rothert commented that efforts will continue on social media after Small Business Saturday. Ms. Ardapple suggested creating non-date specific bag stuffers for utilization throughout the year, possibly as quarterly blasts.

Mr. Rothert advised that Staff will work in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in empirically tracking increases in local shopping.

MISCELLANEOUS

Election Commission

Ms. Curtis Luther advised that a draft Intergovernmental Agreement will potentially be brought forward at the November meeting of the Ways and Means Committee; however, Staff is awaiting final feedback from the Chief Judge and the Election Commission. She noted that prior conversations indicated that statute was vague in regard to transition, and the Agreement is a means to clarify the transition timeline on an operational level. She advised that both entities have agreed that a transition after the April election is logically feasible. She stated that other issues such as fiscal agent status, the integration of the election commission into County structure and the physical

housing of the Commission have not been fully addressed; however, the resolution of timing issues is imperative so that significant operational portions may move forward.

WORK PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Urich noted that Staff is working on bringing forward a Large Event Gathering Ordinance, and a Shared Data Storage & Disaster Services Agreement for IT Services is anticipated to come to Committee in December. Outstanding issues include the Springdale Cemetery Agreement, and a City/County Highway Agreement.

Mr. Rand noted a recent analysis of the road system in the City of Peoria, conducted by the City of Peoria, and suggested that the County dovetail off the City's project to obtain a Countywide assessment of road conditions, and exploring alternatives to raising taxes as a means of resolving those issues. He stated that a comprehensive study of the infrastructure as a whole would enable more clarity in communications with constituents regarding funding options. Mr. Riggerbach stated that the analysis, performed by a professional, unbiased source has been a first step in determining road condition and prioritization. Mr. Phelan noted that highway and road funding continues to be a challenge under current funding methodology, and suggested continuing to lobby Federal representatives to address the issue.

Mr. Urich commented that the study included an analysis of arterial and non-arterial streets, and included a pavement condition index of all streets including County streets within the City. He stated that a graph of arterial and non-arterial streets has been created, with various levels of targets and necessary funding set. Mr. Setti noted that the November 11th presentation of the analysis is available for viewing in the City Council archive located at peoriacitycouncilmeetings.com. Mr. Urich added that he will forward a copy of the analysis to Committee members.

Ms. Ardapple requested that Committee be provided updates on work that Ross Black is performing on changes in urban agriculture.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Phelan at 3:33 PM.