

**APPROVED 11/14/12**

**MINUTES  
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
October 10, 2012  
2:30 P.M.**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mary Ardapple, Chairperson; Michael Phelan, Ryan Spain, Andrew Rand, Timothy Riggerbach
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	W. Eric Turner
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Lori Curtis Luther - County Administrator; Scott Sorrel, Kate Van Beek - Assistant Co. Administrators; Patrick Urich - Peoria City Manager; William Atkins - State's Attorney's Office; Carol Trumpe - County Board Member; Jenny Fulton - Dir. of Strategic Communications; John Hamann - Rural Economic Development Coordinator; Tripp O'Connor, Nicole Demetreas - Treasurer's Office; Michael McCoy - Peoria County Sheriff; Amy Benecke McLaren - County Highway; Doug Crew - PASS Forward; Linda Lehman - Peoria County; Denny Kief - Regional Development Coordinator; Joe Dulen - City Inspector; Media

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ardapple at 2:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2012 was made by Mr. Rand and seconded by Mr. Spain. The motion carried.

**Discussion**

• Summary of Economic Development Loan Programs

Mr. Kief advised that the three current loan programs consist of a GAP Loan Program (\$15,000 - \$150,000), a Micro Loan Program (up to \$50,000) and a Macro Loan Program (\$150,000 - \$600,000). He stated that a company locating within the City of Peoria would be eligible for the City's revolving loan program as well as the three newly created County loan programs.

Ms. Ardapple asked whether businesses that reside within the city of Peoria are aware of the availability of County funding, and questioned how best to promote the County programs to City businesses. She suggested placing information on the county loan programs on the city website, as this would assist in creating a more business friendly environment and ensuring the business community recognizes all sources of revenue.

Ms. Ardapple noted that the City of Peoria is in the process of hiring economic development personnel, and inquired as to whether contracting economic development services with the County is a potential option for discussion. Mr. Urich stated due to the uncertainty with where regional efforts are heading, additional focus on economic development for the City of Peoria is needed. He stated that as the City's method of delivery of community development services, neighborhood services and the entire development process will required its own internal staff. He stressed that there will be ways in which cooperation can be achieved, and added as the City returns to building an economic development team, there will be opportunity to discuss how the City and County can complement each other in terms of delivering those services.

- Branding/Marketing Update

Ms. Fulton advised that One Hat Design is in the process of generating several sample website designs. She distributed and summarized a site navigation and website content template, and requested input and feedback on revisions after Committee has had an opportunity to review the information. She stated that the intent is to have the website up by the end of October. Ms. Fulton also distributed several options of the Metro Peoria website logo and distributed to Committee for review. Mr. Rand suggested a tagline as part of the logo clarifying the intent of the Committee.

Ms. Fulton advised that the contract with One Hat Design stipulates that the chosen logo design be restricted to use of the website, and the use of the logo on any other publications or promotional material would be at an additional cost. Ms. Curtis Luther stated that the existing contract will be reviewed by both City and County Administrative staff to determine any additional services that may be required.

- Code Enforcement

Ms. Ardapple noted that Committee members Turner and Spain had previously inquired as to this Committee enhancing a discussion regarding retrieval of old revenues for the City of Peoria for code enforcement violations. Mr. Spain advised that the City of Peoria spends a great deal of time and resources in code enforcement and inspections, and noted that as neighborhoods become older, vacant lots, abandoned structures, and lack of property maintenance are increasing. He stated that violators are issued a ticket, and when the ticket is not remedied, the City absorbs the cost to make the improvement. He added that 2,000 work orders for property improvement have been issued in the City of Peoria this year. He stated he would like to facilitate discussion to determine how the City and County can work collaboratively to collect the revenue and enhance and maintain compliance, which in turn would reduce the number of work orders.

Mr. Urich stated that that the work orders are indicative of having larger, older neighborhoods with challenges. He added that currently the monies being put into the properties are not being recovered, but if the City had the ability to recover the money, it would enable an increase in the demolition budget, which would assist in stabilizing some of the older neighborhoods more quickly. Ms. Ardapple advised that part of the relevance to the County in this process is that a portion of the County's strategic mission has been to assist the City with the rehabilitation of heritage neighborhoods.

Mr. Atkins advised the tax code is specific as to what is placed on a tax bill, and does not state specifically whether special assessments can or cannot be placed on the bill. The municipal code states that a lien can become a special assessment. He advised that the final determination of whether it is appropriate for special assessments to be considered taxes lies with the County Treasurer. Mr. Atkins advised that other types of options may be available in place of the lien, but those options would also be at the discretion of the County Treasurer.

Mr. Atkins stated that the County does not have the ability to treat liens as special assessments, and to do so would require legislative action. Ms. Ardapple requested that the issue be placed on this year's legislative agenda.

Mr. O'Connor advised that Staff will review the pros and cons of the process and will come back to Committee in 60 days with recommendations.

**Presentation** (*Sheriff McCoy*)

- **Update on Cooperative Policing Efforts**

Sheriff McCoy noted that several years ago Mayor Ardis had requested that City and County law enforcement explore possibilities and options for the consolidation of the Peoria City Police Department and the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. He stated that numerous meetings have taken place since that time, including discussions with bargaining units and police chiefs of Bartonville, Chillicothe and Peoria Heights. He added that visits to additional cities will be scheduled, and discussions with colleagues across the country have already taken place. He advised that issues discussed include the specific role of each governmental entity, and handling of discipline and promotions.

Ms. Ardapple requested that Ms. Fulton interview both Sheriff McCoy and Chief Settingsgaard on this topic for placement on the County website. She also requested that the Sheriff and/or the Chief provide updates biannually on progress.

**Miscellaneous**

Ms. Ardapple advised that the Green Expo will be held on October 19th at Illinois Central College North.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ardapple at 3:34 p.m.