

APPROVED 12/12/12

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
November 14, 2012
2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mary Ardapple, Chairperson; Ryan Spain, Andrew Rand, W. Eric Turner
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Michael Phelan, Timothy Riggerbach
OTHERS PRESENT:	Lori Curtis Luther - County Administrator; Kate Van Beek, Mark Rothert - Assistant Co. Administrators; Thomas O'Neill - County Board Chairman; Patrick Urich - Peoria City Manager; Chris Setti - City of Peoria; Brian Elsasser, Carol Trumpe - County Board Members; Meghan Smith - Administration; John Hamann - Rural Economic Development Coordinator; Karen Raitchel, Becca Cottrell - Recycling & Resource Conservation; Amy Benecke McLaren - County Highway; Doug Crew - PASS Forward

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ardapple at 2:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2012 was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Spain. The motion carried.

Discussion

- NIU - Alternative Service Delivery Focus Group Update

Ms. Ardapple advised that representatives from the City, County and Pass Forward participated in a workshop at NIU on alternative service delivery. She stated that NIU is in the process of writing a leadership book on consolidation of services and alternative service delivery, and both the City and County will be part of that process. Mr. Setti advised that workshop discussions also included managed competition and outsourcing. He noted that other participants in the workshop were more focused on consolidation as opposed to collaboration. Ms. Ardapple noted that the Peoria County and the City of Peoria are different in that they are laying a foundation for collaboration throughout their cultures, whereas the other participants were addressing a singular topic or task.

- Communications Update

Ms. Smith distributed a communications overview of a PowerPoint presentation compiled by the Communications staff, and presented an overview of the final website design and navigation. She asked Committee members to forward any suggestions for changes to Jenny Fulton. A final PowerPoint will be presented at the December Committee meeting.

Ms. Ardapple suggested that Committee initiate a Speaker's Bureau schedule for 2013, and requested that committee members submit suggestions for sites and groups to speak with, along with a contact person.

Mr. Urich advised that the City is in the process of finalizing upgrades to their website, and will have the ability to link the City's economic development homepage with the GAP loan programs. Ms. Curtis Luther noted that it is the intent to have information on both the City and County loan programs available on the City, County and Metro Peoria websites.

Sustainability Initiatives

Ms. Ardapple noted that Peoria County has a strong internal sustainability plan, and although the City does not currently have an internal plan, it has an external community plan. She encouraged further discussion in identifying a methodology on bringing the two organizations together around sustainability and to create a cooperative and collaborative plan. Mr. Urich agreed that there are opportunities to build upon the efforts of the Mayor's sustainability commission and the County's internal plan.

Ms. Cottrell advised that the Sustainability Team has discussed sustainability efforts taken at the County, along with first steps in developing the creation of a City/County partnership that would allow for greater opportunity for sustainability.

- Rural Transportation Update

Ms. Curtis Luther updated Committee on challenges regarding the rural transportation system, and potential partnerships with the Greater Peoria Mass Transit System (City Link). She advised that initial conversations have been held with City Link and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). She stated that inadequate revenue is being generated, although ridership has increased dramatically. Discussions have centered on ways to increase revenue, decrease service hours or amount of ridership, or a combination of both of these factors in order to address the issue in the short term.

Ms. Curtis Luther advised there is also the potential to initiate a contractual or service agreement with City Link in order to create a more regional service, rather than two separate entities. She stated that City Link representatives have indicated they are receptive to conversations on the issue. Ms. Curtis Luther advised that the County is also looking at alternative revenue streams such as advertisements and soliciting of partnerships and/or sponsorships; however, a collaborative effort is deemed to be the direction to head.

Ms. Curtis Luther advised that the State of Illinois has set a 10% cap on allocated funding for rural transportation, and Peoria County posits that although dollars received by the State are being largely generated by Peoria County, the County is not receiving an adequate portion of funding. She said a resolution to the issue would require a legislative solution, and the City and county will be attempting to address the topic in the upcoming City/County legislative program.

- City/County Economic Development Collaboration

Mr. Urich advised that discussions are ongoing at the staff level on how best to coordinate efforts between the economic development functions of both the City and County. Staff has agreed to meet on a regular, bi-weekly basis to continue conversations regarding economic development to ensure both organizations are kept up to date on any ongoing or new projects or opportunities.

- City/County Partnership with LISC
Update from MBE Committee

Ms. Luther noted that Brandon Holmes is the new director of LISC, and will be appointed as a member of the MBE Committee. He is currently making formal connections with both the City and County, and she anticipates potential for working with LISC as a partner to assist in leveraging dollars. Mr. Rothert advised that Mr. Holmes attended the MBE Committee on Tuesday, and discussed leverage opportunities that LISC can offer, such as new market tax credits. He stated that LISC's role in both the rural and urban areas of the County was discussed. He also noted that a Financial Opportunity Center will be initiated to address the needs of individuals in need of financial education. Mr. Rothert advised that staff will also be exploring ways of partnering with LISC in assisting area businesses.

Mr. Turner commented that the City is sponsoring a Regional Neighborhood Network Conference will be held September 19-21, 2012 at the Sheraton Four Points. He stated that this conference could provide an opportunity to demonstrate the collaborative process of the governments of the City and County of Peoria.

Mr. Urich noted that LISC intends to focus on the three specific areas of the southside, east bluff and rural areas within tri-county area. He advised that several City staff members visited the Indianapolis LISC office and advised that their office encourages and supports organic neighborhood planning outside the realm of the public bodies, beginning at the neighborhood level.

Future Project Updates

- Ms. Ardapple advised that the Treasurer will report to the Committee in December regarding liens on real estate taxes.
- Mr. Spain suggested discussion on the need for collaboration between the City and County on the landfill.
- Sustainability briefing in December with an actionable item
- Final website revisions based upon Committee suggestions
- Discussion on Central Purchasing
- Mr. Spain requested that a draft of the legislative plan be distributed to committee members in advance of the legislative workshop scheduled for December 14, 2012.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Rand noted a communication from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the issue of shared services, and discussion followed on how to better communicate the progress the Committee is making in this area.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ardapple at 3:25 p.m.

Recording Secretary: Jan Kleffman