

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2013
2:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT	Timothy Riggerbach, Chairman Mary Ardapple	Andrew Rand Ryan Spain
MEMBERS ABSENT	Michael Phelan	W. Eric Turner
OTHERS PRESENT	Alex Rusciano, WCBU Amy McClaren, County Engineer Beth Deery, Assistant Regional Superintendent Bob Manning, Springdale Cemetery Management Authority Carol Trumpe, County Board Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women's Voters Chris Setti, Assistant City Manager	Kate Green, Assistant to the City Manager Kate Van Beek, County HR Director Mark Rothert, County ED Director Mike Rogers, City Public Works Director Patrick Urich, City Manager Scott Reiese, City Engineer Steve Sonnemaker, Peoria County Clerk Tom O'Neill, County Board Wil Hayes, Health Department

DISCUSSION

Update on Springdale Cemetery

Chairman of the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority Bob Manning presented an update on the Cemetery. He stated that the former General Manager was terminated in March, and since that time, staff has been allowed to work autonomously with updates brought to the Board. He said that a search for a new General Manager began in mid-summer with assistance from Sue Wozniak, Sylvia Hasinger, and Bruce Budde. The group reduced the applicant pool and decided upon one individual recently. He said that approval of the selected candidate would occur at the next Board meeting on Tuesday, November 19. Mr. Manning noted that employment of the new General Manager would begin immediately following the Board's approval. Mr. Manning continued to discuss the progress made by the Cemetery's marketing committee.

Mr. Manning informed the Metro Peoria Committee (Committee) that the Cemetery projected a loss for the year around \$400,000 net of depreciation. He said that the County would contribute \$60,000, the Park District would contribute \$40,000, and the City was responsible for the remaining balance. He said that the numbers brought forth a concern for him regarding the structure of the Board in terms of representation by the financial contributors. He said that the City's representation was not comparable to the financial liability it holds. He recommended that the intergovernmental agreement that exists between the three bodies be revisited to address the ratio of representation to

financial liability. He noted that his recommendation was not for additional Board members, but rather to restructure the Board with the same number of members.

Member Spain asked if the Cemetery expected the operating deficit to get smaller in the coming years, or if Mr. Manning expected the deficit to remain at such a high level. Mr. Manning said that Cemetery staff had been cut as well as spending, so the bare bones budget for the Cemetery was clearly defined. He commented on the reliance upon volunteers and mentioned that the Cemetery's employees do not enjoy any employment benefits. He also said that the Cemetery's wages are lower than other governmental bodies in the area. Mr. Manning said that the Cemetery needs to focus on increasing revenues which is difficult to do with the decrease in traditional burials. He said that the new General Manager will be charged with increasing those numbers.

Member Ardapple asked how the Board expected to address the issue of decreased burials. Mr. Manning said that a strategic marketing plan would be developed under the guidance of the new General Manager, and that other proactive steps to market the Cemetery have been encouraged to promote exposure. Ms. Budzinski commented that the new Board members have brought new energy to the Cemetery which has been positive.

Member Rand entered the meeting at 2:45 PM.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Riggerbach at 2:46 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013, meeting was made by Member Rand; seconded by Member Spain. The motion was approved unanimously by viva voce vote.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Outline of Requirements for Restaurants Wishing to Create Outdoor Dining

Member Ardapple opened the conversation regarding outdoor dining by noting the strict requirements the State Health Department has for new restaurants. She said that mechanisms are in place to open an open-air dining establishment, but a mechanism is not in place that encourages this type of restaurant. She asked Mr. Hayes if the Health Department has received any requests for information for open-air dining. Mr. Hayes said that no one has visited One Stop Shop to discuss this type of restaurant, and that only one person has inquired with the Health Department directly. He noted that the operator who inquired about open-air dining had not expressed any interest since the initial discussion.

Member Spain said that he was interested in learning more about the Health Department regulations. He asked if other communities take a different approach rather

than the air curtain concept which had been presented to the Committee previously. Mr. Hayes said that the air curtain is not the only approach, and that a variance process exists by which operators can present other ideas that would be considered by the Health Department.

Member Ardapple asked if the Food Service Work Group under the Health Department would be able to research the options utilized by comparable communities, and put together marketing information to make the process easy for developers to create an open-air establishment in Peoria. Mr. Hayes said that if the Committee would like the Board of Health to take on this issue, that a formal request should be submitted in writing. Chairman Riggerbach asked Mr. Urich to provide the Board of Health with a formal request to review this topic and draft the appropriate material to be provided to potential operators.

Member Rand said that the missing piece of this issue was an informational resource that would encourage the concept of open-air dining. He noted that it is not an easy feat to figure out how to open new operations, and that a basic marketing tool could help guide the process. Chairman Riggerbach noted that the option of using the variance process was first introduced at this meeting, and if it took this long for the Committee to find out about this option, that it was likely difficult for the operator as well. He asked Mr. Hayes what the options are that could go through the variance process. Mr. Hayes said that any proposal would be reviewed.

Member Spain asked if open-air dining is specifically addressed in the Health Code. Mr. Hayes said that the Code indicates that proper measures must be in place for the prevention of insects and rodents, but that it does not specifically address open-air dining. He said that other options rather than the air current could include a pest management plan or securing the kitchen area, but every establishment has different requirements based upon the layout and function. Member Spain noted that the variance process can be a deterrent to potential development because it creates an extra step for the operator as well as uncertainty about whether or not the variance will be accepted.

Mr. Hayes said that the Health Department does not like to have to use variances either, but that one of the challenges the Department faces is that its regulations must meet the strict standards of the State Food Code. He said that the State's Code is black and white, and does not allow for flexibility in the County Health Code. Therefore, the County has to utilize the variance process. Mr. Hayes asked that anyone who hears an inquiry about this type of establishment direct the operator to the Health Department. He noted that he had only heard from one operator regarding an open-air establishment, and that in order to provide credence to the Board of Health to look into the matter, it would be better if he was aware of the level of interest.

Member Ardapple asked that the formal request include an explanation to the Board of Health about why this subject is so important to potential development. She noted that a larger conversation should take place that addresses the culture and mindset surrounding this conversation, rather than just a pamphlet.

Update on City-County Road Discussion

Ms. McClaren said that materials were provided which showed the amount of funds expended by the County on City roads. She noted that the figures included routine maintenance only, not major projects. Member Spain asked City Public Works Director Rogers if anything stood out to him within those numbers. Mr. Rogers said that there was not anything that drew his attention. He said that the City and County enjoy a good working relationship when it comes to roads.

Chairman Riggensbach commented on the red and blue segments which were identified on a map that indicated the roads maintained by the City and roads maintained by the County. He said that conversation needs to continue about how to get those transferred into the City's jurisdiction. He said that the 1966 agreement was the road block to the jurisdictional transfer. Mr. Rogers said that the major issue is the cost of bringing those roads up to City standards, as well as the requirement that the roads would need to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) if any improvements are made. Member Spain asked how the County works with other municipalities in terms of maintaining roads. Ms. McClaren said she would provide information back to the Committee on those relationships.

Member Rand asked how the 1966 agreement could be revised to promote the jurisdictional transfer of the County roads to the City. Mr. Rogers said that under the current agreement, it would cost \$48 million to bring the roads up to City standards. He said that policymakers would need to decide if a different standard could be acceptable for the transfers in order to calculate the cost of a different agreement.

Member Spain noted that it was not an issue to have County roads within the City, but that the roads still needed to be maintained. He said that it was important to recognize that the City is a part of the County and deserves a portion of the funds the County uses for capital improvements. Chairman Riggensbach encouraged the continuation of the conversation about City-County streets and requested options to be brought back to the February Committee meeting.

Mr. Rogers inquired what the main concerns are that elected officials receive from citizens. Chairperson Riggensbach said the bottleneck conditions on Lake, Glen and Sheridan. Mr. Rogers offered that if those areas are considered dangerous, the City and County may be able to find safety dollars to use towards those projects. Member Ardapple noted that the bottleneck also creates a negative impression of the City when people come into the City from Peoria Heights. Member Spain said that the majority of complaints he received were for road maintenance.

Update on Joint Purchasing and Training Co-Op from Regional Office of Education

Ms. Deery said that a number of road blocks came up for the efforts towards joint purchasing; however, it spurred a lot of conversation and Districts went with the concept in their own ways. She discussed the use of Title I and Title II dollars for professional development. She also presented the Committee with the new Illinois Virtual School and discussed the movement for a charter for a virtual school in Illinois.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Stormwater Management Update (February 2014)

Election Function Consolidation

Chairman Riggerbach requested that the County bring up this issue with peers and at the legislative workshop. He asked that Members Ardapple and Rand provide a follow up on this issue.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Riggerbach stated that there would be no Committee meeting in December and the next meeting would be held in January.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Riggerbach at 3:50 PM.