

DRAFT

**MINUTES
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE
February 13, 2012
2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mary Ardapple, Chairperson; Michael Phelan, Andrew Rand, Timothy Riggerbach, Ryan Spain
MEMBERS ABSENT:	W. Eric Turner
OTHERS PRESENT:	Scott Sorrel, Kate Van Beek, Mark Rotherth - Assistant Co. Administrators; William Atkins - SAO; Carol Trumpe - County Board Member; Patrick Urich - Peoria City Manager; Chris Setti - City of Peoria; Eric Dubrowski - Chief Financial Officer; Roberta Parks - Chamber of Commerce; Jenny Fulton - County Administration; Tripp O'Connor, Nicole Demetreas - Treasurer's Ofc; Gerry Brookhart, Beth Derry - Reg. Office of Education; Karen Raithel, Becca Cottrell - Recycling & Resource Conservation; Amy Benecke McLaren - County Highway; Doug Crew - PASS Forward; Steve Sonnemaker - County Clerk; Alex Rusciano - WCBU radio

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2012, after correction, was made by Mr. Riggerbach and seconded by Mr. Rand. The motion carried.

Discussion

• Chamber Government Affairs Committee update

Ms. Parks advised that a member of this committee presented an update at a recent meeting of the Chamber Board and City Council. She added that a smaller group from Government Affairs met with Ms. Ardapple and Mr. Riggerbach to discuss ways the group can assist and offer support of the committee process. She stated that members of the group intend to attend committee meetings on a regular basis, and when appropriate, communicate on progress being made or issues before the committee.

Mr. Riggerbach also noted that members of the Government Affairs Committee were encouraged attend meetings of this committee when possible, and to communicate to the full board and full council on a regular basis. He noted that, as the City does not have a committee structure to report to the full council, the city representatives of this committee would update the City Council under their "new business" section. Ms. Ardapple stated that the opening of a dialogue between the Chamber of Commerce and all interested outside organizations assists in spreading the word of the value of shared services and the cooperative culture being developed between the organizations. She noted that the Chamber including news in their email blasts on the committee's behalf into the business community will enable other business leaders in the area understand that local government efficiencies are essential.

- Treasurer's Report - Liens on Tax Bills

Mr. Urich advised that the Intergovernmental Agreement, which is in the process of being drafted, will allow liens to be attached to tax bills. He stated that there is a possibility in being able to go back at least seven years in an attempt to collect those taxes. He also noted that it will be necessary for data to be in a format that works with both the Devnet and the County Administration systems, which will allow the potential collection from properties that are not complying, and redirection of those monies back into the neighborhoods. Mr. Urich recognized the Treasurer, County Clerk and IT Departments for their collaborative efforts in bringing about the Agreement.

Mr. O'Connor said that the framework and structure that the City and County have agreed to is a fair and equitable solution, and a good model for future cooperative efforts.

Mr. Riggenbach noted that this effort also positively impacts the heritage neighborhoods, with the potential of raising the standard for those neighborhoods.

- Update on Cooperative Policing Efforts

Ms. Ardapple deferred this topic to the March Committee meeting. She noted that, based on comments made by the Mayor at his State of the City Address, the Sheriff and the Chief of Police have identified three communities to study for their practices. The Sheriff is anticipated to report at a future committee meeting to discuss those communities and the result of their study.

- Economic Development

Mr. Rothert advised that City and County staff members meet on a monthly basis to discuss and review projects. He noted that County staff has been invited to attend the weekly One Stop Shop meetings. He added that there is collaboration on various leads, including call centers seeking expansion into the area and a site visit from a foreign company.

Mr. Rothert advised that Hurricane Ike grant funding is upcoming, and will include neighborhood planning which will be helpful for the heritage neighborhoods.

Mr. Rothert stated that two informational meetings for minorities, women and disadvantaged businesses are scheduled for February 28, 2013 and will consist of two panels of existing businesses and entrepreneurs providing insight on business start-up and overcoming challenges. Business service providers will also be in attendance. He noted that a majority of the subset of the targeted are is within the City of Peoria.

Mr. Setti stated that these joint efforts are prime examples of cooperation and relationship building between the two units of government, with important groundwork being laid between the two organizations. He added that as discussions continue on regional strategy, the partnering is also helpful in understanding what the respective roles should be within the new EDC framework.

Ms. Ardapple stressed the importance of setting strategic goals and action steps, so that the economic development collaborative effort can produce outcomes jointly with intention, as opposed to continued discussion and updates from each governmental entity. She emphasized that the City and County must have a clear identity and role in regional economic development.

Mr. Phelan complimented Mr. Urich and the Mayor on their leadership and efforts on the topic of passenger rail.

- Purchasing

Ms. Derry referred to the memo attached as a part of the agenda, in which she outlined the different ways cooperative purchasing agreements are utilized within the Regional Office of Education (ROE). She suggested inviting school superintendents to be a part of the discussion on purchasing, as that group already has their own cooperative agreements for the purchase of various items, and looking for ways that the ROE can work cooperatively with the committee. Mr. Setti noted that paper and supplies purchasing has been discussed previously at committee. He recommended that City and County staff research how the cooperative effort between school districts operates currently, and the opportunities for a greater collaboration with both the City and County. Ms. Ardapple asked that the purchasing agents from both the City and County contact the Regional Office of Education for discussion on whether a collaboration could be a feasible outgrowth of purchasing.

Committee Action

- Amendment to Charter

Mr. Sorrel advised that the amendment changes the date in which the Chairmanship is elected from January to June. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Riegenbach and seconded by Mr. Rand. The motion carried.

(Mr. Spain enters meeting.)

Miscellaneous

Mr. Ulrich advised that the City has a standing monthly meeting with District 150, and over the course of the last several weeks an issue has come up that pertains to the manner in which students might be admitted into a juvenile detention facility from schools. A meeting between city police, school district police and staff of School District 150 will be scheduled at a future date to discuss the process that should be used in that type of circumstance. He added that the City has several items that they are currently working on with School District 150, and will be compiling a matrix of those cooperative efforts.

Mr. Ulrich advised that several years ago a grant was received to have the National Mental Health Association (NAMI) examine the criminal justice system and interventions for persons with mental illness. As a result of that study, a facility was created and made available to house needy individuals. Unfortunately, the facility has not been utilized well over the two years it has been in place. However, the Human Service Center has re-engaged in the discussion to determine if something different can be done within the community with this effort. He noted this will require the involvement of the police department, courts and the sheriff's department, as well as the public healthcare entities.

Mr. Rand advised that LISC will submit a grant request to the Illinois Attorney General's office for a portion of the proceeds from the settlement of the foreclosures that the Department of Justice secured, and which were subsequently redistributed to Attorney Generals across the country. He advised that Attorney General Madigan has approximately \$70 million of community redevelopment funds which can be used to impact designated neighborhoods. He advised that the grant request will total approximately \$10 million, and would be utilized particularly for the south end and east bluff. He advised that this grant request is supported by all appropriate community officials.

Mr. Setti noted the city's cooperation with the Health Department regarding the reissuance of health licenses when businesses have not paid their city restaurant taxes. He advised that in the time that a warning of compliance letter was issued jointly by the City Manager and the Director of the Health Department, and the end of January, a total of \$45,000.00 was collected, and of that amount, \$23,000.00 was collected in the final four days of the grace period.

Mr. Spain advised that additional discussions with the Health Department have focused on exploring unique types of restaurants that could be available within the community, particularly the use of overhead, or accordion style, doors that open restaurants up to sidewalk frontage. He envisions this type of restaurant being advantageous for both Peoria Heights and the warehouse district.

Ms. Ardapple advised that Jenny Fulton has composed an informational flyer for the Speakers Bureau along with a cover letter which will be distributed to community based organizations and service agencies. Ms. Fulton also advised that the March issue of InterBusiness Issues will contain an article focused on the Metro Peoria Committee and the Speakers Bureau.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Ardapple at 3:30 p.m.