City Hall, Peoria, Illinois, September 4, 2012, an East Village Growth Cell Advisory Committee Meeting was held at Glen Oak School, Community Center Library, 2100 N. Wisconsin Avenue, with Chairperson Richard Mitchell presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Committee Members present: Susan Wozniak (OSF), Richard Mitchell (Council District 3 Rep), Michael McKenzie (School District 150), Shannon Techie (Planning and Growth Management), Mike Sims (City of Peoria), Steve Katlack (Council District 3 Rep), Jessie McGown (Council District 3 Rep), Robert Wilton (Council District 2 Rep), & Michael Chihoski (OSF) – 9; Absent: Rev. Andrew Jowers (Council District 1 Rep) & Lynn Scott Pearson (Peoria County Board) - 2

STAFF & OTHERS

Lisa Fisher (Boys and Girls Club), Tammy Gardner, Nancy Mitchell, Kristina Gamez (EBNHS), & Juanita Torres

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 1, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Sims moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2012, meeting, seconded by Mr. Katlack. Approved Unanimously.

I. New Business
   a. Introduction of New Members
      Chairperson Richard Mitchell introduced new EVGC Advisory Committee Members, Mike Sims (City of Peoria), Jessie McGown (Council District 3 Rep), and Steve Katlack (Council District 3 Rep).

   b. Discussion of an EVGC Small Business Assistance Program
      Council Member Riggenbach explained that he has been approached by several small businesses within the EVGC Boundary that have requested assistance for upgrades to their businesses. Ms Techie briefly presented some examples of the type of programs other communities have created.

      Discussion took place on what type of improvements are TIF eligible. It was also discussed that most improvements associated with small businesses are smaller in nature and would not warrant a redevelopment agreement; therefore, such a program may be helpful to small businesses.

      Chairperson Mitchell explained that there are currently little funds available in the TIF and there are other avenues for business assistance. The Committee opposed the creation of a small business assistance program at this time.

      The Committee concluded that the City needs to do a better job of educating businesses on the resources available and suggested putting together a handout of available resources to distribute to businesses in the EVGC Boundary.
c. Discussion Regarding Additional Focus of the EVGC Advisory Committee
Ms. Wozniak stressed the importance of having a focus and priorities. The Committee indicated that due to the limited increment available, the Committee would like to focus on the residential program at this time and work toward getting the program approved and implemented.

Mr. Chihoski suggested developing some talking points or FAQ about the residential program that could be mailed to residents, realtors, etc. to ensure that everyone is informed. It was noted that this document would be a draft and nothing would be sent out until the program is approved. The Committee requested to have a draft of this document for the next meeting.

CITIZENS’ OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Council Member Riggenbach mentioned the possibility of having term limits for EVGC Committee Members. Ms. Techie explained that most commissions have appointments of 3 years, staggered beginning on July 1st and ending on June 30th. The committee had no objection to term limits as outlined above but wanted no limit to the number of times a Committee Member could serve.

Council Member Riggenbach introduced Kristina Gamez, the new Executive Director of EBNHS. She announced the the EBNHS web site is being updated and that she is looking forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Mike Chihoski announced that he would need to resign from the Committee and OSF would appoint someone to fill his vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wozniak moved to adjourn the EVGC Advisory Committee meeting; seconded by Mr. Katlack. Approved by viva voce vote.

The EVGC Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.