City Hall, Peoria, Illinois, February 3, 2015, an East Village Growth Cell Advisory Committee Meeting was held at Glen Oak Learning Center, 2100 N. Wisconsin Avenue, with Chairperson Richard Mitchell presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Committee Members present: Richard Mitchell (Council District 3 Rep), Shannon Techie (City of Peoria), Eric Setter (City of Peoria), Steve Katlack (Council District 3 Rep), Jessie McGown (Council District 3 Rep), Ron Jost (OSF), Jason Breede (OSF), Marilyn Mosely (Council District 1 Rep) & Lynn Scott Pearson (Peoria County Board) – 9; Absent: Robert Wilton (Council District 2 Rep) & Michael McKenzie (School District 150) – 2

STAFF & OTHERS

Frank Corso, Jane Genzel, Lisa Fisher, Kristina Gamez, Willa Lucas,

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2015 MINUTES

Mr. Katlack noted one change to the minutes; changing ‘the’ to ‘that in the third paragraph from the bottom of the last page.

Mr. Katlack moved to approve the minutes as amended; seconded, by Mr. Breede. Approved Unanimously.

I. New Business
   i. EVGC Data Update

Council Member Riggenbach presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting updated data for the EVGC area.

At the end of his presentation, he explained that both the Peoria Park District and School District 150 are quiet partners, which are instrumental in the East Bluff. Council Member Riggenbach notated that discussions have been taking place with the Peoria Park District regarding the opening of the Children’s Playhouse in June and the potential for increased programming at the amphitheater (available for rent for picnics, fairs, etc.). He further noted that he has talked to Dr. Lathan and she indicated that if someone from the neighborhood will take responsibility for the hoops, and convey the message to the neighborhood youth that they need to be taken care of, the hoops can be put back up. He also noted that the school district is working on getting the ball fields up and running.

Council Member Riggenbach also explained that Public Works wants to be a partner in the efforts of snow removal from sidewalks within the neighborhood and as such, will purchase snow blowers for church groups, neighborhood associations, etc., who will assist with clearly sidewalks.

Mr Jost responded to a question about when OSF pays taxes by explaining that they pay taxes for properties in which the use is considered non-charitable care. He further explained that OSF is hoping that private developers will invest on the OSF campus, such as developing new housing, etc.

Ms. Techie responded to a question from the public about where the IFF duplexes will be located. She noted that duplexes would be constructed at:

1. 1817-1819 N Indiana Avenue
2. 1915 N Peoria Avenue
Discussion occurred on the East Village Growth Cell Housing Program. Council Member Riggenbach explained that he takes the previous work related to the housing program seriously and he recognized from the beginning that the TIF could be a benefit to residential properties.

Chairperson Mitchell reminded everyone that when the TIF was created it was noted that it could be 5 to 7 years before loans would be available. Several committee members commented on the possibility of lowering the maximum loan amount to somewhere between $7,000 and $15,000, as they don’t feel that most residents will be looking for $30,000. Mr. Katlack suggested the possibility of increasing the loan cap each year during the remaining life of the TIF.

Mr. McGown explained that he doesn’t disagree with program changes but he said we need to be prepared to respond to residents who were involved when the program was created and may question changes.

Mr. Mitchell noted that $190,000 in available increment is a significant amount that could go a ways in issuing loans. Mr. Breede noted that while we all want the program to go forward as quickly as possible, we also need to look at critical mass and may need to revisit the loan amount based on desired impact.

Chairperson Mitchell requested that the Housing Program be placed on the agenda at the April meeting.

CITIZENS’ OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE
Willa Lucas spoke regarding possible changes to the housing program, noting that everything written is a work in progress and there are always amendments that need to be made over time. She further explained that she has made several improvements to her property (siding, windows, porch, etc.) and it didn’t cost $30,000. She noted that one small investment also spurs other neighbors to do what they can.

Mr. McGown explained a program that Kroger has available where is you register your Kroger card you can select a non-profit and 10% of the purchase amount goes to the designated non-profit. Mr. McGown also explained that someone is interested in opening an auto mechanic shop at the corner of Illinois and Knoxville and is considering the possibility of demolishing the residential structure to the east and expanding the parking area. Mr. Mitchell noted that March 12th is the next neighborhood association meeting for his association and they could discuss the proposal at that time.

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

The EVGC Committee adjourned at 7:26 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 2015 at the Glen Oak Learning Center.