



Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager

DATE: July 22, 2011

SUBJECT: Issues Update

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

MONEY SMART WEEK – 2011. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago recently released the final report on Money Smart Week 2011. Money Smart Week in Peoria provided 91 separate learning opportunities for Peoria area residents interested in becoming smarter about their finances. A total of 1,131 people attended the various events throughout the week, with 98% indicating that the sessions were either valuable or very valuable to them. Over 70% of attendees indicated that they would change the way they manage money because of what they learned. The City contributed \$3,000 toward Money Smart Week 2011 in order to assist with marketing and outreach efforts. Money Smart Week 2012 is scheduled for April 21-28.



REBOUND BASKETBALL PROGRAM EAST BLUFF CLEANUP REPORT. On the morning of July 16th, over 80 boys and their basketball coaches traversed the streets and alleys in the East Bluff neighborhood and collected several hundred pounds of litter. The cleanup is a condition for participating in the Rebound Basketball Program, which offers 10-14 year old boys a chance to play tournament style basketball on Saturdays during the summer in St. Bernard's gym.

The cleanup was collaboration between the Rebound Program and the Mayor's Litter Committee, which supplied materials and volunteers. Other contributions to the cleanup and the basketball program include volunteers and sponsorships from Coca-Cola, hamburgers and hot dogs from Alexander's Steakhouse (prepared by chef Bob Gates who is a local attorney), Peoria Disposal Company, St. Bernard's Parrish, Methodist Hospital, OSF Hospital, Hy-Vee, and Advanced Medical Transport.

City Council Members Ryan Spain and Eric Turner are on the Rebound Board of Directors. They have been responsible for recruiting volunteers and encouraging sponsorships.



CATERING AT THE GATEWAY BUILDING. A new RFP TO fill the remaining two catering positions at the Gateway Building was mailed out to 38 vendors on July 21, 2011. The RFP must be returned to the purchasing department, Room 108, by 2:00 p.m., on August 11, 2011.

SMOKING VIOLATIONS. The Police Department has completed an unannounced inspection of bars in Peoria for potential smoking violations. The inspections took place over 4 separate occasions, for a total of 90 man hours. A complete list of establishments that were inspected is attached. A total of 8 citations were issued at 3 different locations, as follows:

1. Cheers and Beers (4201 SW Adams), 2 citations for smokers, 1 citation to the bar for allowing smoking
2. Duffys Tap (1900 W. Antoinette), 1 citation for a smoker, 1 citation to the bar for allowing smoking
3. Behmer's Dugout (2422 N. Knoxville), 2 citations for smokers, 1 citation to the bar for allowing smoking

Prior to the officers departure from each location, officers identified themselves to staff and informed them of their purpose and the outcome of the visit. This operation was possible due to Sheriff McCoy's \$5,000 sharing of a grant which he had been awarded for this purpose. Attached for your review **(Electronic Copy Only)** is a list of bars that were inspected for potential smoking violations.

JUNE 2011 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER (ECC) REPORT. The June 2011 Emergency Communications Center (ECC) Report is included in this week's Issues Update for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR UPDATE. After receiving approximately 80 applications for the position of Human Resources Director for the City of Peoria, it has been narrowed down to twelve. A short list of applicants will be then be developed with interviews scheduled in approximately two weeks.

IDOT FUNDS FOR WAREHOUSE DISTRICT PLANNING TASKS. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) has been awarded \$200,000 from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to conduct targeted planning activities with Peoria's Warehouse District. The grant can fund no more than 80% of the total project costs, necessitating a 20% local match of \$50,000. The City Council will be asked to dedicate \$50,000 in Warehouse District TIF funds to this project at its August 9, 2011 meeting. The Board of TCRPC will discuss authorization to accept state funds at its July 28, 2011 meeting.

The current work being accomplished on the Washington Street and TIGER II projects has generally been limited to issues related to the public right-of-way. While the Land Development Code addresses building use and form in the District, City staff has identified some specific needs related to development of private property, especially as it relates to public property. In recognizing this, the City approached TCRPC about seeking a funding source for such work. They partnered with Sen. Dave Koehler to identify a potential funding source in IDOT. Additionally, TCRPC has been asked to look at broader sustainability issues in the area, building on the stormwater mitigation work being designed as part of the streetscape plans.

As the grant recipient, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will be the project manager for this effort. They will work closely with City staff in Public Works, Planning and Growth Management and Economic Development, as well as the City's consultants and their own. The scope of work for this effort includes:

Task 1: General Assessment

- Review and synthesize existing plans for the warehouse district and downtown areas, including the *Heart of Peoria Plan*, *Land Development Code*, *Route 24 Feasibility Study*, *Warehouse District TIF Redevelopment Plan*, and *SynergiCity*.
- Analyze general physical conditions of the project area.
- Highlight major building rehabilitation and redevelopment opportunities.
- Review roadway, transit, parking, and pedestrian circulation systems.

Task 2: Interface of Private and Public Property

- Anticipate additional vehicular traffic from new uses and suggest a parking plan (i.e. calculation and location of on-street parking, placement and use of lots and decks). Evaluate opportunities to install electric vehicle charging stations within identified parking solutions. Collaborate with City's transportation engineers and consultants to integrate parking solutions into street redesign.
- Identify other interactions between proposed private development and public infrastructure such as emergency services, building access, delivery zones, driveways, and use of sidewalks for commercial purposes (i.e. sidewalk cafés). Where potential conflicts are found, recommend solutions.
- Document how alleyways (both public and private) might be utilized and address how those alleys interact with the street.
- Document the potential for existing buildings to be eligible for local or national historic registries. Identify how the design of public transportation systems may need to accommodate limits imposed by historic property laws.
- Identify opportunities for in-fill new construction. Estimate potential uses (i.e. number of units, square footage of commercial space) and cost.

- Conduct a physical analysis of the major structures within the warehouse district and estimate the cost of building renovations for individual structures.
- Determine a possible schedule for phased implementation of planned improvements. Suggest how private development should be timed to coincide with public infrastructure improvements.
- Identify utility needs of proposed development and capacity of existing system. Where upgrades may be necessary, document impact on City's right-of-way and create a plan for coordinating upgrades with street improvements.

Task 3: Sustainability

- Consider all environmental factors that affect the development of the area and propose potential solutions. This must include issues involving transportation systems, such as pollution, stormwater run-off and heat islands.
- Plan how public infrastructure such as sidewalks, parking areas, promenades and plazas can be used to address stormwater run-off.
- Identify an ideal bike route(s) through the Warehouse District that would connect with downtown and the riverfront.
- Collaborate with Greater Peoria Mass Transit District to optimize bus schedules and stops to accommodate new development.
- Plan pedestrian circulation routes within the District and between the District and downtown/riverfront. Explore potential uses of public alleyways for pedestrian use. Identify opportunities for public plazas and other walkways that allow access to the street.