
**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE CITY HALL
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004, AT 4:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER MASSAGLIA AND MAYOR HOWARD

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES, MADDOX, AND RICHMOND

Notice of a special meeting of the City Council was posted at City Hall and received by members of Council on Friday, May 28, 2004.

City Clerk Sue McMillan called the Roll. Commissioner Massaglia and Mayor Howard were in attendance for a presentation of "Nature Based Tourism" Program. Also present were Planning and Development Director Kim Uhlig, Mary Jo Lewellen, Mary Ann Ladendorf, Andy Sparks, Sue Bosich, Joe Wuellner, Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Pat Pollock, Sharon Harris, Tom Tincher, Paula Helm.

Vicki Clark Sr Vice President of Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau introduced Ted Eubanks and Mary Jean Packer of Fermata, Inc.

Mr. Eubanks explained that his company was contracted by PACVB to do a feasibility study and strategic plan for nature-based tourism. The \$50,000 project included assessment, inventory and a draft guide for nature-tourism opportunities in the eight county region. PACVB obtained a \$25,000 grant from the State of Illinois Tourism and would seek a \$25,000 match from various communities who would then be named as "portal" communities or potential "loop" communities.

Mr. Eubanks presented a slide show giving examples of tourism opportunities in a "Great Lakes to Great Rivers concept.

The following benefits would be achieved for communities who participated at a \$5,000 level:

- Assessment of existing nature-based and nature-related historical and cultural sites
- Documented location and description of sites in a database driven website
- Customized homepage for the Illinois River Valley to connect project partner websites
- Report with recommendations for development, marketing and training
- Illinois River Guided with photos and descriptions of attraction sites

Question and answer period followed.

No action was taken by Council.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:20 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk