Members Present
Mr. Kruse, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Graves, Mr. James, Mr. Meents, Ms. Barber and Mr. Whitten

Members Absent
Mr. Marcotte and Mr. Nicholos

In Attendance
Mr. Martin, Ms. Bernard, Richard Campbell, Randy McGill, Brenda Gorski, David Cagle, Doug Jones, Tim Schmidt and Karen McGregor

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Lee, at 9:00 a.m.
Quorum present.

2. Public Comment
None

3. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. James seconded by Mr. Meents to approve the minutes of August 3, 2004. Motion carried.

4. VAC: Richard Campbell
The committee reviewed the Monthly Report. A motion was made by Mr. Meents and seconded by Mrs. Lee to approve the Monthly Report. Motion carried.

Chairman Kruse arrived and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Housing Authority Report

Mr. Jones stated, “I would say 95% of the issues going on with the Housing Authority in the last six months have been positive. As you can see in front of you is what we are having to do for HUD due to the office of Inspector Generals investigation and the report that they put out then HUD developed this plan for us to meet all of the findings that OIG had. As you can see looking through it it’s been a large task but it is on track in meeting the timelines. The only part that we have had to get extensions for is with the contracting of the administration of the Section 8 program. One of the things still going on is that we do have the OIG in the Housing Authority again as a continuation of their previous investigation. All they did before was look through the Section 8 program; they are now going through the Public Housing program. It’s all due to past issues; it is nothing that has happened in recent time. It would be my thought that the findings will not be as significant as previous because a lot of the findings of the previous investigation had to do with the overall Authority, not just the programs in it. Since they were here before we made a lot of changes at the Board and at staffing levels so we are not expecting it to be anywhere near as severe as it was when they first came in. What we are looking at is by the next year to be off the Troubled Housing Authority Status. The biggest accomplishment that we have had over the last few months was the hiring of Mr. McGill.”

Mr. McGill went over the Monthly Progress Report with the committee. Mr. McGill also went over the progress that has been made within the Housing Authority.
Mr. Meents wanted to know if there is a waiting list for the rentals. Mr. McGill stated yes there is a waiting list.

6. **A+ Illinois Educational Funding**
Ms. McGregor handed out information regarding A+ Illinois Educational Funding (see attached). Ms. McGregor is with the Save Our Schools Committee from the Herscher School District. Ms. McGregor talked about A+ Illinois and Save Our Schools.

Ms. McGregor stated that there is a rally on Thursday night at the Farmers Market Gazebo from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

There was discussion regarding the A+ Illinois program from Mr. Meents, Mr. Martin, Mr. Kruse, Ms. Bernard, Ms. Barber, Mrs. Lee and Ms. McGregor.

A motion to defer from the agenda and move to #9 was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Mr. Meents. Motion carried.

7. **Ethics Committee per Ethics Act Ordinance**
Mr. Nelson stated, “As you recall in May the County Board passed an Ethics Ordinance. You have all heard the seminars on the ethics requirements that we are bound by. Now I have to remind the County Committee and the County Board that our next step is actually appointment of an Ethics Committee and an Ethics Advisor. The Ethics Commission would be a three member appointed body, two of the members could be from one political party, they will be appointed for the terms set out in Article 20 and they will be empowered to conduct hearings on possible ethics violations. The County Board shall also appoint an Ethics Advisor. This Ethics Advisor can be a roll delegated to an officer or employee of the County or it could be a position created by the County Board. Again, these are all provisions which were mandated by County Ordinance passed in May of this year.”

Mr. Graves wanted to know if the Ethics Advisor position requires any expertise. Mr. Nelson stated, "We are all experts on ethics, we all have to be experts on ethics. Does this person have to have special expertise on ethics? Sure it would be ideal if that person had a background or training in it, but again we all have to be experts.”

A motion to authorize the chairman to bring forward names of people for the positions was made by Mr. Meents and seconded by Ms. Barber. Motion carried a roll call vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

8. **Resignation letter from Curt Saindon**
A motion to accept Curt Saindon’s resignation letter was made by Mr. Whitten and seconded by Ms. Barber. Motion carried.

9. **Community Art Council**
Mr. Schmidt stated, “I am representing the Community Arts Council. The Mayor’s Office of Special Events is trying to help the Community Arts Council do their fall arts show which they normally do out at Small Memorial Park. To juice it up they were looking for something different to do and they came to us and asked if they could do an art crawl downtown. What they are trying to do is take different venues of art and put them in different buildings on Sunday, October 3, and then you go from one venue to another. Paramount Theater has volunteered to use their lobby and I think
they are going to put photography art in their lobby, in the Majestic Center we are going to hang oil and water color paintings, in the Library there is going to be 3-D art, the garden club is going to be down at the gazebo and crafters are going to be over at the Depot, the idea is that from Noon to 4 you go from one venue to the next to look at the various art that is done in this County. I am here this morning to ask for the County Lobby, that is the lobby in front of the gates in front of the elevator. The quilters and the needle-pointers would like to be in that part of the County Building. The reason that we chose the building is in addition to looking at the art that is in the building each one of those buildings that I have discussed also has architectural and historic features. We are trying to re-educate and reinvigorate the interest of those buildings that have some neat history or neat historic elements to them. This is all in an effort to bring more people through the central business district and have a pleasant experience."

A motion to allow the Community Art Council to use the front lobby of the County building to hold the quilters and needle-pointers subject to approval of the grounds and legal staff was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mrs. Lee. Motion carried.

10. Legislative: Ed Meents
Mr. Meents stated that he gave Mrs. Lee a copy of the bills that have been passed and will be sent out to the Department Heads that might be affected by those.

11. Old Business
None

12. New Business
- One opening on the Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission
- Three openings on the University of Illinois Extension Committee

Mr. Clark stated, “This morning I received a correspondence from the State Board of Elections advising the County that we are eligible for an additional grant. I wanted to make the committee aware of this and ask that you forward this to the claims committee so that it can be forwarded to the Board. As you know the State Board of Elections has provided the County with HAVA funds that were used to purchase equipment. We have since had two additional grants for Polling Place Accessibility, a $7,000.00 grant and a $12,000.00 grant, and those funds were used to survey and make polling places accessible. This grant is the third of a series of grants that would be for $24,764.00. The purpose of it is for allowing election improvement to educate citizens about the new voting procedures, voting rights, voting systems and to train election officials and poll workers. I would ask that you consider this request and pass it on to committee. We do have to return the funds if they are unused.”

A motion to send this on to claims so that it can be voted upon and placed on the proper agenda was made by Mrs. Lee and seconded by Mr. James. Motion carried.

13. Adjournment
A motion was made by Mrs. Lee and seconded by Mr. Meents to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Motion carried.

Karl Kruse, Chairman
Stephanie Gresham, Executive Coordinator