

**District III Advisory Board Minutes**  
**July 3, 2013**  
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee; 10 District Advisory Board members were in attendance; seven City staff and nine members of the public were present.

**Members Present**

Eric Bell  
Jody Bennett  
Terry Brewster  
Paul Davis  
Elena Ingle  
Danny Johnson  
Wendy Ratliff  
David Robbins  
Roger Smith  
Connie White  
Council Member James Clendenin

**Members Absent**

**Staff Present**

Officer Richard Sparks, Patrol East  
Officer Alex Recio, Patrol South  
Officer Shanna Cornwell, Patrol South  
Officer Clayton Schuler, Patrol South  
Cynthia Berner Harris, Library  
Mark Manning, Finance  
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

**Guests**

Listed on the last page

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At 6:30 p.m. **Council Member Clendenin** called the meeting to order. Minutes from the June 5, 2013, meeting were approved.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

**Scheduled items**

**No items**

**Non-Scheduled items**

**Council Member Clendenin** presented Roger Smith with a certificate of appreciation for his service on the District Advisory Board.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Community Police Report**

**Officer Alex Recio, Patrol South, Beat 23**, introduced himself and let everyone know that he is also covering Beat 22. Officer Recio typically attends the DAB 1 meetings.

**Officer Shanna Cornwell, Beat 27, Patrol South**, introduced Officer Clayton Schuler who is the new Community Police Officer for Beat 25.

**Officer Richard Sparks, Patrol East**, reported they have two in custody for the air conditioner thefts. He said around 120 units have been stolen over the past few weeks.

**Paul Davis** asked if police were able to determine where the stolen units were being sold; **Officer Sparks** said yes.

**Wichita Fire Department Report**

**No report**

**Action: Receive and file.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2014-15 City Budget Update**

**Mark Manning, Finance**, presented the latest information regarding the 2014-15 budget. **Manning** reported unfortunately expenses continue to grow faster than revenue and he reviewed a number of the measures being proposed by the City Manager to address the shortfall. The following items elicited questions/responses from meeting attendees.

- Environmental Health food inspection and child care licensing – either terminate the contract and give the responsibilities back to the State, or increase the fees. **Dave Robbins** asked if the State Contract doesn't cover the cost. **Manning** said it does, but it doesn't cover the associated administrative costs for supervisory and support personnel.
- Evergreen/Minisa pool swap and keep McAdams open. **Betty Strickland** wanted to know what attendance is like at the pools. **Manning** said even though Minisa is smaller, it's used a lot more than Evergreen and McAdams is currently one of the least used pools. He said eventually the City would like to have fewer pools, but larger, strategically placed ones. **Tom Strickland** said in order to repair a pool you almost have to completely destroy it in order to access the necessary areas. He said it makes more sense to build a new pool than to repair an old one.
- Eliminating or holding open positions. **Elena Ingle** asked how eliminating or holding open a position that is already vacant saves money. **Manning** said the position is budgeted on paper, so by eliminating it, the money can be shifted somewhere else.
- Watson Park. **Connie White** asked for clarification on what the plan for Watson is. **Manning** said the City needs to do a study to see if amenities can be maintained at less cost, i.e. using volunteers, contracting for services, etc.
- City Hall Security Screener outsourcing. **Ellen Estes** asked how this saves money since you have to pay a contractor anyway. **Manning** said savings result from not having to pay for benefits and larger companies that specialize in a certain area can typically provide the service more efficiently.

**Estes** also asked how much of a property tax increase on a \$100,000 home would be required in order to keep all of the aforementioned cuts intact. **Manning** said approximately \$13 per year.

**Council Member Clendenin** said these are hard decisions because the City Council has already cut all the fat and is now having to cut into the flesh of City services. He outlined some of the options he supports and why.

- The changes in Fire because at the city/county fire station, they only responded to 4 fire calls last year; those resources could be used somewhere else
- Contracting out the Government Relations position after the current employee retires
- Riverside Zoo Exhibit is a tough one, but the habitat is expensive to maintain and isn't the greatest for the animals

The Council Member assured everyone that Watson Park isn't going to be shut down. He pointed out that the City contracted out mowing a few years ago and was able to save \$1 million.

**Paul Davis** said the City Council has done a great job of not increasing the mill levy and as a businessman he appreciates that because businesses pay about 2½ times what residential property owners pay.

**Recommended Action: Provide feedback**

**New Central Library Architectural Services**

**Steve Roberts, Library Board President Pro Tem, and Cynthia Berner Harris, Director of Libraries,** gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the need for a new library and the challenges with the current building.

The next step in the project process is to identify an architectural firm and its consultants to comprise a building design team to continue the project through schematic design, design development and creation of construction documents. A request for qualifications will be used to select the building design team. The City will retain HBM as its library consultant throughout the design phase and the preparation of construction documents to help ensure that the intent and efficiencies identified in the building program are realized by the building design.

The adopted 2011-2020 CIP includes \$18,000,000 in 2014 and \$12,000,000 in 2015 for this project (\$30 million).

**Roger Smith** asked if the Library currently utilizes volunteers; **Berner-Harris** said yes the number utilized equates to about 12 fte's (full-time employees).

**Dave Robbins** asked how autonomous the Library Board is; **Roberts** said they are an independent body, but they do not have a dedicated mil levy or taxation ability. **Robbins** asked what efforts have been made to secure grants; **Roberts** said they are always on the lookout for grant opportunities, but with the state of the economy grants have become very competitive.

**Danny Johnson** asked if increasing the debt ratio into the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile would make it difficult to borrow money. **Kevin Mc Whortor**, Library Board member who works in the field of municipal financing, said the City would still be in a position to borrow money. The City might have to borrow at a higher rate, but not significantly. **Johnson** asked if a new library could be funded by sales tax; **Roberts** said the Library Board is not a taxing authority. **Johnson** asked Council Member Clendenin if that option was being discussed; **CM Clendenin** said there have been some "robust" discussions.

**Connie White** wanted to know when the Library was built; **Berner-Harris** said 1965.

**Terry Brewster** commented that the PowerPoint presentation was the best one he has ever seen at a DAB meeting and acknowledged that he sees it as an important quality of life issue. He asked when the building needs to be ADA compliant; **Roberts** said probably 2016. **Brewster** said he also had concerns about maintaining the bond rating and he liked the idea of a sales tax.

**Connie White** asked how long it would take to design and build a new library; **Roberts** said the general estimate is 9 to 10 months for design and 12 to 15 months for construction.

**Elena Ingle** asked if a new library is built, what the plans for the old building are; **Roberts** said he didn't know.

**Ellen Estes** said she started her genealogy research in the basement of the downtown library; that the building is 50 years old and needs to be replaced.

**Kevin McWhortor** said he had heard the city of Detroit mentioned in regard to debt ratio and financial concerns, but for Wichita to reach the point where Detroit is, it would have to lose 70 percent of its population.

**Jim Underwood** said he is a DAB IV member and he went to that meeting opposed to the idea of a new

library, but the presentation changed his mind. He expressed concern of the lack of ADA compliance and said it only takes one lawsuit, and the building isn't old enough to be historically exempted. He also pointed out if the current building was struck by a tornado, they would lose all the contents.

**Jody Bennett** asked if a new library design would allow for upward expansion; **Roberts** said only two floors, but it would be build with maximum flexibility in mind.

**Paul Davis** asked what it will cost to put the RFQ out; **Roberts** said that won't cost anything other than publication costs. **Berner-Harris** said they anticipate the actual design cost will be about 7% of the total project cost – around \$2 million.

**Davis** said he liked the idea of using sales tax to pay for the library, particularly if food and medical could be exempted.

**Connie White** thinks the sales tax is more fair because then it's not just property owners being taxed.

**Recommended Action: Provide feedback.**

### **UPDATES, ISSUES AND REPORTS**

**Meeting was adjourned.**

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 6:30 p.m., August 7, 2013, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

#### **Guests**

Tom Strickland  
Betty Strickland  
Tricia Epps  
Jim Gulick  
Jim Underwood  
Judy Dillard  
Steve Roberts  
Kevin McWhortor  
Ellen Estes