

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2007
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at the 7:00 p.m. at the Lionel Alford Branch Library. In attendance were nine (9) District Advisory Board members, nine (9) staff and approximately eight (8) citizens with seven (7) signing in.

Members Present

Nancy Wilhite
Joshua Blick
Mary Cockburn
Hestel Sewell
Tom Engelmann
Mark DeRee
Gerald Marsh
Jim Benton
Peggy Bennett

Council Member Paul Gray

Members Absent

Ed Koon
Michael Gisick

Staff Present

Officer Carlson, Police
Officer Tejada, Police
Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Don Henry, Environmental Services
Shawn Mellies, Public Works

Guests

Pat Deshler, 3448 N. Emporia
George Walta, 10630 Carr
Rosetta Blackmore, 3700 S. Howe
Albert Hubl, 6400 W 36th St S
Lonny Wright, 1721 S Lulu
Robert McCosky, 1034 S Vine
Mary Gartland, 4722 S Fern

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Benton (Engelmann) moved to approve the agenda for the May 2, 2007 meeting. Motion passed 9-0.

Engelmann (Wilhite) moved to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2007 meeting. Motion passed 9-0.

Public Agenda

The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues not on the agenda to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to five minutes unless extended by the Board.

1. Scheduled Items

No items were submitted.

2. Off-Agenda Items

No items were submitted.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Officer Carlson, 28 beat, reported that there has been underage drinking at the Sportsmen Expo at 31st and Seneca and that there has been some Hispanic gang activity at a couple of mobile home parks on West McArthur.

Officer Tejada provided updates for the following beats:

13 beat – distributing Wichita Police Department tattoos to the children instead of stickers and this has been very successful.

14 beat – Businesses in this area are banding together to focus on security

15 beat – There has been tagging by spray paint and vandalism at Orchard Park and informational flyers handed out to address the issue.

16 beat – Increase in auto larcenies, so do not leave valuables in cars.

17 beat- Drag racing at Pawnee and Meridian. Reserve police units are addressing this problem on the weekends.

18 beat – Stolen vehicles and house of ill-repute. Patrol West and South are working cooperatively to address these issues.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

New Business

4. Revision of Animal Control and Protection Code

Kay Johnson, Environmental Services, presented the item. The Environmental Services Department administers Title Six of the City Code, which includes regulations for animal control and protection. Officers assigned to the department's Animal Services section enforce Chapter 6.04, which deals with animals running at large, dangerous animals, licensing of dogs, and cruelty to animals. The section receives approximately 22,000 citizen requests for service annually, investigates over 800 animal bites or attacks, and conducts more than 1800 cruelty investigations. Leash law and licensing enforcement also result in over 1600 citations annually.

Proposed changes to Chapter 6.04 include clarification of code requirements, enhanced enforcement mechanisms, requirements that better address current concerns with dangerous dogs and inherently dangerous breeds, and a revision of license fees. The proposed changes furthers the City Council's "Provide a Safe and Secure Community" goal via more aggressive regulation of dangerous animals and enhanced enforcement of animal control standards.

During last year's budget process, the Council approved addition of three animal control officers to better address citizen needs. The proposed revision of license fees will fund the additional staff and provide support for program activities. The basic license fee is increased from twelve to eighteen dollars, and the surcharge for animals not spayed or neutered is increased from five to eighteen dollars. Revenue projections are based on issuance of 40,000 dog owner licenses, with animals that are not spayed or neutered comprising ten percent of the total. There is also a proposed breeder's license requirement and fee.

It was asked whether people breeding dogs have reviewed this ordinance. **Ms. Johnson** stated that they have. They do not like reference to specific breeds and feel some of the fees are too high. Several citizens and board members discussed the issue of including specific breeds in the ordinance at length.

Council Member Gray asked how expensive microchip is. **Ms. Johnson** responded that it is about \$20 or \$30, but they are considering a \$2 rebate on the licensing fee which is proposed to increase from \$12 to \$18) for those owners who get their dog a microchip. **Benton** asked what is involved in microchipping a dog. **Ms. Johnson** replied that this is an injection that is offered at most veterinarians. **Marsh** and **Blick** asked if the machines can read all microchips. **Ms. Johnson** answered that even though many dogs receive different types of microchips technology is improving and allowing machines to read many different types of these chips and that you can't readily tell if an animal has a microchip without using these machines to scan for the chip. **Council Member Gray and Blick** also asked for clarification that a dog was allowed to have one litter a year without other licensing and permit requirements. **Ms. Johnson** stated that this is correct and that this only applies to dogs, since other animals are already covered in existing codes.

Wilhite asked if invisible fences count as containment? **Ms. Johnson** replied that if a dog is deemed dangerous, then there are pretty strict containment laws and an invisible fence would probably not be adequate to meet these requirements. **Engelmann** asked what constitutes a

dangerous dog. **Ms. Johnson** stated that a dangerous dog is a dog that bites or acts in a menacing way.

Mary Gartland, 4722 S Fern, asked why these ordinances do not pertain to cats. **Ms. Johnson** stated that there is a larger issue with stray dogs right now, but eventually would like to include cats in this measure. **Ms. Gartland** also asked why the fee is being proposed to be raised for those dogs that are not neutered when they are not considered dangerous. **Ms. Johnson** explained that they have not raised these fees in 4 or 5 years and that these fees are needed to offset the costs for enforcing these ordinances.

Action Taken: Provided feedback and comment for City Council consideration.

5. Paving Petition, 43rd St S, between Dodge and Seneca

Shawn Mellies, Public Works, presented the item. There is a valid petition to pave 43rd St S, between Dodge and Seneca, with the signatures on the petition representing 4 of 7 (57%) resident owners and 50% of the improvement district area, meeting State Statute requirements. The project will provide paved access to a developed residential and commercial area. The estimated project cost is \$100,000 with the total assessed to the improvement district. The method of assessment is the square foot basis. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$00.60 per square foot of ownership. It was clarified that the area on the map not included in the pavement petition was already paved.

Both the Board and citizens present were given the opportunity to provide comment, but none did.

Action Taken: Benton (Marsh) moved to recommend City Council approval of this project. Motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

6. No items submitted.

BOARD AGENDA

7. Board Updates and Issues

Blick announced that the Southwest Neighborhood Association will have elections on May 22 and will have a clean-up July 28.

Cockburn mentioned that there is a drug education individual available for speaking at summer programs, so let her know if you are interested.

Bennett announced that their neighborhood association will have a clean-up on May 12.

Benton mentioned that the bus stop benches look good, but that pot holes need to be filled on Pawnee from Meridian to Hydraulic.

Action Taken: Received and Filed.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.