

District III Advisory Board Minutes
Nov. 3, 2010
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee; nine District Advisory Board members were in attendance; nine City staff and 11 members of the public were present.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
John Kemp
DeWayne Kitchen
Brian Nelson
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Staff Present

Officer Kim Warehime, Patrol South
Officer Robert Lacy, Patrol South
Officer Shanna Cornwell, Patrol East
Officer Vickie Kern, Patrol South
Lesa Lank, Housing & Community Serv.
Mary K. Vaughn, Housing & Community Serv.
Capt. Stacey Wespi, Wichita Fire Department
Firefighter Kurt Vin Zant, WFD
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Members Absent

Joann Hartig
Roger Smith

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Skelton** called the meeting to order. Minutes from the Sept. 3, 2010, meeting were approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

ReliabilityTREE, Westar Energy, Don Sherman and Steve Owens, presented information on the new vegetation management program. The project will be implemented in Wichita and will operate on a four year cycle starting in the Northeast quadrant of the city. Each quadrant of the city will take approximately one year to complete. Twenty-five crews will be working on pruning and in some cases removing trees in order to improve reliability and improve safety initiatives. At the same time, they will be examining their infrastructure and making necessary repairs.

Sherman said residents can expect to be notified in person, and if they aren't home a door hanger will be left with information and contact numbers. Once the project is underway, citizens will be able to log online and see where crews are working on specific days.

The project is expected to result in more reliable service with fewer "flickers," fewer tree related outages, fewer animal/lightning related outages and reduced equipment stress and failure-related outages.

If citizens want the wood for use as firewood, Westar will leave it behind. **Sherman** said they are also very happy to leave behind wood chips for mulching.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know if Westar owns Asphland or contracts with them; **Owens** said Westar contracts with them. **Foster** wanted to know what will prevent new saplings from coming up; **Owens** said they will be using a safe herbicide to control that. **Foster** said tree nurseries should be more responsible about what trees they are selling to the public; **Owens** said Westar is working with

several nurseries to help them help citizens to make wise decisions on tree purchases and placement.

Bill Ward said during the last wind storm his power was knocked out twice in a 12-hour period and the tree trimmers haven't been out yet; **Owens** said he would check on the status of that area.

Brian Nelson wanted to know if Asphland ever considers aesthetics when trimming trees; **Owens** said they do try to take that into consideration and to make sure that the tree will survive.

DeWayne Kitchen asked what Westar will do to access areas that are landlocked – he explained he has had issues in the past with various utility trucks driving through his yard causing damage and then not repairing it. **Owens** said if Westar or their contract damages someone's property they are then obligated to fix it to its previous condition.

Billie Tucker asked why all of the utility companies don't work together to keep the areas cleared. **Owens** said Westar owns the poles so the responsibility falls on them to keep the trees. He also explained that Westar can only trim around the main electric lines, they cannot trim around service lines that run between the main pole and the structure. He said Westar can temporarily drop service so that trimmers can work on the service lines, but that Westar doesn't do trimming in those areas.

John Kemp wanted to know how long Westar has been contracting with Asphlund; **Owens** said around eight to 10 years. **Kemp** said he's not happy because his power has gone out at least five times just this year; **Owens** gave him a phone number to call.

Teresa Cook asked if citizens can be there when the actual trimming is completed; **Owens** said yes.

Hoyt Hillman said there are many neighborhood associations that would be grateful to have the wood chips to use for various neighborhood projects; **Owens** said they are happy to leave them.

Non-Scheduled items

No items.

Action: Receive and file.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Vickie Kern, Beat 24 Patrol South, reported things were somewhat quieter for Patrol South last month; on her beat she only had six residential burglaries and no nonresidential burglaries. They recently conducted a prostitution and John sting where they arrested five females and two males.

Officer Kim Warehime, Beat 28 Patrol South, introduced herself as the new 28 beat coordinator. She said the 28 beat has seen a slight increase in burglaries, but were able to make an arrest after getting a hit from a fingerprint left at one scene. She said there has also been an increase in larcenies and reminded everyone to keep things out of their vehicles. She said criminals are stealing stupid things that have very little value, so it's best to just keep everything out of your vehicle. With cold weather approaching, Warehime also reminded citizens not to leave their vehicles running and unattended.

She said several guns were recently stolen from residences in the 28 beat, but the owner(s) had not recorded the serial numbers, making it impossible for police to trace to stolen items.

Officer Robert Lacy, SRO at South High, reported things have been fairly quiet at the high school, but reiterated the importance of marking valuable possessions with identifying numbers and also recording serial numbers.

Connie Classen asked about the graffiti that has been showing up in the MacArthur and Hydraulic area. **Officer Kern** said most of it is being done by a group of kids that call themselves the “train wreck crew” and they are not believed to be gang related.

Teresa Cook asked if **Officer Kern** had seen the giant clown graffiti on Clark street between Topeka and Emporia; **Officer Kern** said she would check it out.

Connie Classen wanted to know who to contact about speeding school buses; **Officer Kern** said police can address that issue, but that sometimes when you have large buses traveling on small streets, it seems as though they are going faster than they actually are.

John Kemp said he is having problems getting the police to come out and take a report on a barking dog complaint; **Officer Cornwell** suggested that he call 9-1-1.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Captain Stacey Wespi, WFD, reported there were five fires in District 3 during October; four accidental and one intentional. City-wide there was more than \$700,000 worth of property damage caused by fire in October. **Capt. Wespie** said the Fire Department is currently doing hydrant inspections and reminded everyone to change their smoke detector batteries when they change their clocks for daylight savings time.

Billie Tucker expressed his condolences to the Fire Department on the death of former chief Mike Rudd.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations for FY 2011-2012 Funding Allocations: CDBG, HOME, ESG Funds

Lesa Lank and Mary K. Vaughn, Housing and Community Development, presented the funding priorities for the fiscal year which starts July 1, 2011, and ends on June 30, 2012, for the Consolidated Plan for 2009-2013. In order to receive input City staff prepared a worksheet to be completed by District Advisory Boards for Districts I, III, IV and VI. City staff is projecting the same level of funding for 2011-2012 as the current fiscal year: CDBG: \$3,084,879 HOME: \$1,826,790 ESG: \$125,133.

Hoyt Hillman, in reviewing the feedback sheet had questions regarding the youth programs; **Lank** outlined all the youth programs that were funded last year.

Brian Nelson wanted to know if the figures presented were what had been allocated, or what had been spent. He said he didn't feel like he had enough information to make informed decisions on re-allocating funding. **Vaughn** said this exercise wasn't so much about moving dollar amounts, but endorsing categories of funding and programming. She said they look for the community to provide feedback on what types of things they want the money spent on and then the Grants Review Committee will deal more with specific providers and dollar amounts.

Bill Prather said WIN (Wichita Independent Heighborhoods) has been present at three of the DAB meetings for this discussion and they feel like something is missing. WIN would like to see a line item for neighborhoods to apply for funding for special projects. **Judy Dillard** said it would be important to keep in mind that the CDBG funding can only be used in designated low income areas – not all neighborhoods would qualify.

John Dickson said 67216 is one of the poorest areas in the city and they never get anything.

The DAB decided to complete the feedback sheets individually, instead of as a group project. **Vaughn** asked that they provide her with their feedback no later than Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Recommended action: provide recommendations for funding allocations for fiscal year 2011-2012.

Action: Will provide by Nov. 10.

Nominate a District III representative to the Grants Review Committee

Mary K. Vaughn, Housing and Community Development, asked for a DAB III representative to serve on the Grants Review Committee (GRC). **Council Member Skelton** asked if anyone on the DAB was interested in serving on the Committee; **Judy Dillard** said she was interested. **Teresa Cook** then said she was interested. **Council Member Skelton** asked if anyone had an objection to Dillard serving in the position; one person objected. **Council Member Skelton** then called for a vote; **Dillard** was confirmed 6:3.

Action: Named Judy Dillard to serve on the GRC

Updates, Issues and Reports

DeWayne Kitchen reported the Planeview Neighborhood Association had a successful clean up on Oct. 16.

Judy Dillard announced the South Area Neighborhood Association hosted a successful candidate forum on Oct. 4.

Regarding the District III City Council seat that Jim will vacate, he said the City has two options. They can either appoint someone: whereby the DAB selects up to five potential nominations and then the City Council makes the final selection. Or, they can hold a special election which would occur at the same time as the other Council seat elections in April. Several DAB members expressed concern in leaving the District 3 seat vacant until after the April elections.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 1, 2010, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Paul Davis
Connie Klassen
Elena Ingle
Sandra Rogers
Don Rogers
Don Sherman
Steve Owens
Bill Prather
John Dickson
Hazel Drummond
Hoyt Hillman