

District II Advisory Board Minutes

October 1, 2007

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The District II Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Rockwell Branch Library, 5939 E. 9th Street North. CM Schlapp, 7 board members, 2 staff and approximately 2 citizens were in attendance. Only those individuals who signed in are listed as guests below.

Members Present

Brian Carduff
Sarah DeVries
Larry Frutiger
Tim Goodpasture
Aaron Mayes
Max Weddle
Marty Weeks
Sam Jones – Youth Member
Nick Pompeo - Youth Member
Council Member Sue Schlapp

Members Absent

Daryl Crotts
Joe Johnson
David Mollhagen
Phil Ryan

Staff Present

Officer Matt Lowe, 39 Beat, Patrol East
LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant

Guests

No guest signed in.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. **CM Schlapp** explained how the District II Advisory Board meeting is conducted. She advised that chair Joe Johnson runs the meeting as she likes to get feedback from her board on issues brought before them and feels that this is the best manner to receive that information. In the absence of Joe Johnson, CM Schlapp proceeded to conduct the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

The meeting agenda for October 1, 2007 was approved. (**Goodpasture: Carduff, 7-0**)

The meeting minutes for September 10, 2007 were approved. (**Goodpasture: Carduff, 7-0**)

DAB members did introductions. After the introductions were completed **CM Schlapp** introduced the new youth members of the District II Advisory Board. Both Nick and Sam are students at East High Ivy League program and have expressed interest in government. **CM Schlapp** welcomed the youth to the Board and expressed how this was a great opportunity for the young men as well as the Board. **CM Schlapp** invited them to participate in the discussions, but informed them that they could not vote on the items before the Board.

CM Schlapp also requested that staff verify if they had to be sworn in and if there were any official steps that needed to be taken care off.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No items submitted.

Off-Agenda Items

No items submitted.

STAFF REPORT

3. Community Police Report

Officer Matt Lowe, 39 Beat, Patrol East provided an update on the activities for his beat. **Officer Lowe** advised they are working on a club that is operating illegally. Officers visited the establishment last Saturday and cited the owner for selling liquor without a license, as well as, citing him for not having a cabaret license. In addition to the citations that were issued, they owner was also arrested. **Officer Lowe** also advised that club has been getting busier and busier every Saturday and they are working diligently to get the owner to comply with City ordinances.

Officer Lowe then provided an update on the crime trends:

- *Larcenies up 12% (shoplifting, mailbox theft, and items stolen from vehicles)*
- *Non residential burglaries up 23%*
- *Auto theft up 33% (6 vehicles stolen)*
 - o *3 vehicles had keys left in the car*
 - o *4 of the 6 vehicles have been recovered*
 - o *3 of the 6 vehicles were retrieved from one address – further investigation pending*
- *Residential burglaries down by 10%*
 - o *More patrolling*
 - o *Increased education*

Officer Lowe advised that the Police are advocating that communities get locked mailboxes and that citizens be observers and report suspicious activities.

Mayes wanted to know what time frame did the trends reflect. **Lowe** advised that this reflects activity over the last month.

CM Schlapp wanted to have an update on the gang activity. **Lowe** advised that not much activity was occurring on his beat and wasn't aware of the activity for other beats. **Porter** advised that in a staff meeting she was informed that the 36 Beat was encountering some gang issues. **Lowe** reported that Officer Oblinger is working with the landlords of the area to discuss some different opportunities to address this issue. However, one of the main issues with this area is the out of state landlords.

CM Schlapp expressed that her concern with gangs is that why we are taking care of some of the leaders of gangs we still have the issue of the youth joining gangs. We must try to influence the youth to do something different.

The Board thanked Officer Lowe for his updates.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Offender Re-Entry Program

Sally Frey, Director of Sedgwick County Offender Re-Entry Program, presented information on the process for the re-entry program. **Frey** advised that she started with the program as of January 2006 and has brought on twelve additional staff members to assist with the program.

Frey explained that over 5500 people are released from prison every year. Of the 5500, 70% or 4,043 prisoners are released on parole and the other 30% or 1532 prisoners are released to the community – meaning they do not report to a parole officer or work release center. Statistics also show that most of the prisoners go back to District I.

The history of the program:

- *2002 a forum was hosted by WSU which showed that 60% of the prisoners released return back to prison for one reason or another and that is an issue*
- *A nationwide concern of how to address the issue was discussed*
- *Outcomes were established from the forum that included:*
 - o *Community safety*
 - o *Housing*
 - o *Employment*
 - o *Support services*
- *Homelessness is another issue, 25% of the homeless were released from the state penitentiary.*

A task force was then established in 2003 and their main tasks were:

- *Review recommendations of the Wichita Assembly*
- *Collect additional information*
- *Make additional recommendations*
- *Identify what step needed to implement recommendations*

Frey advised that research shows that you can't give a prisoner \$100 and send them on their way to fend for themselves and expect them to succeed once they are released from prison. This is why the re-entry program is a great program to give newly released prisoners a better chance at survival.

Frey identified that the target population for this program are those individuals that are the higher risk offenders, those individuals that have multiple barriers stacked against them, making their transition more difficult.

Frey also explained that this program is a replication of the program done in Shawnee County. The program in Shawnee County was successful and has reduced recidivism down to 20%. **Frey** also wanted the Board to understand that this was a voluntary program and that the individuals must want to participate in this program.

Frey also pointed out that 95% of every one in prison would eventually be released.

Frey then provided a description of the staff that assists with the re-entry program.

- *3 Case Managers who tract the individuals while their in jail and then six-months after they go into the community.*
- *Program Specialist who finds volunteers to mentor and teach classes.*
- *Cognitive Specialist who looks at the risk factor with the thought process. They are challenged with trying to the change the thinking patterns of individuals to help them make better decisions as well as teach them importance of thinking out their decisions.*
- *Job Specialist talks to them about job skills, interviewing, and how to keep a job.*

Frey also described the accountability panel. The accountability panel is a diverse panel that serves key functions:

- Welcome the individual to the community once they have been released
- Setting the accountability standard, so when the individual gets out of line, their behavior can be addressed. The individuals then they comes before the panel and reprimand is given along with options to correct their actions.

Additionally, they also try to involve family. This program has created the first parenting class for men. The parenting class tries to address the importance of building a relationship, child support, as well as ease the transition for both the child and the father.

Frutiger advised that this sounds like a great program. Additionally, he wanted to know if someone is released from prison with no skills do they immediately go on welfare? **Frey** advised that generally they do not because welfare is generally afforded to single parent moms and since 92% of the prisoners that are released are men welfare is generally not their first option; however, they maybe eligible for food stamps.

Weddle wanted to know how many prisoners are released each year. **Frey** advised approximately 1500 – 1800 come back to Sedgwick County each year.

CM Schlapp wanted to know if they were working with the prison ministry and if they were looking at the faith-based community for mentoring opportunities. **Frey** advised that yes they were working with the faith-based community.

Weddle wanted to know since the County has a physical program (capacity) issue, is there any synergy between the two programs to combat the issue. **Frey** advised that she is working with the Director of the program.

Mayes wanted to know where volunteer support was needed the most. **Frey** advised that volunteers are needed for mentoring, teaching classes, job readiness skills, and the accountability panel.

CM Schlapp then expressed that she thought that this was a good program and she is encouraged with the progress of the program. She also suggested that Frey consider presenting this information to the City Council at a workshop.

The Board thanked Mrs. Frey for her presentation.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

BOARD AGENDA

5. Updates, Issues, and Reports

CM Schlapp announced that **LaShonda Porter – Neighborhood Assistant** would be leaving District II and pursuing an opportunity as the District I Neighborhood Assistant. However, Lashonda would still support the district until a new Neighborhood Assistant was hired. **CM Schlapp** expressed her desire to redefine the Neighborhood Assistant role for District II, as she would like the tenure for the Neighborhood Assistant to increase. **CM Schlapp** ask Board members to provide her with suggestion on how they thought the Neighborhood Assistant for District II should be utilized.

CM Schlapp advised that she believes the constant change in Neighborhood Assistants is a disservice to the district and that District II has needs but they are different from other districts. **CM Schlapp** expressed that LaShonda has been a valuable asset to the District and has really worked hard to increase the outreach and serve our community. The **Board** also expressed their gratitude with the service that LaShonda has provided to the district as well.

CM Schlapp wanted to know how we could redefine the outreach needed for District II; is there an opportunity that we are not tapping into in our district; and do we need a neighborhood city hall?

Board members recommended that a neighborhood city hall would be ideal, as this would allow citizens to connect with the Neighborhood Assistant, as well as, provide a venue for their concerns to be addressed. They also suggested that a survey be conducted to identify the issues and needs of the community.

CM Schlapp advised the Board to continue to think about the needs of the district and to provide her with any suggestions they may come up with.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The next DAB II meeting will be **November 5, 2007** at the Rockwell Branch Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant