

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 5, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Council Member Carl Brewer
Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
Shane Dundas
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Janice Rich*
Steve Roberts
James Thompson
Shontina Tipton
Lavonta Williams

Members Absent

Inga Taylor

Guests

Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 George Wash Blvd.
Terrill Williams, 1630 North Ash
James Butler, 1140 North Grove
Joann Hartig,
Stan Sheldon, 800 East First Street
Ben Walter, 800 East First Street

***Alternates**

City of Wichita Staff Present

Virдена Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Deb Legge, OCI
Julie Irvin, OCI
Derrick Slocum, MAPD
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Lt. Alan Prince, WPD
Officer Gerdes, WPD
Officer Schwiethale, WPD
Officer Carter, WPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and welcomed the guests. He asked if anyone present wished to be added to the Public Agenda. No one came forth.

Approval of Minutes

Brown Foster (Roberts) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Agenda

Roberts (Thompson) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Agenda

1. Appreciation and Recognition Award

Council Member Carl Brewer presented awards to individual citizens and organizations that assisted financially with the Christmas Treasures Project for the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas. He stated that each child received three toys each as a result of the positive response. Organizations: Cowtown, WPD, and WFD played additional roles providing a fire truck to transport gifts, and dressed as Mrs. Santa and elves. He thanked the community for coming together to ensure that our children in need had a Christmas.

Recommended Action: Present the award to the recipients.

2. **Terrill Williams**

Terrill Williams, 1630 North Ash, addressed the board on the positive benefits of the Atwater Center. He thanked the Atwater staff and the community for their support throughout the years. He stated that he grew up in the youth program and kept out of drugs, gangs, and other harmful activities by participating in positive events. He said that he just wanted to voice his appreciation to the board.

The board received and filed.

3. **James Butler**

James Butler, 1140 North Grove, addressed the board on issues of concern dealing with police enforcement, sidewalks, minority contracts, and overcrowded jails downtown. He said that in the 18 years he lived in Wichita and in the District 1 community, he has concerns that the African American community should look at: the saturation of police in the northeast area, several murders in the community remain unsolved, high unemployment in the African American community, and the lack of African American and Hispanic contractors/workers on the Kellogg project. He added that while he applauds the efforts of the WPD, most weekends he cannot go through his neighborhood without seeing flashing lights and feels that the people less able to defend themselves are the most hit. Mr. Butler stated that he cannot find the stats for the unemployment rate for African Americans, but feels there is a disproportionate and unfair rate.

The board received and filed.

4. **Off Agenda Items**

No items submitted.

Staff Reports

5. **Police Report**

Officer Gerdes, 43 Beat, reported: Club Zodiac, 13th & Vesta, that they are using the Weed and Seed grant to make the quality of life better for those surrounding the establishment. Thirteen residents were contacted that complained about the club. Due to consistent monitoring, not a lot of problems have occurred lately.

(Officer Gerdes response is in italics)

Brown Foster stated that with the Weed and Seed grant monies expanded to other sites, the Ken Mar Neighborhood Association is concerned about losing police presence. She asked what would happen in that area? *When Weed and Seed transfers to Beats 41, 42, 48 and 49 Beats, this area will not be affected at all. We will bring in other resources to assist. The lease agreement is up in June and the owner has agreed to not renew the lease.* **Thompson** asked for clarity on the funding. *Beats 43, 44, 45, and 47 will no longer be Weed and Seed areas.* **Williams** asked if Riley Williams, Grant Coordinator, could be invited to attend the next meeting for questions? **Council Member Brewer** directed staff to invite Mr. Williams to the next meeting.

Officer Schwiethale, 22 Beat, reported that he has worked a lot with the Homeless Coalition as a volunteer for the homeless count survey. The TECK Task Force will address the shelter overflow downtown. He also reported that he participated in the Home Show and is working on a project with Ms. Gilkey to address neighborhood blight. The group is working together and a lot has been

accomplished. Lastly, crime downtown was high in December due to vandalism. With beefed up enforcement, crime is now down.

(Officer Schwiethale's response is in italics)

Brown Foster asked if 500 South Main was in his beat area? *Yes. In the areas of 514 South Main, 507 and 509 South Market, we have placed prostitutes and johns on the web.* **Dundas** asked where was the apartments where the ceiling is coming down? *507 and 509 South Market.* Dundas stated that he has walked to work at night and has lived in the area for six years and feels safer. He commented that most of downtown has low crime except for that area on Market.

Joann Hartig, asked if they included the homeless count along Broadway? *This year we had 200 volunteers and used HUD guidelines. We went to the Lord's Diner, homeless shelters, under bridges, etc.*

Officer Carter, 48 Beat, introduced himself as the newest member to WPD. He graduated from the academy on December 15th and is excited about learning the happenings in the community.

The board received and filed.

6. OCI Report

Deb Legge, Neighborhood Inspector Supervisor and Julie Irvin, Neighborhood Inspector Field Supervisor, present information on the location and responsibilities of OCI Inspectors in District 1.

Deb Legge stated that in November 2006, the council identified Beat 44 as the start of an initiative to revitalize the area. Julie Irvin was promoted to Field Supervisor and Mitch Murdock transferred to her position. OCI is down one position and is currently interviewing for the 13th inspector to fill the vacant position. She also reported: new brochures for the neglected ordinance have been made, 600 neglected ordinance cases started through the identification of 600 properties, notices have been sent to 280 property owners to register vacant buildings, and StopBlight initiative has begun. The Diversion Program started in February 2007 and the first diversion conference has been scheduled with a second case following.

(Deb Legge's response is in italics)

Thompson asked how many inspectors would there be for the area? *There will be four located in the near northeast. One inspector is assigned to Beat 44, which is Jay Stalkup. We wanted someone in the area that work wells with teams. He will help Julie train the two new inspectors and it is our plan to have all three inspectors housed at Atwater.* **Williams** asked if citizens could go to Atwater to talk about the Diversion Program and what are the income guidelines? *Sharon Dickgrafe is heading that program. That can be considered, as the team will look at resources. If they had to, they can apply for federal housing funds. We are looking at person(s) who cannot repair houses themselves and want to stay out of the court system.* **Thompson** asked if the information could be passed on to Virdena? *Yes, I will get you that information. We are proactively addressing Beats 44 and 43 through the START Action Team. Planeview is using a little different approach with the "One Block At A Time" initiative. We change our staff around, but not often. That is partly due to people getting burned out looking at the same cases and the same people.* **Dundas** commented about the Habitat for Humanity and suggested that a similar group be developed to bring the community together. *The Neighborhood Assistants are looking at forming a master list of people available to assist with neighborhood blight.*

Brown Foster (Roberts) moved to receive and file. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Environmental Services Report

Kay Johnson, Environmental Services Director, presented information on the location and responsibilities of ES Inspectors in District 1. She handed out a chart listing the areas and explained that there are five inspectors in District 1 out of 7. The CDBG areas limit where inspectors can work. There has been discussion concerning the combining of OCI and ES inspectors to cover a larger area. Ms. Johnson then explained the 2006 Fact Sheet, which revealed 93% of their cases in District 1 were completed. There are currently 720 cases in 2007. It takes approximately 30 to 32 days to close each case, which is below the national average.

She explained that an idea has been generated to bring dumpsters in certain areas on the weekends due to the expense of court cases.

(Ms. Johnson's response is in italics)

Dundas asked for a percentage per district on completed cases. *Generally, Districts 2 and 5 do not generate many cases. Districts 1 and 3 have a 93% completion rate and District 4 has a 92% completion rate. Due to increased awareness, we expect 15,000 additional cases. 50% to 60% voluntarily comply with increase knowledge through education.* **Williams** asked for an explanation of 10th and Volutsia. *Basically, we could not go behind the fence and the property suffered years of neglect, which was an issue. Turn over in staff was another issue. Municipal Court had no jurisdiction to enforce the law and it was not until the District Court intervened those things changed. It cost the City \$12,000 to clean up that property.* **Domitrovic** asked what was the action? *We had to obtain permission to go behind the fence. There are 40 pages of search and seizure documents that can be obtained from Sharon Dickgrafe.* **Dundas** stated that there are any new bills next year that make Municipal Court and the District Courts equal, let us know so that citizens can help pass the bill by contacting the legislature.

Roberts (Brown Foster) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business

8. Parking Garage Development

Stan Sheldon, 800 East First Street, a representative from Donham Elevation Development, presented a brief overview for a proposed parking garage. He provided past history of the area and handed out the floor plan for the first floor and a 3-dimensional view of the project. He explained that the developer, Kelly Donham, grew up in Wichita and loves the idea of redeveloping downtown. The project would consist of: a hotel in front and a 7-story parking garage in back, 250 – 350 car slots, the use of lifts versus ramps, or a robotics system with up to 500 – 600 cars. The Historic Board rejected this project due to “environs”. The contention is the building does not fit with the past historic design.

(Mr. Sheldon's response is in italics)

Domitrovic asked what alternative plans did the Historic Board suggest, zoning requirements, and is it financed yet? *None. We may apply for IRB's, however; we currently have funding. There are no zoning requirements, but we are currently held to 1920 standards.* **Dundas** stated that he liked the floor plan for retail and parking in the back. It is almost like the place in Kansas City. He commented that he has concerns about the design. In his opinion, Douglas Street needs to remain in the 1920's fashion, because the design would stand out amongst other buildings. I

appreciate your opinion. We have conducted a lot of research about the downtown has had several massive changes historically. The history of what was, except for the old City Hall, is gone. Roberts commented that he thinks it is wonderful to have a new hotel with parking.

Thompson (Brown Foster) made a motion to support the project. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Proposed New Chapter 3.26 Related to Charitable Solicitation

Lt. Alan Prince, Wichita Police, presented a proposed new ordinance for Chapter 3.26 for permits and licenses, and amendments to existing ordinance for Traffic, Section 11.44.050, to better regulate the safety for soliciting donations on street medians. In past years, the Wichita Police Department has experienced safety concerns with persons soliciting at intersections. The proposed changes include: 30 to 32 intersections, proof of charitable organization, must have 21 year old or older to supervise, only identified solicitation area, shall not approach a vehicle, must 48 hour notice for background check, fees are \$60.00 to \$30.00, Chief of Police can now suspend licenses for non-compliance, and appeals would be made to the City Council.

(Lt. Prince's response is in italics)

Dundas asked if there was a booklet that includes the regulations? *When you apply for licensing, rules are provided. All applicants must sign the bottom of the application and a copy must be available for law enforcement to review.* **Miller Stevens** asked if the license is for specific intersections only? *Yes. Only for those listed.* **Roberts** asked if the median area has changed? *I cannot answer that.* **Thompson** asked what is the maximum number a person can supervise at one time and if there are various forms within the organization, would each area need a copy of the license? *Not designated. Just have to be 21 years old. Each area would need a copy of the license to solicit.* **Williams** asked can I bring in tons of people and be at all of those intersections and would kids in marching bands be considered as a charitable organization? *You can do this for three days. An organization must have an IRS Form 501(c)3 to be considered a charitable organization.* **Domitrovic** asked about the car washes with youth and how that fits in this? *Car washes or solicitation on private property is not the same and would not fit this proposed change.* **Rich** asked if all of the allowed intersections have medians? *95% have medians.*

Domitrovic (Williams) made a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Motion carried 7-0.

10. CUP2007-00007

Derrick Slocum, MAPD, was prepared to present a request for an amendment for DP-8 University Gardens Amendment #11 to alter uses, maximum building coverage, gross floor area, number buildings on Parcel 9 (association w/ZON2007-00004), generally located on the northeast corner of 21st Street North and Oliver. The applicant was not present and the board decided to defer hearing the case.

Thompson (Brown Foster) made a motion to defer the planning case due to the lack of the applicant. Motion carried 7-0.

11. ZON2007-00004

Derrick Slocum, MAPD, was prepared to present a request for a zone change from SF-5 Single-family Residential to Limited Commercial associated with CUP2007-07, generally located on the northeast corner of 21st Street North and Oliver. The applicant was not present and the board decided to defer hearing the case.

Thompson (Brown Foster) made a motion to defer the planning case due to the lack of the applicant. Motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

Board Agenda

12. Updates, Issues, and Reports

- **Dundas** stated that he is noticing more trash in the river and in the downtown area. He has spoken with Lavonta about starting a neighborhood association in his apartment.
- **Williams** stated that he would like for us to think about the words to place on the brick for Piatt Park.
- **Miller Stevens** invited everyone to attend the Schweiter Park. Families are out, the courts are new, and kids are playing on the playground again.
- **Roberts** thanked the police for catching speeders in his neighborhood.
- **Brown Foster** announced Revolution Wichita sponsored by Pure and Simple, April 12th, Friends University, 7:00 p.m. She also announced the Northeast Millair NA Meeting, March 17th, 3:30 p.m., Patrol North. Council Member Brewer is the speaker.
- **Gilkey** announced the Landlord Informational Workshop, March 17th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Atwater NCH. Also, March 20th and 21st, Youth Volunteer Week, 60 plus youth will paint addresses on the curbs for residents in the Beat 44 area.
- **Brewer** announced the next District I Coalition Breakfast Meeting will be April 7, 2007, Cisro's Restaurant and the next meeting of DAB I will be April 2, 2007, Atwater Neighborhood City Hall.

With no further business, **Roberts (Williams)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant