

District III Advisory Board Minutes
July 6, 2011
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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; five District Advisory Board members were in attendance; six City staff and 19 members of the public were present (two did not sign in).

Members Present

Jody Bennett
Paul Davis
Elena Ingle
Danny Johnson
David Robbins
Council Member James Clendenin

Staff Present

Chief Brad Boyd, WFD
Officer Dave Hinners, Patrol East
Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East
Officer Vickie Kern, Patrol South
Janis Edwards, City Clerk's Office
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Members Absent

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 6:30 p.m. **Council Member Clendenin** called the meeting to order. Five new DAB members were sworn in by Deputy City Clerk Janis Edwards. Minutes from the May 4, 2011, meeting were approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

Lou Confessori, Mennonite Housing, gave a brief overview of Mennonite Housing, which has been in existence for 11 years in Wichita, and provided more detailed information on the MHRS Homeownership Project. He also provided updates on the Senior housing projects recently built on 31st St. South and MacArthur Rd.

Jody Bennett wanted to know if Confessori could come and speak at a neighborhood association meeting; he said he typically only does speaking engagements between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

David Robbins asked what kind of training Mennonite Housing provides to prospective home-buyers. **Confessori** said the City of Wichita requires the training because they feel if they are going to make a \$20,000 investment in someone, they want the individual trained in financial management, etc. **Robbins** asked if they are trained on home repair and maintenance; **Confessori** said yes.

Danny Johnson wanted to know how long the approval process takes; **Confessori** said it depends on a number of factors including credit issues, existing debt, etc. He said he has had families that have waited up to two years for approval.

Paul Davis asked what the success rate for the organization is; **Confessori** said 97 percent of their home loans have been 30-year fixed rate and of 148 loans made, none of them have defaulted yet.

Jody Bennett asked where Mennonite Housing gets their lots; **Confessori** said they typically do in-fill, but in some cases have purchased larger parcels and built multiple homes. **Bennett** said she has seen the new Senior Housing and it is really nice.

Council Member Clendenin thanked Confessori and said Mennonite Housing has done wonderful things in the Wichita Community and it is much appreciated.

Non-Scheduled items

No items

Action: Receive and file

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Vickie Kern, Beat 24 Patrol South, reported police have been spending a lot of time enforcing the ordinances requiring citizens to stay out of the public fountains; on 26 beat there have been a number of incidents of purses being stolen from shopping carts at Wal-Mart and 27 Beat has had some residential burglaries, but no set pattern; there were also two robberies in the Pawnee/Seneca area.

Joann Hartig asked about the two burglaries on 24 Beat; **Officer Kern** said one was a vacant house and the other was a motel room.

Roger Smith wanted to know what is going on at Battin Apartments. **Council Member Clendenin** said he met with OCI and Police regarding the apartments and OCI has already opened a number of cases. It's a difficult situation in terms of code enforcement because the owner lives out of state.

Officer Justin Whyte, Beat 34 Patrol East, said there has been a change on the 36 Beat and Officer Bogle has gone back to Patrol and Officer Duff is the new CP Officer. He said there has been an increase of larcenies at night on the 34 beat and he caught one guy in the middle of the night trying to steal a mower. Summer camps are in full swing with 97 campers in Planeview and around 20 in Hilltop.

Jody Bennett said in late June there was a home invasion in the 1900 or 2000 block of Mona Lane and police responded very quickly and caught the suspects. **Officer Whyte** said it's important for citizens to call 911 whenever they see suspicious activity.

Council Member Clendenin said he spent some time at the camp in Hilltop and it was good to see Officers not only catching bad guys, but also mentoring kids.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Chief Brad Boyd reported District III had four structure fires in June – two were incendiary and two were accidental; city-wide in June there was approximately \$900,000 in property damage due to fire. He said over the Fourth of July weekend there were four fires related to fireworks with the worst being a \$90,000 loss.

Danny Johnson asked about the S. Waco fire that started due to electric lines falling; **Chief Boyd** said during extremely hot weather it's not uncommon for old electric lines to simply snap.

Chief Boyd said it was a very busy weekend; they typically respond to a fire once every 24 hours, but over the weekend they had eight in 24 hours.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Metropolitan Area Planning Commission Appointment

Council Member Clendenin introduced Bob Aldrich as his appointment to the MAPC. **Council Member Clendenin** said he felt like the MAPC appointment was one of the most important ones and of all the people he interviewed, he felt like Aldrich was the best candidate. Aldrich doesn't reside in District III, but the

Council Member said Aldrich will be accessible to District III residents and he will attend any meetings necessary to keep D3 citizens informed.

Bob Aldrich said that he was the Mayor's appointee on the MAPC for a couple of years, that he is very familiar with District III, and he expects to see a lot of development occur in the District over the next few years.

Jody Bennett asked if Aldrich would be willing to work with some of the developers and realtors to bring services to South Wichita. **Aldrich** said he absolutely would and he would also make sure they are in line with neighborhood plans and meet the zoning regulations and proper land use, etc. **Bennett** said she is very interested in getting basic quality of life services in South Wichita. **Aldrich** added that he has also served on the District 6 Advisory Board and on the Park Board.

Connie Klassen asked if Aldrich knew if the proposed sign at 47th and Hydraulic had been approved; **Aldrich** said it was scheduled to go before the MAPC tomorrow.

Joann Hartig asked Aldrich if he was aware of the issues with car lots and salvage yards; **Aldrich** said he has a history of dealing with those issues and was heavily involved in the Bridgeport area.

Larry Manny wanted to know where we are with the elevated railroads; **Aldrich** said that's not really a MAPC issue.

Roger Smith asked if Clapp Golf Course was going to close; **Aldrich** said that's not a MAPC issue. **Council Member Clendenin** said he would address that issue later in the meeting.

Action: Receive and file

UPDATES, ISSUES AND REPORTS

Council Member Clendenin said the South Broadway Bridge construction project is still slated to occur, but the railroad is now making additional demands and the one house in question has been determined to have some historical significance. He also informed everyone that the bridge absolutely cannot be built back in place using the existing pilings because they have been x-rayed and the top 1/3 of the pilings is dissolving.

Regarding Clapp Golf Course, **Council Member Clendenin** said he was disappointed that information was leaked to the media because Clapp was not the only golf course being discussed. He said the City is projecting a \$500,000 savings if the course is closed, but that he is against closing it because it reduces quality of life in District III. He said he will work on finding other available options rather than closing it.

Council Member Clendenin's other items included:

- C&D landfill being proposed in District 4 – contact Bob Aldrich with any concerns
- Day camps have been great, but they always need good mentors so contact the City if you want to volunteer
- Recently rode with the Air Section and their technology is amazing. The Air Section has significantly reduced the number of high speed chases on city streets.
- There are \$5 off coupons available for Drums Across Kansas
- There will be a District III brunch at Furr's on July 16 – everyone is invited to attend
- Provided a handout for citizens that includes the top 10 parking violations. The flyers can be used by Neighborhood Associations.

A discussion ensued on possible ways to get the parking information out to the community. Ideas included Channel 7, advertising on network TV or PBS, advertising in the newspaper, water bill inserts and billboards

David Robbins said he uses Clapp Golf Course and would hate to see it close. He also reported that Fabrique Neighborhood Association filled 8 skids and collected more than 50 tires during their neighborhood clean up.

Jody Bennett said they are getting new blacktop on 55th street.

Elena Ingle reminded everyone that National Night Out is on Aug. 2.

Paul Davis said he found it interesting that only 19 percent of those responding to the Citizen Survey reported being involved in local government/neighborhood issues.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 3, 2011, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Tom Strickland
Larry Manny
Kathy Manny
Sandra Rogers
Don Rogers
Steven Walters
Hazel Drummond
Connie Klassen
Lou Confessori
Jan Hunt
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
Bob Aldrich
Donna Aldrich
Clinton Coen
Roger Smith
Trisha Epps