

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

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January 8, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West

Nine (9) District Advisory Board Members attended the District V Advisory Board meeting. Also in attendance were four (4) City staff. Approximately 15 members of the public were present with 9 signing the sign-in sheet.

Members Present

Dave Almes
Bob Bulman
Dave Dennis
Maurice Ediger
Andy Johnson
John Marker
Clarke Sandberg
Ann Wellborn
Council Member Bob Martz

Members Absent

Jerry Hoggatt
DeAnn Sullivan

Staff Present

Officer Nicki Woodrow, Police
Kurt Schroeder, Central Inspection
Jess McNeely, Planning
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Valeta Hansen, 10501 W. University, 67209
Rebecca Morton, 3723 n. Athenian, 67204
Bryan Frye, 3109 Ridgeport
Frank Sullentrop, 3711 N. Ridge Road,
67205
Jane Byrnes, 9500 Delano

Call to Order

Council Member Bob Martz called the meeting to order at 7:05. He welcomed the public and asked them to wait until given the opportunity is given to speak on agenda items. He asked persons to be courteous and refrain from debating or making disrespectful comments or actions while others were speaking.

The Council Member then asked for approval of the minutes for the December 4, 2006; approved by a vote of 8-0 (Johnson/Dennis). The agenda for the current meeting was approved as presented.

Staff Reports

Community Police Report

Community Police Officer Nicki Woodrow, Beat 16, presented the District V Police Report. She reported that on December 18, Officers Baker and Haught were called to the Deluxe Inn on West Kellogg where a family that had been living there was being evicted due to inability to pay any longer for the room at the motel. By working with west side businesses for donations and services of Operation Holiday and Crusade for Christmas, the Officers were able to assist the family and help six families with food and toys for Christmas.

Officers for District V conducted warrant sweeps, making attempts to locate 207 people with active warrants. Bad addresses hindered reaching all but Officers were able to clear 33 warrants, which they considered successful.

Special assignments in December involved Officers operating in plain clothes as detectives in the Town West and Kohl's shopping areas. Several shoplifters were arrested during these assignments.

Continued efforts has been successful to work with the hotels & motels along Kellogg West from Ridge Road to post city ordinance information that guests must register with their correct names. All of the businesses now have the information posted.

Issues of concern including loud music, noise, and trespassing have been reported for Lightning Joe's, located at 6000 S. Holland. Several visits for follow up have occurred and will continue to address concerns.

Larceny with five auto thefts is reported in Beat 18.

In Beat 19, traffic efforts have been concentrated on 21st Street over the past year. The areas along 21st at Ridge, Tyler, & Maize have been targeted to reduce traffic violations using Lidar.

Officer Woodrow noted that the Patrol West officers provided glow bracelets to children for Halloween safety. Officer Woodrow presented Dana Brown with a certificate of recognition as thanks for assisting with the project.

A question from the DAB was the source currently used for the warrant information. Officer Woodrow explained that a database is used but it is common for addresses to change for people with warrants. Police try to update when possible.

Action: Receive and file

New Business

LED Signs

Kurt Schroeder, Office of Central Inspection, reviewed issues related to illuminated advertising signs, primarily those that use "LED" technology to create changeable copy, animation and moving graphics. The signs currently have no regulations to control illumination, brightness, or other expressed concerns. Currently, only about 100-125 LED signs exist and only a few of generated complaints. Most of the concerns for the signs had come through Council Members who received complaints or had noted issues with the signs. The concerns primarily focus on excessive brightness, possible traffic safety issues due to distractions, and general aesthetic concerns. Meetings with the signage industry produced a general concurrence that LED-type signs need to be better managed. Traffic Engineering and Wichita Police Department reported no indication of increased traffic complaints or accidents after sign installations. Staff has researched other cities addressing this issue and has found that most are at a similar point in code development or regulation for the LED signs. Schroeder outlined several approaches to consider including (1) aggressive, (2) detailed, specific regulatory, (3) moderate/cooperative regulation, and (4) voluntary

Council Member Martz invited the public to provide input. **Bryan Frye, 1309 Ridge Port**, commented that sound added to the signs was a concern. **Frank Sullentrop, Legacy Bank**, said the city currently has a lot of regulations on signage and his concern was additional regulations when brightness appeared to be the only valid concern. He pointed out that large banks advertise on television but small banks don't have the funding to do that and the signs help promote their business. He asked that the City move slowly and not be overly restrictive.

Council Member Martz stated that he agreed and that Council recognize this is a new area to address. However, they feel it would be best to establish regulations now while a smaller number of signs exist.

Randy Kubik, GMIC, Inc. said he represents an electronic signage company. He said numerous studies had been conducted on whether the signs were a safety hazard including the Federal Highway Commission. The results have stated that no negative effects on safety exist and that some actually prevented a decreased alertness for the driver.

A small business owner spoke about how critical marketing is for success but how limited funding is for doing that. The signage is an affordable alternative. He agreed that the brightness could be an issue.

Brian Rader, George Lay Signs, Inc., noted that signs can actually be dimmed for night hours and he recommended owners do this. He said their business sells 15-35% more of the electronic signs over "stick" signs.

The issue was returned to the Board for comment. **Dennis** expressed a concern about any sign shining into a residential area, especially when the area where the sign exists is considered a buffer area. **Bulman** said he recognized that the signs were intended to draw attention due to brightness or flashing and they might be distracting if these are extremely bright/flashing. If businesses have agreed to govern themselves, it appears they aren't doing this. He said that brightness should be limited. Ediger encouraged that the City continue being pro-business. He stated that the signs don't personally bother him while he's driving but agreed that residential neighborhoods need to be considered.

Action: The Board provided input for staff and Council.

Conditional Use 2006-59

Jess McNeely, Planning Department, presented a request for a Conditional Use for rental and auto leasing on LC site, at 1455 N. Maize Road, generally located northwest of the 13th Street North & Maize intersection (2424 N. Maize Road). The business has actually been operating in this location for approximately ten years. An inspector from the Office of Central Inspection happened to notice that the zoning was not appropriate for the business without a request for the Conditional Use. The business is a very small operation with only about 6 vehicles displayed along Maize Road at a time. The site is currently developed with an automobile service business and the Enterprise car rental business. Property north of the site is zoned "SF-5" Single-family Residential and developed with single-family homes. Property south of the site is zoned LC and developed with a bank. West of the site is vacant LC zoned commercial property; further west is "TF-3" Two-family Residential zoned residences. Screening exists between the business site

and residences to the north and west. East of the site, across Maize, is another LC zoned auto service business. McNeely said no response had been received from the residents notified.

Jason Graham, Enterprise Regional Manager, said they had been operating from the site for the past ten years, were successful in that site, and hoped that the request would be approved so they could continue as currently operating.

No area residents spoke.

Board Members asked if the approval were given, would the change give larger competitors an opportunity to locate in the area given certain vacant properties and a closed business in the immediate area. **McNeely** explained that more than likely, the competitors would need a larger area than what was available.

Action: Recommend City Council approve subject to conditions.

Environmental Services

Bill Hoffman, Environmental Services, presented an overview of 2006 activities for the department, explaining the various programs. He made several points for some of the programs such as decreased state funding is expected for Child Care Licensing; the number of animal bites in Wichita is below the national average for same size cities; tobacco compliance rate is at or above the national average; the area continues to be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's standards for air quality; 55-60% of citywide premise condition cases voluntarily comply; the well-known case at 10th & Volusia cost \$12,000 to abate; and that six premise condition inspectors cover the entire city.

Board Members asked a few questions, mainly pertaining to the 10th & Volusia case.

Action: Receive and file.

Public Agenda

This portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for citizens to present items not shown as part of the regular meeting agenda.

Off-Agenda Items

- Due to illness, the representative of **Pure & Simple Lifestyle**, abstinence education program, was unable to provide an update on activities occurring in the District V area. However, a leaflet with the past year's numbers was provided to the Board.
- **Westlink Neighborhood Association** is making efforts to revitalize, led by Jane Byrnes. Byrnes explained the area was very large with boundaries from Central to 13th Street and Tyler to Maize. Approximately 1,800 residents live in the area. An open forum meeting is planned for January X at Peterson Elementary to assess interest from the residents. Council Member Martz suggested that they host an evening where the public is invited to hear the candidates for District V City Council position speak. He also gave some suggestions for

different places to host the meeting including McCollum and West Heights Methodist Church.

Action: Receive and file.

Board Agenda

Updates, Issues, and Reports

Report on activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District V.

No issues were reported.

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board V is scheduled at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at **7:00 p.m. on January 22, 2007**, as a special meeting to hear a presentation on the proposed Arena Area Neighborhood Redevelopment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
City Council District V