

District III Advisory Board Minutes
September 7, 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; six District Advisory Board members were in attendance; six City staff and 15 members of the public were present.

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Officer Rebekah Johnson, Patrol East
Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East
Officer Dave Hinners, Patrol East
Officer Mo Floyd, Patrol South
Battalion Chief Tom Carney, WFD
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. Minutes from the August 3, 2011, meeting were approved with one correction

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No schedule items

Non-Scheduled items

No items

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Mo Floyd, Beat 27 Patrol South, reported there had been an increase in auto thefts on the 24 Beat, but after following up, on two appeared to be random thefts and the others were incidents where someone loaned their vehicle to a friend or relative and it wasn't returned in a timely manner. On the 25 Beat there were 21 residential burglaries with arrests made on four of them. In one incident, the offender was a juvenile who actually brought the property back. Several of the burglaries claimed the theft of prescription pills. In the majority of the burglaries, entry was made by forcing a rear or basement window.

The 27 and 26 beats crime rates were well below average last month and 28 beat had no trends. The new 28 Beat CP Officer is Robert Lacy, the former South High SRO, and he has spent some time training the new SRO.

Officer Floyd shared a story about a woman the Patrol South CP Unit had assisted. Officers were having problems with pan-handlers on Pawnee near the 135 exit ramp and came in contact with a woman from Kansas City who was a victim of domestic violence. She had fled Kansas City and made it as far as Wichita before her car broke down. She sold it for scrap and when that money ran out, she started pan handling. The CP Unit helped her get an apartment, helped her find a job and got her a bicycle and a bus pass. She is now doing well.

Officer Dave Hinnners, 35 Beat, Patrol East, explained what the Stand Together Coalition is doing on the 35 Beat. The Coalition places an emphasis on prevention include substance abuse and crime prevention. They have a number of initiatives planned for the 35 beat and have also involved Bidy Basketball, the Neighborhood Association and USD 259 in the effort.

Officer Hinnners said they had seen a significant increase in burglaries where the suspects were kicking in back doors to gain entry. Sgt. Allen Wolf caught two suspects and a burglary in progress and since they have been jailed, the burglaries in the area have dropped from about 13 a month to three a month.

He is also planning to do another enforcement effort that focuses on catching students who are skipping school at Southeast High. He said in the past, these efforts have effectively reduced the amount of crime in the neighborhood around Southeast High.

Officer Hinnners also reported that Officer Long has seen an increase in the number of auto thefts on the 33 Beat. It appears that someone with a homemade tow truck is driving around Planeview and taking vehicles.

Officer Justin Whyte, 34 Beat, Patrol East, reported that since Aug. 22nd there have been 22 larcenies on the 34 Beat. He said they are taking place in parking lots and in residential neighborhoods, with suspects who ask to use the phone. At this time the police do not have good suspect descriptions. He also introduced Officer Rebekah Johnson who will be temporarily filling his position while he is deployed.

Danny Johnson reported his neighborhood had some issues with a juvenile offender who had committed numerous crimes, and with a large German Shepherd that was getting out of the yard and chasing children walking to Enterprise Elementary. He said Officer Lacy promptly dealt with both issues.

Action: Receive and file.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Tom Carney reported there were 26 fires in Wichita during the month of August, with 11 of them occurring in District III. Total loss was estimated at \$1.5 million with \$483,000 in District III. He said the majority of the loss occurred at the Shamrock Tire business in District III. He also announced that the most recent Citizens Fire Academy graduated in August.

Elena Ingle asked when the next class would be held; **Carney** said they do one session a year and it starts in the spring. **Council Member Clendenin** asked if there were age restrictions on the participants; **Carney** said they had to be over 18 years of age.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

City Update

Wichita City Manager Bob Layton reported he has recently completed his third budget cycle as City Manager. While developing the City's \$550 million budget is not an easy task, he did note that he felt confident that this year's budget is reflective of community priorities. Layton said he met with the District Advisory Boards, with Wichita Independent Neighborhoods and City staff – both management and field – in developing the budget. He also noted that this was the first year that they asked Council to approve a balanced budget.

He also pointed out the budget include no increase in the mil levy and there are no back door fee increases.

Layton said the strategies for 2012-2013 to help control costs include:

- Finalize restructuring – Fire, Police, Finance
- Increase use of technology
- Decrease fuel consumption
- Re-align staff in areas of diminished service demands: Planning, Public Works & Utilities, OCI
- Continue pursuing efficiencies

He pointed out that 72 percent of the City's budget goes for police, fire and public works, which is in line with community and City Council priorities. He said the economy in Wichita is experiencing a very slow recovery and it's going to be another tough year for City government. **Layton** said health insurance costs continue to rise and for the past two years there has been an employee salary freeze and management staff has been taking mandatory furlough days.

Layton briefed the DAB on several specific issues:

- Golf courses -- the operations side of the golf courses is in the black; it's the necessary improvements that put them in the red
- Transit services – transit will also have to be subsidized. The city is going to use Reserve funds to get through 2013, along with a 50 cent increase. They are trying to save money in fuel costs and are looking at options of generating revenue with gas from the sewer plant.
- Sedgwick County Jail fees – the City is looking at implementing a fee to defendants incurring jail time and Exercising discretion on booking of certain misdemeanors
- Early retirement program – the program encouraging early retirement is under development and will be offered for 2012. The City expects to save \$200,000 annually through vacated positions and new hires earning less than incumbents

Positive news includes the addition of 15 new firefighters. **Layton** said when the three new fire stations were built, there wasn't enough money allocated to properly staff them, so the City is trying to address that shortfall in this budget cycle. He said the 15 new positions will only cost around \$700,000 per year because the City will be able to eliminate a large amount of overtime pay. The police department will be adding eight new officers, grant funded.

Street maintenance will be a priority next year, according to **Layton**. He said Wichita's PCI (Pavement Condition Index) is steadily declining. He said Wichita has done a pretty good job of maintaining the arterial streets, but many residential streets need a lot of work. He said in the past, this money has been divided equally among the six City Council districts, but this year there may have to be some inequality, for example, there are more residential streets in District 1 that need repair compared to District 5. **Layton** also hopes the use of new advances made in seal coats will help streets last longer.

The Manager also briefly covered the Downtown Master Plan. **Jody Bennett** said there seem to be conflicting policies that support urban sprawl instead of supporting the Central Business District. **Craig Gabel** said people move to the suburbs due to the poor quality of USD 259 schools, and that neighborhoods are being destroyed by HUD housing.

Jim Gulick expressed some concerns over the development south of Intrust Arena – specifically on Commerce Street.

The Manager noted that the Douglas Place development would go before City Council on Sept. 13. **John Todd** announced there would be a meeting at Alford Library next Monday regarding this issue and the City's policies on incentives.

A modified solid waste plan is also slated to be addressed during the next year, the Manager said. He said a modified plan will be presented to Council during a workshop later in the month. The modified plan includes:

- Retain customer choice and hauler pricing
- Require option of single stream recycling
- Require pay-as-you-throw weekly trash collection
- Develop solid waste informational website
- Conduct ongoing public education program related to waste reduction
- Increase annual packer truck registration to \$450

Larry Manny said the City needs to get its head out of the trash and start using Brooks landfill to create energy; the Manager said the City does sell the gas from Brooks.

Melody Stucky said she's disappointed that Wichita hasn't really done anything toward recycling and we do need to be concerned about the environment.

City/County service consolidation is another area that is being explored. **Layton** said Bill Buchanan, Sedgwick County Manager, approached him about exploring possibilities; **Layton** said the County is where the City was two years ago in having to make very tough budget decisions. Currently, they are exploring Economic Development and Code Enforcement in terms of consolidation and there is an October 15 deadline for that report.

The final topic the Manager covered was the City's Water Utility issues, including rate increases. The Manager said the proposed rate increase is necessary to insure the long-term water supply; maintain and replace water mains and sewer lines; pay for new Federal treatment requirements and insure the capacity for growth.

Action: Receive and file

UPDATES, ISSUES AND REPORTS

Council Member Clendenin announced he will hold another District III brunch in October. There won't be a featured speaker so the Council Member can devote the entire time to listening to citizen concerns and responding to questions.

Larry Manny noted in the Wichita Eagle there were 26 pages of properties that have delinquent property taxes. **Council Member Clendenin** said he is in the process of dialoguing with the County and staff on this very issue and developing ideas on how to address it.

Council Member Clendenin also addressed the following issues:

- Announced he is still working on creative solutions to make sure that Clapp Golf Course remains open.
- Reported the police substation on Edgemoor will eventually move, but the Community Policing Office will then be located there, and there are no plans for the Fire Station to move from that location. Representatives from Police and Fire will be at the next Fabrique Neighborhood Association meeting to talk about the plans
- Said the burned out TV shop at 2200 E. Pawnee is slated to come before Council for condemnation and he is also working with OCI on a number of other problem properties
- The flood box slated to go in at the 47th street project will be slightly delayed

Larry Manny said when Jim Skelton was the Council Member, he asked Larry to find all the curbs and street potholes that need work in his neighborhood. He said he did that, and nothing was ever done with it. **Council Member Clendenin** asked him to e-mail that list to him.

Danny Johnson reported that he works at SRS and that organization has a new administration; he said there is a great deal of emphasis now being placed on fraud.

Richard Brown asked if the City could increase the amount of interest charged to individuals with delinquent property taxes.

Following up from the last meeting, **Council Member Clendenin** reported the proposed RV Park on S. Emporia would not be a place for permanent residences to be established – he said it will be more like a high end KOA park.

Connie Klassen announced at the Oct. 10th South Area Neighborhood Association, special guests will include Council Member Clendenin, County Commissioner Tim Norton and State Representative Geraldine Flaherty.

Paul Davis reported the 47th Street interchange project is finally done and the South Wichita Business Association will be co-hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 7. On the property tax issue, he noted that in order to get special licenses required for his business he must be current on his property taxes. He said that could be applied to other types of license.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 5, 2011, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Larry Manny
Kathy Manny
Sandra Rogers
Don Rogers
Steven Walters
Hazel Drummond
Connie Klassen
Jim Gulick
Chad Roush
Jan Hunt
Melody Stuckey
Ron Becker
Richard Brown
John Todd
Craig Gabel