

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 4, 2008

6:30 p.m.

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

Members Present

Council Member Lavonta Williams
Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
Gail Finney
Lori Lawrence
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Janice Rich
Steve Roberts
Benjamin Stiff
James Thompson
Adam Thomsen
Shontina Tipton*

Guests

Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 George
Gertrude V. Caldwell, 1217 N Estelle
John Stevens, 3125 E Boston
Eugene Smith, 2220 N Roosevelt
Joan Hartig, 1756 S Main
Mary Jo Bond, 4024 Charron
Patricia Fields, 1910 E 22nd St.
Cody Barnett, 430 N Woodlawn

City of Wichita Staff Present

LaShonda Porter, Neighborhood Assistant
Kay Johnson, Environmental Service Director
Lisa Hilyard, Environmental Service Supervisor
Officer Carlos Walker, WPD
Officer Whyte, 34 Beat, WPD
Officer Feuerborn, 42, Beat, WPD

*Alternate

Order of Business

Call to Order

Council Member Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Roberts (Brown-Foster) made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried **9:0**

Stiff arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Roberts (Brown-Foster) made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried **10:0**

Public Agenda

1. Agenda Items

No items submitted.

2. Off Agenda Items

No items submitted.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Carlos Walker, reporting on behalf of Patrol North advised that not much to report. The Beat 44 survey is still in progress and that it would be months before it was completed. **CM Williams** wanted to know who contact his been made with to help administer the survey. **Officer Walker** advised that he was not certain he would have to get with Officer Weber – Beat 44 CP Officer to confirm.

Tipton asked if Officer Weber could let her know the dates volunteers were needed as she has some volunteers from Americorps Gozone that could assist. **Officer Walker** advised that he would have Officer Weber of the request.

Lawrence advised that Sunday night 12 cars had their tires punctured while they were at a Super Bowl party at 1646 E. Central; she wanted to know if any information was available regarding this incident. **Officer Walker** advised that this was the first he has heard of the incident. He also informed Lawrence that she could always call for additional patrols when they are having events, as the Police do not want them to feel unsafe.

The **Board** thanked Officer Walker for his report.

Officer Whyte, 34 Beat, advised that Officer Mitchell – CP Officer for Beat 32 has accepted the position with the Offender Re-entry program once held by Officer Courtney Pierce. So Officer Mitchell will no longer be responsible for Beat 32 and he hopes that the position will be filled by February 9th. He will attend the next DAB meeting with the hopes he will be able to introduce the new CP Officer.

Officer Whyte reported that not much is happening in the Beat 32 area. He reported that Officer Mitchell is working on a burglary assignment.

Thompson wanted to know where Officer Courtney Pierce was assigned. **Officer Walker** advised that she has left the organization.

Officer Feuerborn, 42 Beat that he is aware of the venue that Lawrence mentioned earlier and that they are working on the house that is behind the club. He stated that some of the issues have been resolved and they are working on the remaining issues. He provided Lawrence with his business card and asked that they work with each other to address neighborhood concerns. **Officer Feuerborn** also mentioned that to the west of the property there is a boarded up house and that they believe there is a gambling ring being ran out of the house. Police are diligently working that as well.

Officer Feuerborn reported that there was shooting at the Top Notch Club – 1320 E Central. **Officer Feuerborn** reported that the club has been closed for some time now and when the owner took ill, someone has been in the venue having private parties. **Officer Feuerborn** stated that they will be passing out flyers to the community asking them to notify the Police if they see activity at the club.

Officer Feuerborn also reported that prostitution is an issue. He noted that this is an issue in many neighborhoods. **Officer Feuerborn** noted that a neighborhood watch would be ideal in these neighborhoods. He also noted that we do not have many neighborhood watches and they are going to look at getting information out about forming a neighborhood watch. **Officer Feuerborn** advised that Community Affairs reviewed the list of neighborhood watches and realized that over half of them were no longer active. In order to be considered an active neighborhood watch the group must meet at least twice a year.

Officer Feuerborn reported that Officer Warthen is working with the Office of Central Inspection regarding the Fairmount Towers. They are working to get the complex cleaned up. **Officer Feuerborn** also reported that there has been an increase in burglaries to residences in the Beat 47 area.

Brown-Foster wanted to know if any of the prostitutes were teens? **Officer Feuerborn** responded yes, but that is rare. **Brown-Foster** also wanted to know if there have been any reports on pit bulls. **Officer Walker** advised that there had been a couple of calls around Grove Park, but it is hard to pinpoint.

CM Williams wanted to know where neighborhood watch groups were really needed. **Officer Feuerborn** responded that they are needed across the Board and that Beat 42 has no neighborhood watches. **CM Williams** responded so there are some neighborhoods that think they have a neighborhood watch but they really don't since they were not in compliance with the two meetings per year. **Officer Feuerborn** confirmed that was correct.

Brown-Foster wanted to know where the prostitution was occurring. **Officer Feuerborn** stated it is across the Board but an area in specific is 10th and 11^{ty} from Washington to Hillside, prostitution is high in this area.

Miller Stevens advised that she just received e-mail from Officer Diehl advising of a human trafficking meeting that will take place on March 1 that is on to the public and the cost was \$20.00. **LaShonda Porter** will send the information out to the District I distribution with Friday's updates.

CM Williams thanked the Officers for their report.

New Business

4. Environmental – 2007 Year-End Service Report

Kay Johnson, Environmental Service, presented the statistics regarding the success of the Environmental Service division for 2007. **Johnson** noted that they had a busy but successful year. **Johnson** introduced Lisa Hilyard – Division Supervisor (Administration) for Environmental Service.

Hilyard advised that as of January 1st the Environmental Inspectors moved under the Office of Central Inspection. She reported that they are still assisting with the calls through the transition.

Johnson stated that they kept one environmental maintenance position and that person will work on the enforcement of surfacing sewage violations, permitting quantity and types of animals, investigating illegal dumping on public property, and investigate light, odor, and noise nuisances.

Johnson then reported that some of their notable accomplishments for 2007 included:

- RDHE Ark River WRAPs Grant for Ark River and watershed assessment (50,000);
- Environmental Maintenance staff transferred to OCI, ES retained one Public Health Sanitarian 1 for illegal dumping on public property, surfacing sewage, solid waste vehicle inspections, premise conditions on commercial properties and animal maintenance permits;
- Passage of a new local child care ordinance that incorporates state regulations;
- Animal protection and control code updated including dangerous dog improvements;
- 98% response rate to approximately 30,568 animal service requests; and
- The groundbreaking for a new Animal Care Campus in December.

Johnson also noted that they participate in the Greensburg clean up; they sent two hazardous materials staff. Additionally, we hired three new animal control officers that allowed us to increase our response time from 91% to 98.16% providing better customer service to the citizens.

Johnson reported that the new animal shelter is scheduled to open in March 2009. She also noted that they are trying to get energy star equipment in the facility to reduce energy cost.

Johnson pointed out that the number of complaints they came in through code enforcement was 14,299 in 2007; however, 10,528 (74%) of the properties were brought into compliance voluntarily. She noted that these figures show that Neighborhood Assistants and DAB Boards are really getting the word out about the importance of compliance and removing blight from neighborhoods. **Johnson** stated that we want voluntary compliance as it reduces the cost and resolve the issues quicker.

Johnson reported that they have a new supervisor Laura Quick in the Food Protection division. She reported that the Food Protection Division has participated in several KDHE programs and they are now using our programs as examples. Additionally, Johnson stated that if anyone had teens 13 –17 that would like to participate in stings that would catch venues selling tobacco products to underage children to call her office.

Lawrence wanted to know if they have considered doing the growing on the roof of the new animal shelter to save on heating cost. Johnson stated that they did not include that in the original design or budget, but they are looking at growing at the Rounds and Porter building. Johnson stated that this would allow them to understand the design needs and how effective it would be with cost savings. She stated that if in the future they were able to revisit the decision they would. She stated the new facility would have a flat roof so it might be feasible, but they also have to keep in mind that the Humane Society is on site and would have to agree with such a change.

Tipton stated that she wanted to thank both **Kay Johnson** and **Officer Kimble** for their assistance with the property at 1745 N. Spruce.

Brown-Foster wanted to know how they would deal with noise. **Johnson** advised that they usually deal with barking dogs or commercial noise. She also stated that they Police have to be there to observe the noise and issue a ticket, and the neighbor who filed the complaint must be willing to sign the complaint.

Brown-Foster also wanted to know how low a plane could fly. **Johnson** stated that she was not sure. **Borwn-Foster** then wanted to know if pools above ground are also required to have a fence around them. **Johnson** advised yes, all swimming pools need a fence.

CM Williams stated that she have a question/concern regarding the new homes that were built at 27th and Grove. She stated all of the homes seem to have the septic system on the front porch. All the pipes are on the front porch. **CM Williams** requested that **Johnson** review and get back to her with more information. **Johnson** responded that all septic systems should be underground and that she would take a look at it.

John Stevens, 3125 E Boston, stated that Environmental Service had a great display at the Home Show.

CM Williams commended **Johnson** for the great work that has been done.

JoAnn Hartig, 1756 S. Main stated that she was in environmental court the other evening and heard a comment that environmental services is responding much sooner and quicker to dog calls.

CM Williams thanked staff for their report.

Board Agenda

5. Updates, Issues, and Reports

CM Williams asked the Board if there were any updates to report.

CM Williams provided the results from the smoking ban vote that was taken at the District I Breakfast on Saturday, February 2nd: (7) no smoking ban; (12) yes – full smoking ban; and (15) yes – comprehensive smoking ban with exemptions. **CM Williams** explained that in most cases it has been a split decision and that her and **CM Longwell** are working diligently on this ordinance.

Rich advised that there are concerns in the community regarding the Dillon's closing. She has directed citizens to Dillon's headquarters to issue their concerns. She also reported that Hyde Neighborhood Association meets Saturday, February 9th at 3p.m. at the Spice Merchant.

Finney invited everyone to come out to the Democratic Caucus doors close at 7 p.m.

Lawrence stated that they also have a Dillon's issue and wasn't sure if College Hill would fight this issue again. She stated that she stopped at Homeland in the area and they were closed for inventory, which leads her to believe that Dillon's will be on Friday. **Lawrence** also stated that their neighborhood association has invited New Salem to attend their meeting on Thursday, February 7th and hopes that they are able to get them up and moving.

CM Williams asked **Lawrence** to keep her and **LaShonda** informed as they are attending several meetings that evening and would not be able to attend that meeting.

Tipton reported that Americorp Orchard Park GoZones would be hosting "A Carnival For the Young and Young at Heart" at Hadley Middle School on Friday, February 8th from 6p.m. to 9p.m.

Tipton also announced that Americorp and the City of Wichita would be hosting a College and Career Fair at Atwater Neighborhood City on Saturday, March 22nd from 9 –12.

Roberts reported that they will be going to Topeka on February 21st for Legislative Lobbying Day.

Brown-Foster reported that in speaking with the US Postmaster they are getting close to cutting out mail delivery in some areas where dogs are an issue. She noted that they are willing to discuss the issue and suggested that maybe they should come and speak at the District I Breakfast.

Brown-Foster also noted that the Post Master, Animal Control, and the manager from Munger Post Office would be presenting information at March Milliar Neighborhood Association meeting.

Miller-Stevens reported that the Republican Caucus is Saturday at Century II.

Domitrovic reported that he attended the Lambsdale Neighborhood Association and they are concerned about the construct on 13th and Edgemoor and lights. He noted that he advised them to come out to the DAB meeting to discuss.

Janet Wilson, 1152 N Estelle, stated that the Giants won and her cousin is going get her an autographed jersey to auction for the A. Price Woodard Neighborhood Association. She also announced that their hosting a Town Hall Meeting, Thursday, February 7th with Superintendent Winston Brooks and Principal Stephanie Stovall from Gordon Parks would also try to attend. The meeting will be held at the Health Department, 1900 E. 9th St N at 6 p.m.

Thompson advised that Dr. Dye is doing well.

With no further business, **Tipton (Roberts)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 10-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaShonda Porter
Neighborhood Assistant