

District III Advisory Board Minutes
Nov. 4, 2009
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Eight District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 13 City staff and 13 members of the public were present (two did not sign in).

Members Present

Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
John Kemp
Brian Nelson
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward

Members Absent

Teresa Cook
DeWayne Kitchen
Council Member Jim Skelton

Staff Present

Shawn Mellies, Public Works Engineering
Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South
Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East
Officer Aaron Howard, Patrol South
Det. John Barrier, Investigations
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services
Battalion Chief Andy Cole, WFD
Josh Mullen, WFD
3 additional firefighters
Julie Irvin, OCI
Harlan Bascombe, OCI

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Pro Tem Bill Ward** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from Oct. 7, 2009, were approved **8-0**.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

Karen Lippoldt, Youthville, reported they are experiencing an 80-90 percent success rate with their foster care program for difficult to place children age 12-18. She said they are always looking for new foster homes and she would be happy to speak at any neighborhood association meetings about the program.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know if the foster parents get paid. **Lippoldt** said yes, that this particular program pays the highest of all the Youthville foster programs.

Donna Thornton, 2714 Southfork, asked if training is provided **Lippoldt** said yes.

Non-Scheduled items

No items

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Justin Whyte, 34 Beat Patrol East, reported they held the 3rd annual Halloween party at Cypress Park and had around 100 kids show up. He said crime in Hilltop has decreased around 61 percent overall with a 31 percent decrease in part one crimes. **Billie Tucker** said **Officer Whyte** has been a life-saver to the Hilltop area and he always goes the extra step.

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, 26 Beat Patrol South, reported that the United Way document that stated the Bread of Life Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway would be on Galena Street was a misprint and it will take place as usual at the Bread of Life facility on Hillside. She also reported that last month she had around 10 larcenies to vehicles and people are also stealing handicapped decals. **Cavanaugh** said she has been told that the Black Friday shopping day at Wal-Mart (day after Thanksgiving) is going to be totally different this year, so she said shoppers may want to do some research before they go.

John Kemp said Bread of Life gives away food every Tuesday. **Cavanaugh** agreed, but pointed out the Thanksgiving giveaway is a much larger event. **Betty Strickland, 1302 Galena**, said at 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. there are 20 to 25 school buses coming and going to the school on Galena and at noon there are around 10, and that the added traffic of a food distribution would be a real problem in the neighborhood.

Det. John Barrier, Auto Theft section, reminded everyone that a lot of cars are stolen during the holidays. He said in 2008, 1800 cars were stolen and of those 500 of them were situations where the keys were left in the vehicle. He said a current trend is for a criminal to open your back door and look for keys near the back door and then steal the car. He pointed out that keeping your garage door closed will prevent easy access. He also reminded everyone not to leave their cars running at convenience stores. He said the guy you see standing at the pay phone, often is not making a call, but rather waiting to steal cars. **Det. Barrier** reminded shoppers to keep their purchased items in the trunk or concealed in some other manner. **Joann Hartig** asked about the possibility of a thief breaking into the car, using the trunk opener and then stealing items. **Barrier** said that has been known to happen, and if you don't use your trunk opener, you can have your mechanic disable it.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Andy Cole provided a few fire safety tips, reminding everyone to clear items away from floor furnaces before lighting them. He also encouraged everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors. He said there were four fires in District 3 during the past month and that Station 22 has turned out to be the busiest fire station in the city.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Petition to pave Victoria, between 43rd St S and 44th St. S

Shawn Mellies, Public Works Engineering, presented a petition to pave Victoria Street between 43rd and 44th St. South. The signatures on the Petition represented 2 of 5 (40%) resident owners and 66% of the improvement district area. The project will provide paved access to a currently undeveloped residential area in which the Wichita Habitat for Humanity is planning to start building houses in the spring of 2010. The estimated project cost is \$185,000, which will be assessed to the improvement district. The method of assessment is a square foot basis.

Judy Dillard asked if drive-ways are included. **Mellies** said the City will be installing a roll curb so Habitat for Humanity can put the drives in where ever they want.

Jim Gulick had a question on the storm sewer. **Mellies** pointed out on the map where it would be located.

Jim Gulick (Kemp) made a motion to recommend approval of the petition.

Action: Motion passed 8-0.

OCI Statistics

Julie Irvin, OCI Supervisor, presented the statistics on the Vacant and Neglected Residence program. Since the ordinance was enacted there have been 1,174 cases started and 719 (61%) cases closed. District 3 had 29 active cases, 23 in a penalty phase and 85 closed. Since 2007 OCI has taken in \$61,451 from registration fees, penalties paid to OCI and from collections. **Judy Dillard** asked if turning the offenders into Collections has prompted the owners to fix the problems. **Irvin** said they are civil penalties, not criminal.

Joann Hartig wanted to know if these numbers included tall, grass and weeds; **Irvin** said no.

Jim Gulick wanted to know if a 60 percent closure rate is good; Irvin said yes, especially considering if it's an out of county owner.

Jody Bennett, 1709 E. 48th St. S., asked if the City had expanded its condemnation proceedings; **Irvin** said no, they follow State Statute.

Harlan Bascombe, OCI Supervisor, provided a number of OCI stats:

- Tall grass and weeds started 3227; closed 2386 and abated 856
- Nuisance cases started 5,506; closed 3,066 and abated 89
- In-op vehicle cases started 1,327; closed 939 and towed 73
- Emergency board-ups structures secured 47; emergency board ups openings secured 101

Joann Hartig said the alleys in her neighborhood are overgrown and nothing is being done about it.

Jim Gulick said he didn't understand why on these in-op cases the owner can simply move the vehicle from the street to the property in order to avoid consequences. **Bascombe** said if the owner moves the car then OCI has no choice but to close the case for compliance. **Gulick** said he did not see this as an efficient way of doing business.

John Kemp said he has an incident like that in his neighborhood; **Charlotte Foster** said she did as well. **James Burleigh, 2110 S. Water**, said it would be good if the ordinance could be changed allowing OCI to keep the case open when the citizen is playing games by moving the vehicle around.

Action: Receive and file.

BOARD BUSINESS

Charlotte Foster reported Officer Hinnens gave a presentation on gangs at her Neighborhood Association that was very good.

Judy Dillard said Council Member Skelton and Commissioner Norton are still working on getting the South Area Business Association going. She said they had a meeting that morning that was very good.

John Kemp reported their neighborhood cleanup was a success with 16 skids and 90 tires.

Joann Hartig reported Kurt Schroder, Superintendent of OCI will be speaking at their Neighborhood Association.

Bill Ward said Meadowlark had a neighborhood picnic on a cold day.

Jim Gulick reported the Chief of Police gave a presentation at Grandview Heights that was very good.

Brian Nelson said things have been pretty quiet; they had their cleanup and meeting and won't meet again until January.

Billie Tucker reported they had a successful cleanup in Hilltop.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., Dec. 2, 2009, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Lane
Claudia Lee	2826 Greenwood
Bill Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Goldie Barnes	2707 S. Hillside
Tom Strickland	1302 Galena
Betty Strickland	1302 Galena
James Burleigh	2110 S. Water
Jody Bennett	1709 E. 48 th St. S.
Karen Lippoldt	Youthville
Donna Thornton	2714 Southfork
Andy Solter	703 Marcilene