

**District VI Advisory Board
Minutes**
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Monday
November 5, 2007
6:30 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge/Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with nine (9) District Advisory Board members in attendance, ten (10) city staff and ten (10) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Marsha Carr
Janet Miller
Bob Schreck
Jaya Escobar
C. Bickley Foster
Bob Aldrich
Carol Skaff
Charlie Claycomb
John VanWalleghen

Members Absent

Pat Randleas
Stacie Longwell

Staff Present

Ron Blackwell, Fire Chief
Officer Sharp, Patrol North
Martha Sanchez, Community Ed
Joe Dermid, Career Dev.
Officer Perkins, Patrol West
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Schweithal, Patrol South
Randy Sparkman, OCI
Karen Walker, Park
Larry Foos, Park
George Kolb, City Manager

Guests

Listed at end

Council Member Fearey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. welcoming everyone and asked members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board. **Fearey** gave an extra welcome to State Representative Melody McCray-Miller.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October 1, 2007 were approved with amendments. (**Schreck/Skaff 9-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted. (**Skaff/Carr 9-0**)

New Communities Initiative

City Manager George Kolb presented on the New Communities Initiative (NCI) saying the boundaries for the project are: 21st on the North, Hillside on the East, Central on the South, and Topeka on the West. City Council is being asked to appropriate \$250,000 to begin the Master Plan process but Council first wanted input from the DAB's. *Kolb* went on to say the initiative is designed to: provide quality housing; employment; enhance the learning environment across all age groups; reduce the conditions of blight and revitalize the neighborhood; address and positively impact quality of life issues; and develop nurturing opportunities for children and youth. The overall goal is to support and enhance successful families and sustaining communities by combining resources of community, business, profit and non-profit agencies. *Kolb* then shared examples of similar projects around the country such as: St. Louis, Atlanta, and Pittsburg.

The following are questions/concerns of DAB members: *responses in Italics*

- How is info about this program being distributed? *“Feet on the Street” and people going into stores and clinics where ever it is advertised*
- What is unique about this program that Mennonite Housing and Habitat for Humanity haven't done? *There has been no Master Plan component.*
- Will you form the Master Plan with non-profits? *We are already doing this*
- Have you already sat down with agencies to develop partnership and it seems like you could be setting them up for competition. *Yes, we have met with the partners and there is enough work for this area for all to be involved. We don't want to re-invent wheel.*
- Will funding come out of the same source for all these agencies. *No, the funding comes out of Offender Re-Entry where the state can re-invest new money for groups already working in the area.*
- 67214 zip codes there is no high school, is USD259 on board and willing to help with this? *There is no high school but there will be a middle school in the area. This is part of a project behind the Boys and Girls club.*
- Is there an effort to involve citizens to take ownership of the project? *Yes, we first listened to what citizens want and some are already engaged in Stop Blight and Pillar groups.*
- How long will it take for this project to be final, to go from beginning to end and are there other target areas for this type of project? *A project such as this takes around five years and another area of interest is the CORE project and another area around 9th street.*
- The concept of the Master Plan is hiring a company to revitalize the area by studying needs and make recommendations, will they help identify organizations to participate in the plan? *Yes we will do a Request for Proposal (RFP) to find the company to assist us and hope they can provide us with answers to the area needs.*
- Will the primary funding source be the project itself? *The initial \$250,000 will come from the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the rest from private donations.*
- Do we have any local developers to assist with this? *Not aware of anyone locally with experience to undertake this project.*

Kolb finished saying the neighborhood associations are committed to making this work as they want to see the plan be successful.

Miller commented the Master plan seems to make the project very comprehensive. This will have a better outcome as the area problems seem to be interrelated allowing for a stronger initiative in solving the problems.

*******Recommended Action:** The District VI Advisory Board received and reviewed information on the New Communities Initiative, and the proposed Master Plan. **(Foster/Skaff 9-0)**

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items:

Melody McCray-Miller State Representative, 89th District: began by thanking **Council Member Fearey** and **DAB VI** for allowing her to speak tonight about *Payday/Title* loan businesses in Wichita. *Payday* loans controls the lending industry by extracting millions of dollars at the state level and billions of dollars at national level. In Wichita, the locations have increased since 2004 to 2005 by 90% in revenues. Predatory lending for the state is \$30 million in one year. There are 12 states at this time that ban *Payday* lending saving \$1.4 million for the people. These businesses prey on the chronic borrower, the average consumer causing them to have five *payday* loans with excessive fees. A bill has been passed to limit 38% interest for *Payday* lending to military personnel. **Member VanWalleghen** stated the Benjamin Hills neighborhood association has seen lots of these types of businesses in the area and we want to see them disappear. Many people borrow from these types of locations and until they have other alternatives they

will continue to do so. *McCray-Miller* finished saying for any more information you can contact her at melody@southwind.net

Martha Sanchez, Evergreen NCH Community Educator explained her role is to provide education to the residents in both District V and VI to help improve their quality of life. *Sanchez* described some projects such as working with House Representative Delia Garcia with a health fair held here at Evergreen, a first time-summer camp for kids of low-income, organizing presentations for senior citizens with other agencies such as 911-Emergency. An upcoming event scheduled for November 27th is to focus on Hispanic fathers to be more involved with their children. *Sanchez* just finished hosting a program for families of special needs in District V. This summer she worked on a 12-week course for families dealing with mental illness and is involved with Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) a program for police officers on what to do when dealing with mentally ill. I'm also focusing on a Weed and Seed project for the area so we can apply for a grant to begin improvements to this area.

2. **Off-agenda items:** None at this time

*******Action:** Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Staff Presentations

3. **Community Police Report**

Officer Schweithal, Patrol South stated a survey had been done in the Old Town area a few months back and the biggest concern was vagrancy. Officers plan to address this with undercover special assignments. There is a brochure (also in Spanish) on the police website in Beat 21/22 to learn more about panhandling and homelessness. We will continue to work with the association on any of these major concerns.

Officer Sharp, Patrol North -Beat 48 said they had been working on undercover assignments due to burglaries. The past weekend there had been five commercial burglaries near the 21st and Amidon area where they had come in through the roof. Officers are working on leads. Also, with the cold weather nearing please don't leave your cars running and go into a Quik Trip as your vehicles can be stolen. Please keep watch over your vehicle.

Officer Perkins, Patrol West- Beat 12 said they were doing a special assignment at Bryant Elementary due to speeders. They have issued citations for speeding and are also contacting the Traffic Engineer's office to discuss a possible crosswalk in front of the school. There are no flashing lights and there needs to be better signage. Citywide robberies have increased but in the Patrol West bureau robberies have decreased. Due to the upcoming holiday we are doing pro-active work by contacting businesses and explaining preventive measures they can take to decrease crime to them and their customers. **Aldrich** commented his neighborhood assisted in helping get a crosswalk moved to Anna Street to help a disabled child.

Fire Chief Blackwell introduced himself and said he had stopped by the meeting to notify of the four major fires that had taken place over the weekend. *Blackwell* said there had been two fatalities and all these fires could have been preventable. At 25th/Rock Road someone was cooking on grill in the apartment doing a total damage of \$250,000, 21st & Madison was a three-story senior citizen building where the deceased was cooking and somehow their clothing started on fire, Central/Ridge was a 16 unit apartment with a four apartment unit loss due to a cigarette and at 27th and N. Amidon the deceased may have been smoking and a piece of furniture caught fire trying to move it outdoors and it wedged in the doorway causing death. I'm now encouraging my units to return to the affected neighborhoods and provide preventive safety tips and information to the area residents. We want to go beyond just putting out fires and if needed we can send out public educators to meetings or wherever needed to discuss preventative safety.

***** **Action:** Receive and file

New Business

4. Junk/salvage along North Broadway and East of Broadway along 21st street

Randy Sparkman, OCI Zoning explained he was there tonight to answer some concerns from DAB about monitoring the regulations and appearance of the salvage yards North of 21st street at Broadway and East of Broadway along 21st street. *Sparkman* said he has been told at present the City has no Salvage Yard Licensing and this is why some of this junk/salvage exists. We have issued eight notices of violations to businesses to get cleaned up or for them to obtain wrecking licenses to their properties along North Broadway from 21st/ to 37th streets. Because of the zoning districts, businesses can allow outdoor storage up to three vehicles- entire cars and/or all parts. They cannot use parts to rebuild other cars. For two other locations, complaints were received about scrap height but these businesses have scrap processor licenses. These businesses have been told to reduce the level of scrap height. We also need to review ordinance changes for businesses allowing recycling of aluminum, copper and brass.

Escobar asked what was the time frame when violation notices are issued and for the issue to be resolved? *Sparkman* responded between 15-30 days to cleanup and if more time is warranted we can give that. **Skaff** asked about the debris and junk along the lots chain link fences, who is responsible to clean and how many repeat offences does it take before stronger action is taken? If a business chooses not to do what we ask of them they will need a wrecking license and they won't be allowed a wrecking license if they don't have proper screening. If they choose to have a wrecking license they have to have a solid fence. **Miller** asked about the American Can business near the offender re-entry office, do they have a salvage license? *Sparkman* finished saying they are scrap dealers and need no requirements for fencing.

*******Action:** The District VI Advisory Board received and filed.

5. Off-road Motorsports Park

Karen Walker/Larry Foos Park Department staff presented in a PowerPoint the need for an off-road motorsports venue in the greater Wichita area. They said that off-road motorsports has grown rapidly in the past years and is fueled by the fact that no substantial public facilities for off-road motorsports recreation currently exist in the Wichita area.

The Members had a number of concerns/questions: *responses in Italics*

- Legal liabilities in case of injury? *We are still protected under our original insurance.*
- How do the area residents feel? *We have heard from three residents and they are okay with the plans.*
- Would there be a first aid station/CPR? *We will have full time staff with part time seasonal trained in first aid and CPR.*
- Have other communities been reviewed to see how their ATV parks are managed? *We have looked at Oklahoma and there same city size as Wichita sees nearly 1 million vehicles in one year. This is the fastest growing recreational activity. Hutchinson and Great Bend also have these forms of recreation.*
- What about screening for noise? *We hope the initial design would alleviate noise with tree plantings and along the road we can create hill-terrains.*
- If this is a State park will it need a permit? *Yes.*
- How large a population will benefit from the park?
- What if landfill comes back? Is there a substitute site for landfill,? *We can accommodate for a landfill and we would relocate if the landfill wanted.*
- Will Alcohol be restricted? *Cereal Malt Beverage might be allowed.*
- What about an area for RV's with a shelter with a fireplace and dumping station?
- Where will the money to build come from? If we use state funding and we have to move the

facility will we have to pay the money back? \$300,000 for expenses with three full time staff an estimated expense budge. Any grant monies will require 20% matching.

- Will there be a possibility for snowmobiles? We want the park to be open 365 days/year.
- Mechanical vendors? Yes

Walker stated that once the funding has been confirmed and the development plan can be created and then these questions can be better answered.

Two members of the public asked about vehicle capacity and felt this park would be used a lot and would increase in attendance right away.

Miller, also serving as Park Board president says the board has great interest in the idea and wants to see it explored more and is supportive of exploring the concept further, but if it is found that costs escalated beyond the projected \$1 million (\$800,000 state and \$250,000 City match) then she would be hesitant to support it without seeing how it would fit into the PROS Plan that is currently under development. Miller would not want to see money for the ATV Park take away funds for projects recommended in the PROS Plan.

***** **Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommended Approval (Schreck/Aldrich 8-1Carr) to continue with the process to pursue the development for an off-road motorsports park and to explore other cities that have the same type of park, develop a good design plan and let the area residents be kept informed of the process.

Board Agenda

6. CSBG Review Committee Appointments and Elections

A DAB member is requested to serve on the Review Committee and be willing to represent one of the sectors (public, community, low-income). Joe Dermid, Career Development stated the appointment is a two-year term and the appointee can serve two consecutive terms.

***** **Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend Jaya Escobar and Bickley Foster to remain serving on the CSBG Review Committee. (Miller/Claycomb 9-0)

7. Grants Review Committee (GRC) representation

A DAB member is needed to serve on this committee.

***** **Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend Marsha Carr remains serving on the GRC committee. (Claycomb/Miller 9-0)

8. Problem Properties

- 212 Exposition St. Trash
- Carr thanked the Council Member for helping get the sidewalk in Riverside. Everyone is very happy.

*******Action:** Receive and propose appropriate action.

9. Neighborhood Reports

- **Moorings: Schreck** mentioned he had been doing neighborhood patrol when a suspicious looking man saw his vehicle with the patrol sign posted on it and took off. Officer Lenzi continues to talk to area residents to keep their garage doors closed to cut down on crime.
- **Riverside Citizens:** the association wants more info about the Minisa Bridge construction and November 13th they will host the annual chili feed to raise money to help pay for city parks.

***** **Action:** Receive and file.

Updates from the Council Member

- The "Coffee with Sharon" breakfast will be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving
- The Parks Department open space Charette turned out to be a very good meeting.

Announcements

- Next DAB meeting will be held on Monday, December 3, 2007

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8: 55 p.m.

Guests

Gordon Basham	WPD gbassham@wichita.gov
David Milan	1124 Valley 67037
Nate Jonathan	455 N. Main WPD
Christine Eberle	1814 Joann NW Big River NA
William (David) Perkins	WPD wperkins@wichita.gov
Kevin Dykstra	WPD kdykstra@wichita.gov
Bruce Simkins	
Melody McCray-Miller	
Tom Carr	
Ed Bicknell	Fire

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant