

District III Advisory Board Minutes
August 3, 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; eight City staff and 12 members of the public were present (two did not sign in).

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Deputy Chief Tom Stolz
Officer Paul Duff, Patrol East
Officer Justin Whyte, Patrol East
Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South
Lt. Steve Cruisenbery, WFD
Firefighter Lance Gifford, WFD
Firefighter Brian Richey, 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 July 6, 2011, meeting were approved. Council Member Clendenin asked that meeting participants help him by trying to adhere to Roberts Rules of Order during the meeting and be recognized by the chair before speaking.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No schedule items

Non-Scheduled items

Jim Gulick, Grandview Heights Neighborhood Association, shared information regarding a public meeting on the future of Clapp golf course. He said for years District III has had to fight for everything that its gotten, citing a 20-year battle for a fire station and a similar fight for Chapin Park. **Gulick** said these have been long, hard fights and he expects the same fight will be required to save Clapp Golf Course, therefore it's imperative that citizens attend the meeting on August 15. He also recommended that citizens send e-mails to all the City Council Members, the Mayor, the City Manager and Park Director Doug Kupper. **Gulick** said all of their e-mail addresses are available on the City website, and when citizens write to them, they need to be sure and provide viable reasons as to why Clapp should remain open. He said the Meadowlark Neighborhood Association is writing a letter to the Mayor and City Council.

Dave Robbins said there are five full time and nine part-time employees at Clapp and that the facility has consistently turned a profit.

Council Member Clendenin said the City's entire golf system has a lot of debt – primarily due to Auburn Hills, and that the need for improvements at Clapp make it not sustainable. For example, the roof was damaged in a hail storm and it still hasn't been repaired.

Robbins wanted to know if the City is self insured; **Clendenin** said yes.

Gulick challenged citizens to consider what will become of the golf course if it is closed. **Paul Davis** asked if Clapp was gifted to the City. **Gulick** said it is his understanding it was gifted to be used as a golf course or

park. **Davis** said he heard a rumor that Echo Hills Golf Course closed and the management there might be interested in taking over McDonald.

Council Member Clendenin confirmed the land was given to the City by the Clapp family to be used as a park or golf course. He said District III and a tremendous number of beautiful parks and they are one of the District's biggest assets. The Council Member said that only approximately one third of the land at Clapp would be developable due to flood plain issues. He said he wants to look at all possible options and he wants people to provide him with ideas and alternatives to keep Clapp open. He said, just because you're in a budget crunch you don't need to just start closing things; we need to get creative and think outside the box.

Dave Robbins said there's an unfilled golf superintendent's position open at Clapp; **Council Member Clendenin** said he doesn't expect that position to be filled.

Action: Receive and file

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Beat 26 Patrol South, reported she has been seeing a lot of larcenies on her beat – primarily from vehicles and shopping carts. Fortunately she is starting to see a drop going from 13 in June to 7 in July. She mentioned that attendance was down at National Night Out, but the weather was brutally hot, so hopefully attendance will go back up next year when the event will start being held the first Tuesday in October. She also related stories about a fire where a 91-year-old neighbor saved a woman's life and a burglary suspect caught on East Harry.

Joann Hartig asked if Patrol South has been doing any john or prostitution stings; **Officer Cavanaugh** said yes, they did two last week. On July 11th the Bureau did a sex offender check and she said most of them were in compliance. **Council Member Clendenin** wanted to know how you can check for sex offenders in your neighborhood; Cavanaugh said the information can be accessed online.

Officer Paul Duff, 36 Beat, Patrol East, announced the summer activity camps have concluded and each of the children received a backpack and school supplies as well as a sports-related gift. He also announced the graffiti cams have been mounted at locations on 35 and 36 beats. Burglaries are up again and a significant number of air condition units are being stolen. **Officer Duff** said the suspects are two African-American males who wear orange vests trying to appear as workers. He said the crime stat comparison from last month to this one shows a slight increase in crime in general with a slight decrease in auto thefts.

Elena Ingle asked if the air conditioners being stolen are window units or central air; **Duff** said both.

Joann Hartig said she wanted to recognize Janet Johnson for her efforts in securing the graffiti cams and acknowledge they were paid for with CSBG funds. She also noted that CSBG funding pays for the summer activity camps.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Lt. Steve Cruisenbery reported District III had seven fires in July – five structure fires and two car fires. Most of the fires were caused by grills and careless smoking that resulted in approximately \$200,000 of damage.

Dave Robbins asked if the fire department still sends units with EMS; Cruisenbery said yes. Robbins wanted to know if WFD usually gets there first; Cruisenbery said most of the time they arrive around the same time. Robbins asked if WFD personnel are EMTs; Cruisenbery said yes, but they typically don't act in that capacity. He explained that EMS and WFD personnel work very closely together and in a bad medical

situation it's not unusual to see a Firefighter deriving the ambulance to the hospital so both paramedics can be in the back working on the patient.

Council Member Clendenin encouraged citizens to enroll in the Citizen's Fire Academy which occurs every spring. He also thanked the Fire Department for participating in National Night Out.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

District III Crime Comparison

Deputy Chief Tom Stolz, Investigation Division, provided the DAB with a handout that outlined crime stats in District III from the first seven months in 2010 compared to the first seven months in 2011.

District III show an increase of 31.6 percent in robberies and **Stolz** explained that a lot of these are highway or strong-armed robberies where something is stolen from an individual. Aggravated assaults are up by 25 percent but homicides in District 3 were down by 50 percent. An alarming statistic was an increase in 107.7 percent in arsons, but the Deputy Chief said he spoke with the Fire Marshall and he reported that of the 27 arsons reported, only 11 of them were structure fires and the rest were things like trash cans, etc.

DC Stolz said the biggest challenges for the Investigations Division are crimes against children, gang crimes and cyber fraud and crimes.

Elena Ingle asked about elder crime; **Stolz** said it's kind of hit and miss. He said elder crime typically goes up after a major event like a hail storm or tornado and scammers start going door to door taking advantage of older people. He said the City is in the process of reviewing City ordinances related to these types of activities, but it's a challenge because door to door sales are somewhat protected by State Law. **Stolz** said Det. Brad Bryant is the Department's expert on crime against the elderly and he often speaks to neighborhood groups.

Dave Robbins said he hears about a lot of phone scams where people call wanting your personal information; **Stolz** said that is a common scam and you should never give out personal information over the phone.

Jim Gulick asked why the maps **Stolz** showed seemed to consistently reflect increases in the area of East Harry. **Stolz** explained this area consists primarily of apartments and other rental property and crime is typically always higher in these areas.

Connie Klassen asked about the buses at the church at Hydraulic and MacArthur that were vandalized; **Stolz** said he didn't have information on that because it was arson and those are investigated by the Fire Department.

Joann Hartig wanted to know if Community Policing was still safe in spite of the City's budget problems. **DC Stolz** said that's the only way they know how to police and that with shrinking resources, the community partnerships will become even more important.

Larry Manny said he heard about a new crime where someone calls regarding you ATM card. **Stolz** said to never give out your debit card number because that is "real time" money and there is no protection like there is with credit cards. He also said it's critical to protect your personal information and keep anything with your identity on it out of your card. He said now day's people breaking into cars are more often looking to steal someone's identity than their stereo.

Council Member Clendenin shared that he recently toured the Exploited and Missing Children's Unit and Computer Crimes Unit and he was very impressed with the cooperation between the City, County and State.

Action: Receive and file

UPDATES, ISSUES AND REPORTS

Council Member Clendenin noted that Wichita has several community gardens that are doing well. He would like to implement a pilot project in the Planeview area with a community greenhouse. If it is successful, then he would like to see them initiated in other areas of District III. He asked citizens to call or e-mail him with ideas and comments on how this project might look.

The Council Member welcomed Wendy Ratliff, the newest DAB III member, and announced Gay Quisenberry will join the DAB next month and in December Terry Brewster will join the DAB.

Larry Manny asked about the proposed RV Park in the 47th Street area; **Paul Davis** said he heard Bill Morris is going to put it in. **Connie Klassen** wanted to know how it will be zoned. She said she wants to make sure it's only an RV park and doesn't turn into a place for permanent, substandard units.

Larry Manny commented that he was recently driving and a truck from Fire Station 22 had to wait five minutes on a train. Council Member Clendenin said he continues to bring up the need for elevated railroads in South Wichita and he has met with the individuals who are conducting the study. However, the railroads don't really like to negotiate, but he will continue to push that issue forward.

Concerning the South Broadway Bridge construction project, **Council Member Clendenin** said in order to have an at grade crossing during construction of the new bridge, the railroad is demanding that two or three other crossings be closed for safety. He said the crossings on the table are Kinkaid, Clark, Skinner, Funston, Osie, Boston, Zimmerly and Bayley.

The Council Member announced that the drainage box that will be under the turnpike on the 47th Street project has been delayed due to a utilities issue. He said the project probably won't start until early spring and will take around six months to complete.

Jody Bennett asked if the delay would impact residents flood insurance; **Council Member Clendenin** said yes, because the FEMA maps won't change until after the work is completed.

The Council Member also announced that City Council had approved the final funding for the bike path between Garvey and Planeview parks.

Elena Ingle reported that Grandview Heights did not participate in National Night Out due to the heat, but would next year when the event is slated for October.

Dave Robbins pointed out that there aren't really any parks in the Fabrique neighborhood and he would like to see some tax foreclosure houses torn down and the lots converted to a park or community garden. **Council Member Clendenin** said he has been meeting with the County and there are some things in the works regarding tax foreclosure properties.

Larry Manny asked about the status of the old TV station on Pawnee that had burned; **Council Member Clendenin** said it is well into the condemnation process.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 7, 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
Joann Hartig
Chad Roush