

DISTRICT VI ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Monday
January 9, 2006
7:00 p.m.

Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge/Clubroom

The District VI Advisory Board Meeting was held at 7:00 PM at Evergreen Recreation club lounge room. In attendance were ten (10) DAB Members, including alternates, seven (7) City staff and (20) Citizens. Approximately 37 signed in.

Members Present

Jaya Escobar
Bob Wine
Veronica Triana
Charlie Claycomb-alternate
Rosalie Bradley
Bob Schreck
Bickley Foster
Carol Skaff-alternate
Darcy Weaver
Marsha Carr

Member Absent

Linda Matney
Garrett Harmon-youth
John VanWalleghen

Guests

Listed at the end

Staff

Terri Dozal, NA
Off. Morris, Patrol North
Off. Recio, Patrol North
Off. Stevens Patrol South
Rob Younkin, Public Works
Chris Carrier, Public Works
Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineer

Council Member Sharon Fearey called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed guests. DAB Members were asked to introduce themselves and state their representation for serving on the board.

Approval of Minutes

December 5th minutes were approved as submitted (**Schreck Wine/Claycomb 10-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with an amendment to add a speaker on the public agenda (**Schreck/Claycomb 10-0**)

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items – none**
2. **Off-agenda items-**

Bruce Simkins: resident of the Earhart area neighborhood for over 30 years since 1973. My purpose is to address the petition process that is used by Wichita. Whenever a petition comes into the neighborhood and several have come into our neighborhood there's usually a universal comment from just about every neighbor for various reasons and that comment is what choice do we have. That means that by the time a petition carrier comes to your door and knocks on your door the only choice you have is to sign the petition or not sign it. The neighbors are saying in effect they were not notified about the reason for the petition until the 12th hour, neighbors have had no opportunity to be asked for input about the petition and they throw up their hands and say what is there for us to do except for us to sign or not sign.

I want to take the opportunity to advise my neighbors and the board that there is an alternative which can in effect give the neighbors what they want a choice, an opportunity to revise the petition perhaps to determine the boundary lines of the petition and which would give them notice that it's coming.

That's another complaint; a lot of people who want to face repairs of their lateral systems for thousands of dollars have had no previous notice. There is an alternative, which is a very simple one. I made a search on the Internet using key words such as department of public works and petitions; I soon came up with a way other communities in other cities run their petition process.

- In one community the petition process requires the community that lives along the side of the proposed Capital Improvement project, the community must by a majority of the property owners in that particular area first appeal to the appropriate city agencies to have a petition. In other words they petition to have a petition of having a majority of the people in the proposed benefit district.
- This serves two things it serves them all notice that this is coming down the line and gives the opportunity to have input as to how the petition is going to be designed and drawn up.
- Also it means that a lot of petitions drawn up and fail will never have the expense factor because 51% of a neighborhood decides not to have a petition and there's certain exception let's say for public health and safety that can be mandated but for other types of capital improvement petitions. That is the way they operate and I would really wish Wichita would change its laws to allow for this way to do petitions.

I have no idea why over 30 years this system has been in place and the same people in various neighborhoods say the same thing what choice do we have. This change in our system would give us that choice.

*******Recommended Action:** Receive and File

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Patrol North: Officer Morris 49 Beat: reports a great increase in graffiti over the past couple of months and not all of it have been gang related. Officers are currently seeking ways to get our City Law department to increase the laws to get the graffiti removed faster and punishment for this form of crime.

Patrol North: Officer Recio 42 Beat reports working on a letter to send out to registered car owners if their vehicles are observed in a prostitution area. We will be targeting the "Johns" to discourage them from coming into the neighborhoods. We also are looking into enhancing penalties and jail time if arrested for prostitution. There is another agency that puts the peoples names and pictures on police websites who have been arrested for prostitution related offences. I'm hoping it would discourage people from visiting escort services; prostitution related offences and also discourages "Johns" if they would see their faces posted on police websites.

Patrol South Officer Bill Stevens, 21 Beat Old Town area reports crime statistics are down across the board on property and personal crimes with the exception of non-residential crime burglaries to businesses and residential burglaries are right about the same. Another issue is the cold season and auto thefts. We are partnering with the auto theft detective section in regards to educating citizens. It is legal right now to allow your vehicle to be running unattended and that's when we see a lot of auto thefts. Cars are left running to warm up and somebody comes up and helps himself to it. The auto theft unit is looking to see if we can get the ordinance changed that if you leave your vehicle unattended you would get a ticket. We see at auto thefts are due to

people running into Quik Trip and leaving their car unattended, they come back and their car is gone.

In the mean time what we're doing is education, we've got some information on the WEB site in regards to that and we're also looking at putting some posters up in the Quik Trips and having it available to other businesses just to remind people don't leave your keys in your car with your motor running.

What is the current ordinance leaving your car running? There isn't one, there was one a few years back, but it was repealed.

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

4. **Petition to construct a Sanitary Sewer to serve an area generally bounded by Arkansas Avenue, the Valley Center Flood Control Ditch, and north of 43rd St. North**

Rob Younkin, Public Works gave background on the project to construct a lateral sanitary sewer system for a developed; predominately residential area currently served by private septic tank systems. The project is to extend the laterals sanitary sewer service to an area bounded on the West by Arkansas on the North roughly by 43rd St. down to the ditch. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$730,000. The petition for the project is valid and we have an excess of 59% of owners and excess 58% of area that have signed the petition.

Member Schreck: *Is there any areas where the septic tanks have failed? I have been advised of septic failure but I don't know where those are nor do I know how many failures there have been. The map area in red indicates the property owners who have signed the petition. You can note the way the petition was carried to everyone so I'm assuming everyone had a chance to sign the petition for whatever reason such as their septic system failed or just because they want public sewer.*

Resident's opinions: *responses in italics*

- Between the 1st letter of notice from engineering and the 2nd certified letter, which we received notifying us that the project had been approved there was an increase in the estimate of about 6 or 7% of about \$50,000.00 in a total cost of the project and the 2nd change was the financing for the project as far as bonds are concerned, the 1st letter indicated there were 20 year bonds available when the 2nd letter stated 15 year bonds.
- Why not go through the back of properties instead of the front. Who is this cheaper for the City or homeowner? *Total project cost with main benefit fees was handed out at Planning meeting*
- I have lived in this area 40 yrs and was not aware of commercial businesses. *We will need to verify if there is commercial zoning in this area. There is a church so that would be partial commercial zoning.*
- Are the plumbing costs different on the front or rear of property? *Don't know what we will get into on ROW acquisition, lots of issues on private property.*

Member Wine asked if staff would check on the commercial status for the area? *Yes, we will and include the make up of the community.*

Member Foster asked didn't we have a recommendation for sewer to go in the school and how long has this area been there? *Yes to the school recommendation and the area has been there 55-60 years.*

Member Schreck asked if they are on city water? *Yes*

***** **Action:** Motion made to recommend approval of the petition for the sewer sanitary project (**Wine/ Schreck 10-0**)

5. Conversion of Market & Park Place to two-way traffic between 17th & 21st Street

Paul Gunzelman Traffic Engineer stated the 21st Street North Corridor Revitalization Plan recommended the conversion of Market & Park Place from 17th to 21st Streets to two-way traffic to improve circulation to area businesses and residents. He said radar studies have taken place and 32 mph was the speed noted which is typical of other radar studies in residential areas. Neighborhood concerns have been about speeding, drag racing and cruising. Converting the streets could decrease these problems. *Gunzelman* continued saying Park Place, south of 21st is only 31 ft. wide and does not allow for two lanes parking on the street.

DAB members questions, statements or opinions: *responses in italics*

- Are we to give a recommendation just on Park Place tonight? *We need a recommendation for both streets. We just don't have a cost on the Market street project. The \$30,000 is for Park Place changes and Market street signage.*
- Why was 17th Street picked as the cutoff? *17th street is the southern part of the 21st street plan.*
- You said you would remove 11 mature trees to allow for on the street parking? Are the residents aware of this? *Yes, the neighbors are aware of the tree removal but their major concern was parking on the street.*

Member Triana said she had talked to the neighbors and many were enthusiastic about two-way traffic and hopes this slows present traffic down.

- Couldn't the speed limit be reduced to 25 mph? *The state limit in residential areas is 30mph.*
- What is the condition of the sidewalk on the west side of street? *We're not sure of the sidewalk condition.*
- An estimate of \$30,000 – amazing it's so low.

Member Skaff left at 8:25 p.m.

Larry Estelle, 2124 Park Place said this is a very good idea it will slow traffic down and detour traffic to Broadway or Arkansas.

Kathy, 2140 Park Place asked if there would be cost to the homeowner? *No cost to the homeowner.* The neighbors are in favor of change but we didn't know about the tree removal.

- If the City replaces trees, what would be the ratio? *There will be enough space to determine how many trees, as we have to look at how large the trees will be when fully matured.*

Member Foster asked what the next step would be? *We will look closer to the west side of the street including the sidewalks and trees.*

***** **Action:** Motion was made to recommended approval of the conversion of Market & Park Place to two-way traffic between 17th & 21st Street North. (**Foster/Bradley 9-0**)

Board Agenda

6. Problem Properties

- On East side of spillway - Graffiti
- ~~2226~~/2275 Sweetbriar- Liquor store has sale signs all around the building –look at all the signs around liquor stores