

**District III Advisory Board Minutes**  
**April 7, 2010**  
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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. Ten District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 11 City staff and 18 members of the public were present (two who did not sign in).

**Members Present**

Teresa Cook  
Judy Dillard  
Jim Gulick  
Joann Hartig  
Charlotte Foster  
DeWayne Kitchen  
Brian Nelson  
Roger Smith  
Billie Tucker  
Bill Ward  
Council Member Jim Skelton

**Staff Present**

Officer Ann Mackey, Patrol East  
Sgt. Brett Stull, Patrol South  
Lt. Jose Ocariz, WFD  
Capt. Rob Dusenbery, WFD  
T.S. Mercer, WFD  
Jim Heath, WFD  
Jeff Frye, WFD  
Kim Frame, WFD  
Jesse Mathis, WFD  
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services  
Paul Gunzelman, Public Works Engineering

**Members Absent**

John Kemp

**Guests**

Listed on the last page

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Skelton** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from March 3, 2010, were approved **10-0**.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

**Scheduled items**

**Craig Gabel** presented on the concept of turning the old Coca-Cola building at 3300 E. Harry into a jail facility. He said he is considering purchasing it and then leasing it to the County for this purpose. **Gabel** stressed that this was not something that was being pushed by downtown, but an option he had come up with. **Gabel** said he wasn't suggesting a work release facility, but a secure facility where inmates wouldn't be walking through the neighborhoods. He said he wanted to bring the idea to the DAB first to measure their interest before going to the County Commission or MAPC.

**Charlotte Foster** wanted to know if prisoners would have an outside exercise area at the proposed site. **Sheriff Robert Hinshaw**, who was present for another agenda item, said the exercise area could be indoors or outdoors, but the jail is required by law to have an exercise area.

**Joann Hartig** wanted clarification on prisoners who are awaiting trial. She pointed out the Carr brothers were in custody quite a while before their trial. **Sheriff Hinshaw** said prisoners like the Carr brothers or Dennis Rader would never be housed anywhere outside the main jail facility while awaiting trial. **Hartig** also wanted to know if Gabel had done an environmental study of the Coca-Cola building; he said no, that he is barely into this.

**Teresa Cook** wanted to know what the general consensus has been of the people Gabel has talked to thus far about the project. He said it has generally been good, once they understand it's a closed facility and not one where prisoners come and go freely.

**Charlotte Foster** wanted to know if this would be financially advantageous for the County; **Gabel** said he believes it would be.

**Roger Smith** asked what the cost of renovating the building would be; **Gabel** estimated around \$5 million.

**Jim Gulick** wanted to know if the County leases the building for 20 years, what's to keep the next Sheriff or the next County Commissioners from doing something different than promised and turning it into a work release or something like that. **Gabel** said that's what the MAPC, conditional overlays and lease agreements are for.

**Council Member Skelton** suggested that discussion be closed on this item and any remaining questions could be addressed later during the Sheriff's presentation on jail over crowding.

**Non-Scheduled items**

No items

**Action: Receive and file.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Community Police Report**

**Sgt. Brett Stull, Patrol South**, reported he had just finished working on the Bureau's March hot spot report and was happy to announce that for the last three months crime has been down in the area. He said the biggest problem continues to be burglaries, but a couple of individuals were arrested and during the time they are incarcerated, the Bureau's burglary numbers dropped significantly. He said there have also been a few car thefts, but no huge crime trends. He also presented Neighborhood Assistant Janet Johnson with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Police Department.

**Officer Ann Mackey, 32 Beat Patrol East**, said she is now off maternity leave and back on 32 Beat. She said Patrol East didn't have any hot spots that came up red this past month, but there were some orange areas, which could potentially become hot spots. She said Patrol East continues to address the burglary issue.

**Wichita Fire Department Report**

**Capt. Rob Dusenbery** reported there were 25 fires in District III in March; 15 were investigated and nine were determined to be accidental, three were incendiary and 3 are still under investigation. He also reminded everyone that chimeneas and Kansas wind are a bad combination.

**Lt. Jose Ocariz**, fire prevention, reported he did a number of school presentations last moth, inspected six schools, 16 day cares, four community daycares, four churches and four consultations.

**Action: Receive and file.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Improvement to the Intersection of Harry and Broadway**

**Paul Gunzelman, Public Works Engineering, Paul Gunzelman, Public Works Engineering**, presented a proposal for the Harry and Woodlawn intersection to be reconstructed to replace the pavement, construct left turn lanes in all directions and upgrade the traffic signals. Construction is planned to begin in 2011. The CIP budget is \$1,475,000, with \$1,075,000 paid by the City and \$400,000 paid by Federal grants administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

This project qualified for safety funding after having a significant number of accidents; 8 in 2005, 7 in 2006, 12 in 2007 and 13 in 2008. Most of them were left turn crashes.

**Gunzelman** said the business located on the southeast corner of the intersection had expressed concerns about access during the construction and **Gunzelman** said they would work on making sure the business is always accessible.

**Roger Smith** wanted to know how they arrived at the \$1.5 million cost estimate; **Gunzelman** said it's based on recent past projects.

**Charlotte Foster** asked if the plan is for the median to be raised; **Gunzelman** said yes.

**Jim Gulick** asked if the lights will have motion detectors; **Gunzelman** said yes.

**Mike Killough** wanted to know how long the construction will take; **Gunzelman** said six to nine months.

**Elena Ingle** asked for clarification on the median and if it would extend past useable drives; **Mike Lindebak, Cook, Flatt and Strobel**, said part of the median would be mountable.

**Judy Dillard (Foster)** made a motion to approve the project.

**Action: Motion passed 10-0.**

#### **Wichita Eagle Advertising flyers**

**Marty Carry, Jeff Poston and Skip Hidlay, Publisher of the Wichita Eagle**, provided information on how the advertising flyers will be handled in the future. **Hidlay** explained that he is new to Wichita and has only been the publisher for a few weeks. He said the flyers that are currently being thrown used to be delivered by mail, but the reliability of the postal delivery declined to such a point that advertisers wanted another method of delivering their flyers. Currently flyers are thrown by Eagle paper carriers to residences that don't receive the Wichita Eagle daily. They are typically thrown around 4 or 5 a.m. so it's still dark and the delivery people can't tell in the dark if it's a vacant house or if there are flyers in the yard that haven't been picked up. Also, the flyers are very lightweight and often will blow into the street and subsequently into storm water drains. Because the system has been problematic, the Eagle is looking at making some significant changes. **Hidlay** said they want to develop a product like a weekly newspaper to make the entire package more appealing and something citizens will want to open and read; he said this will also make the product heavier and less likely to blow. **Hidlay** said it will take three or four months to transition to the new system, but in the interim they want to work with neighborhoods where the flyers have become problematic. He said the Eagle treats all complaints very seriously. Currently, citizens can call the advertising department at the Eagle and ask to be removed from the delivery list.

**Brian Nelson** wanted to know if someone asked to be removed if it would be permanent or just temporary until the new delivery system is in place. **Hidlay** said it would be temporary, unless the citizen indicated otherwise. **Nelson** said they had a neighborhood clean up and they picked up bags and bags of the flyers that were lying in the street. **Hidlay** said if there are streets where there seem to be an inordinate number of unwanted flyers that the neighborhood should call Jeff Poston and the Eagle will send a team out to evaluate the situation.

**Poston** said the distributors aren't supposed to be delivering to vacant homes, but the carriers often can't tell if a home is occupied when they are delivering in the dark. **Hidlay** said the new company will actively manage the distribution of the flyers which should result in fewer complaints.

**Joann Hartig** wanted to know if neighbors can currently call in to stop the distribution to vacant homes in their neighborhood; **Hidlay** said yes. **Hartig** also expressed frustration with the Eagle's customer service

phone line which is answered by people who are overseas and often don't understand what the customer's issue is. **Hidlay** admitted outsourcing customer service had not worked well and that will also be changed in the near future.

**Charlotte Foster** said she takes the paper daily and one day her carrier accidentally missed her so Charlotte called the Eagle and the Eagle charged the carrier a fortune for not delivering the paper. **Hidlay** said it's important that subscribers receive their paper.

**Judy Dillard** said she received a call the other day from someone who said they were from the Eagle and were encouraging her to pay by credit card. **Hidlay** said the Eagle has an active campaign to get customers to pay electronically because it is more cost effective for the Eagle. **Dillard** said she would not have agreed to change her payment method because she had no way to prove it was actually Eagle staff calling.

**Tricia Epps** asked if the new flyer/weekly reader would be delivered in a bag; **Hidlay** said yes.

**Action: Provide comment**

### Status of Sedgwick County Jail

**Sheriff Robert Hinshaw** presented information on the status of the Sedgwick County jail. He reviewed the statutory requirements for jails, what factors impact the jail population and various alternatives. **Hinshaw** said the projected jail population is expected to increase. Currently three of four inmates are felons and the number of felons being housed has increased by eight percent over the last three years. **Hinshaw** said this means the system is doing a good job of finding alternatives for misdemeanor offenders. In December of 2009, **Hinshaw** said the data revealed that 61 percent of those being housed were pre-trial and 39 percent were commitment.

**Charlotte Foster** asked if the Sheriff was giving this presentation to all of the District Advisory Boards; **Hinshaw** said he hadn't been asked to do that, but he was very willing to and he was also willing to give group tours of the jail. **Foster** wanted to know if the State furloughs would impact the jail; **Hinshaw** said he didn't think it would have a significant impact. **Foster** asked how many prisoners go to Day Reporting; **Hinshaw** said around 260.

**Roger Smith** wanted to know the status of Justice Concepts and **Sheriff Hinshaw** gave a brief history of that contract.

**Jim Gulick** said he had spoken to Mr. Gabel prior to the meeting and told him then that he doesn't think the center of a neighborhood is a good place for any type of jail facility. **Gulick** asked if there are any limitations on where a jail facility can be placed. **Hinshaw** said typically one of the last things in the process is site selection, after you have determined what the needs are. **Hinshaw** said re-furbishing a building is a short-term fix.

**Gulick** said he had objections to how the County handles moving the sex offender's registration office. He said he found out about it when a Wichita Eagle reporter called him and asked him how he felt about it. **Hinshaw** said that was not handled well and the County learned a lesson from that and is making an effort to involve citizens.

**Billie Tucker** asked why Sedgwick County didn't do something similar to Maricopa County. **Hinshaw** said why the Maricopa County Sheriff and his views are very popular, they are also highly litigated and that county has paid out around \$50 million in lawsuits over the past five years.

**Council Member Skelton** asked Hinshaw if he had an ideal example of a facility; **Hinshaw** said there is one in Tennessee.

**Connie Klassen** wanted to know why the County couldn't utilize a vacant facility like the Honor Camp in El Dorado. **Hinshaw** said jurisdiction and transpiration become issues when you start looking outside Sedgwick County.

**Dave Robbins** said he had heard that 30 percent of the jail population suffers from mental illness. **Hinshaw** said in 2005, more than 60 percent of the jail population was mentally ill – it's now down to 47 percent. Currently, the jail has a program where ComCare provides services and medication for the mentally ill in jail. He said the jail very much needs a pod dedicated for inmates with mental illness; around 350 inmates are on psychotropic medications.

**Trisha Epps** asked what the cost difference would be between refurbishing a building and building new. **Hinshaw** said refurbishing is a short term solution. He said Sedgwick County Corrections is a big enough operation it needs to be located on a campus-type setting. **Hinshaw** said we never build the jail we need; we build the jail we can afford.

**Kerin Smith** said when she hears about putting inmates in neighborhoods it makes her very nervous. She said once you change the zoning and authorize a conditional use on a piece of property you can never go back. She asked that the DAB and City Council not get the neighborhood into something it can't get out of and to look at Mr. Gabel's proposal very carefully.

**DeWayne Kitchen** said in terms of reducing the jail population, one way to do that is to quit jailing people for driving on a suspended license. He said he was aware of two cases where people were in jail for more than 60 days because Topeka suspended their driver's license without proper notification.

**Bill Ward** said they need to look long-term, not short-term, and he had concerns about prisoners being released from a facility that is located in a neighborhood.

**Elena Ingle** asked what happened to the idea of the current jail being expandable. **Hinshaw** said it is and it can handle one more expansion on the north end that would accommodate another 396 beds.

**Craig Gabel** said crime is seasonal and a jail expansion would barely cover the current needs.

**Joann Hartig** said she grew up next to the P farm and prisoners used to escape from there; **Hinshaw** said they haven't had any escapes from the jail, but they have had a couple of instances of bad releases.

**Sheriff Hinshaw** said he would be happy to provide a group tour of the jail facility if anyone was interested.

**Action: Receive and file**

**Meeting was adjourned.**

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., May 5, 2010, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

**Guests**

David Robbins  
Gerald Graves  
Betty Strickland  
Tom Strickland  
Claudia Lee  
Connie Klassen  
Elena Ingle  
Mike Killough  
Pauline Killough  
Trisha Epps  
Kerin Smith  
Craig Gabel  
Mike Lindebak  
Marty Carry  
Jeff Poston  
Skip Hidlay  
Sheriff Robert Hinshaw