

District III Advisory Board Minutes
June 2, 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. Eight District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 15 City staff and six members of the public were present (one did not sign in).

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
John Kemp
DeWayne Kitchen
Roger Smith
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Adam Bentley, CMO Intern
Officer Mo Floyd, Patrol South
Officer Shanna Cornwell, Patrol East
Officer Kathy Goebel, Patrol South
Officer G. Arroyo, Patrol South
Officer P. Duff, Patrol South
Chief Tammy Snow, WFD
Lt. Jose Ocadiz, WFD
Robert Layton, City Manager
Bill Christian, WAMPO
Dave Barber, MAPD
Mike Jacobs, Public Works Engineering
Mark Manning, Finance
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Members Absent

Joann Hartig
Brian Nelson
Billie Tucker

Guests

Listed on the last page

Staff Present

Corinne Bannon, CMO Intern

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Skelton** called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No items

Non-Scheduled items

No items

Action: Receive and file.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Shanna Cornwell, Beat 33 Patrol East, reported the three highest accident locations in Patrol East are Kellogg and Webb, Central and Rock and Harry and Rock. She said Officers have been doing a lot of traffic enforcement on Kellogg. Burglaries are up throughout the city, but Patrol East has arrested approximately 20 burglars.

Bob Moore said he saw on the news where WPD was looking at new cars, possibly a Dodge vehicle, or a Chevy Tahoe. He said they should go with the Dodge because the Tahoes would be too dangerous for new officers to drive due to the short wheel base. **Cornwell** said it was her understanding some changes would be made to police Tahoes such as lowering the vehicle and widening the wheel base.

Officer Mo Floyd, Beat 27 Patrol South, said their primary focus lately has been on residential burglaries. In May, 24 Beat had 7, 25 Beat had 4, 26 Beat had 10 and 27 Beat had 9. **Officer Floyd** said two burglaries a month would be closer to the norm. He said one of the most disturbing aspects of these burglaries is that on his beat (27) four of the burglaries were witnessed by neighbors, but only one bothered to call in the suspicious activity. He said they haven't seen a big jump in non-residential burglaries (sheds, detached garages): Beat 24 had 4, Beat 25 had 4, Beat 26 had 3 and Beat 27 had 4.

Officer Floyd said the burglaries are typically occurring Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. He said Officers recently did a city-wide warrant sweep focusing on anyone who had burglary offenses in their record.

Bob Moore wanted to know what WPD is doing with registered sex offenders; **Floyd** said the registration is run through the County, but once a year WPD assists the Sheriff's Department in verifying sex offender residences.

Judy Dillard said she received a call from one of her Neighborhood Association people reporting a string of burglaries on the 29 Beat in the area of Alta and Selma. **Floyd** said there were a series of non-residential burglaries in that area that all occurred on one day.

Craig Gabel asked if jail overcrowding is contributing to burglars being released; **Floyd** said yes, property crime offenders are the first to be released when there are crowding issues.

Bob Moore asked how the recent Miranda ruling is going to affect how WPD does business; **Floyd** said that will be reviewed by the City's Law Department and the information will then come to Officers via the chain of command.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Chief Tammy Snow reported District 3 had 26 fires during April, with six of them being structure fires. There were 449 medical calls and 131 service calls made in April. For the same time period in 2009, there were 23 fires, eight of which were structure fires; 414 medical calls and 161 service calls. A total of 606 calls for April 2010 compared to 598 calls in April 2009. **Snow** explained Fire Investigations staff are called in for it's not obvious how the fire started, or if there is more than \$10,000 in damage. She said they investigated four of the April structure fires: 4156 S. Broadway – resulted in around \$250,000 worth of damage because the building occupants attempted to put the fire out instead of calling the fire department right away; 2216 S. Ridgewood was intentional – two vehicles outside an auto shop were set on fire – possibly gang or dv related; 951 S. Bleckley was an apartment fire where a six-year-old was playing with a lighter; and 3121 S. George Washington Blvd. was a fire on a balcony where the cause could never be determined.

Chief Snow said WFD has a number of special projects occurring this week including providing medical standby at the Special Olympics; a special demonstration at Exploration Place; a multi-cultural event at Lawrence Dumont Stadium and the Citizen's Fire Academy started last week.

Lt. Jose Ocadiz, Fire Prevention, reported his section has been very busy doing educational sessions at public schools and at day care facilities. He said they have presented educational information to numerous school classes ranging from 1 to 12. Additionally, **Ocadiz** did 19 home day care inspections in May and a number of commercial day care inspections.

Lt. Ocadiz also reminded everyone with the July 4th holiday coming up, fireworks shot off in Wichita must be under 6' high and 6' wide.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know if you can legally have a fire on a balcony; **Ocadiz** said “no” fires, even cooking fires, must be at least 10 to 15 feet away from the residence. **Foster** said this information needs to be put on Channel 7.

Action: Receive and file.

The meeting minutes from May 5, 2010, were approved **8-0**.

NEW BUSINESS

2011-2012 Budget discussion

Bob Layton, City Manager, told DAB members the City is facing financial challenges and the current level of services is not sustainable long-term. A number of budget-reduction strategies were implemented in 2009 and 2010 including: elimination of 100 positions, holding another 100 positions open, freezing wages, privatizing printing and mowing and reducing travel and equipment replacements. Even with these strategies, **Layton** said he expects a \$2 million shortfall in 2010 and projects a \$7 million budget shortfall in 2011.

Layton said he is examining a number of options to reduce the budget and that he has been told by City Council members to protect fire, police, environmental health, infrastructure and economic development. Some possible strategies include:

- Layoffs and furloughs
- Right-size staff based on activity levels
- Analyze possibilities to privatize services
- Combine service areas, functions or departments
- Review partnerships with other jurisdictions

Layton said he wants input from the community and asked that those present e-mail him with their thoughts and ideas.

Roger Smith said he would like to see the City privatize street maintenance, like they did the parks mowing.

Charlotte Foster asked if the wage freeze included administration; **Layton** said yes. **Foster** also wanted to know if the City paid WSU for the environmental scan it conducted; **Layton** said yes, but that WSU gets a portion of a tax levy from the City so there are services WSU provides in exchange for the levy.

Layton said one of the changes he is currently looking at involves the possibility of the YMCA providing the recreation services that the City Park and Recreation Department currently provides.

Bill Ward said after examining the handout **Layton** provided, that “Arts and Culture is the prize pig at the fair.” **Ward** said it would almost cover the expected 2011 deficit and he pointed out that during difficult financial times, entertainment is one of the first things a family will cut from their budget. **Layton** said while he believes Arts and Culture has value, he understood **Ward**’s stance and pointed out ultimately it would be the City Council’s decision.

Jim Gulick asked if Transit continues to be federally funded; **Layton** said yes, it’s around an 80/20 split.

Teresa Cook said she had just recently attended the NUSA conference in Little Rock, AR, and she was extremely impressed with the recycling effort in that community. **Layton** said he has been working on a

standardized trash process, but it hasn't come to fruition as quickly as he had hoped it would. He said he will continue to work on this issue and one of the new City interns will also be working on the project.

Layton briefly touched on the Water Department situation. He said he anticipates the Water Department being consolidated with the Public Works Department. While residents should expect an increase in water rates, **Layton** said the good news is the consultant has figured out a way to shave approximately \$38 million from the project and spread out the cost.

James Burleigh asked Layton when mandatory recycling would be implemented; **Layton** said he doesn't foresee ever making it mandatory, but does want to make it available to everyone.

Bob Moore noted the rising fuel costs and asked Layton if the City hedges its fuel and if it uses multiple suppliers. **Layton** said the City does in fact use multiple suppliers, but does not hedge because he's not sure the City is sophisticated enough to safely pull that off. He said at this point the consequences of not playing it right make it too dangerous to try.

Craig Gabel voiced his support for more privatizing of City services.

Layton said he will be meeting with DAB members on June 28th to discuss the budget and the Downtown Master Plan draft.

Action: Receive and file.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035

Bill Christian, Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO), reminded everyone about the continuing work on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035. The MTP 2035 is a required long range transportation plan that is designed to help guide transportation investments in the region.

Christian said a complete draft of the plan is available to review and comment on through June 18, 2010. The WAMPO website, www.wampoks.org, will have a link to the MTP 2035 as well as a link to provide comments.

Bill Ward said he didn't see much information in the plan regarding railroads; **Christian** said that's because railroads are more of a private venture than public venture.

Charlotte Foster asked about passenger rail service; Council Member Skelton said the last plan he saw provided for a .4 cent return on every dollar invested and it would have to get a lot better than that for him to be interested.

Action: Receive and file.

DER 2010-00006 Amendments to the Disposition Supplements and the General Urban Renewal Plan of November 27, 1972, for the Wichita Neighborhood Development Program Urban Renewal Area.

(Districts I, III, IV, VI) Dave Barber, Metropolitan Area Planning Department, presented the recommended amendments; the MAPC has already unanimously endorsed the amendments. The General Urban Renewal Plan for the Wichita Neighborhood Development Program, Urban Renewal Area was last completed on November 27, 1972. A recent developer request to amend the General Urban Renewal Plan (URP) has raised questions regarding the relevancy and continued usefulness of the URP provisions/standards developed in the early 1960's that are not consistent with the City's current zoning requirements and land use planning policy direction.

Barber noted that the current plan is outdated, irrelevant and inflexible. He said more current and relevant land use plans now exist for much of the URP. Since the early 1990's, almost a dozen land

neighborhood/area plans and regulations have been adopted by the City Council, covering over 72% of the URP area. A new Downtown Revitalization Master Plan will also be finalized later this year.

Barber said staff feels there is merit initiating general URP amendments that would leave the Urban Renewal Area and Urban Renewal Plan ‘framework’ in place, but eliminate the problematic provisions and standards that are contrary to the current city zoning requirements, relevant city codes and regulations, and the comprehensive plan. The proposed URP amendments would create a new “Deferred Use” category applicable throughout each of the Disposition Supplements and throughout the entirety of the General Urban Renewal Plan Neighborhood Development Program Area.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know what’s going to become of the old Coleman building; **Barber** said it is part of the Downtown Master Plan.

Bob Moore brought up the issue with contamination at this location; **Barber** said remediation continues at that site.

Craig Gabel wanted to know if this change would loosen the restrictions on rehabbing houses; **Barber** said yes, if they were once owned by the City.

Teresa Cook asked if these changes will require developers to comply with the various Neighborhood Plans; **Barber** said yes.

Judy Dillard (Kemp) made a motion to endorse the recommended amendments to the Disposition Supplements and the General Urban Renewal Plan of November 27, 1972, for the Wichita Neighborhood Development Program Urban Renewal Area.

Action: Motion passed 8-0.

Woodlawn Right Turn Lane, north of Kellogg

Mike Jacobs, Public Works Engineering, presented a proposal for the addition of a right turn lane for south bound Woodlawn traffic to the west bound Kellogg frontage road. Woodlawn, north of Kellogg, is a five lane roadway with four through lanes and a south bound left turn lane. Recent traffic analysis indicates a need to relieve traffic congestion from south bound Woodlawn to westbound Kellogg. The estimated project cost is \$400,000-\$500,000 with the total paid by the local sales taxes. **Jacobs** said this is a small project, but would be a big improvement to the area.

Roger Smith asked what the estimated cost is. **Jacobs** said \$400,000-\$500,000; there will be costs involved in right of way acquisition and moving utilities.

Jim Gulick read an e-mail from a citizen in his area who wasn’t able to attend the meeting and she expressed concern that this improvement was overlooked during the initial construction and is now being paid for via local sales tax. **Jacobs** said it would have been funded the same way whether it was done then or now. **Jacobs** also noted one of the challenges is having to negotiate with another city.

DeWayne Kitchen (Dillard) moved to recommend approval of the project to the City Council.

Action: Motion passed 8-0.

Updates, Issues and Reports

Judy Dillard wanted to know if the contract had been let for the 47th street expansion to Hydraulic Street; **Council Member Skelton** said yes.

Jim Gulick announced Grandview Heights and Meadowlark Neighborhood Associations will be having a picnic to celebrate the opening of the two parks at Mt. Vernon and Bluff. The picnic is slated for June 19th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DeWayne Kitchen reported two City workers did an outstanding job of unclogging the storm sewer located by his property; he was very pleased with their efforts.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know what Asphlund does with all that tree mulch; **Gulick** said they will give it to you if you ask.

Roger Smith wanted to know why the City continues to plant big trees under power lines; **Council Member Skelton** said the City no longer does that, they plant small, decorative trees in those areas.

James Burleigh asked if Southwest Airlines is coming to Wichita; **Council Member Skelton** said yes, but there are some lingering questions regarding subsidies.

Teresa Cook asked about the status of the proposed Southeast Community Center; **Council Member Skelton** said he didn't have a recent update on that project.

Meeting was adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Paul Davis
James Burleigh
Bob Moore
Trisha Epps
Craig Gabel