

**District VI Advisory Board
Minutes
www.wichita.gov**

**Monday
January 3, 2011
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, seven (7) city staff and eleven (11) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Cathy Landwehr
Charlie Claycomb
Joel Weihe
Pat Randleas
Scott Dunakey
Bob Aldrich
John VanWalleghen
Denise O'Leary-Siemer
Anita Mendoza

Members Absent

Staff Present

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
B.C. Newby, Fire
Officer Schweithale, Patrol South
Doug Kupper, Park Director
Officer Lang, Patrol North
Officer Jerrell, Patrol North
Officer Perkins, Patrol West

Council Member Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. welcoming everyone.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted (**Aldrich/VanWalleghen 6-0**)

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items:** None at this time
2. **Off-agenda items:** *Leigh Chambers 3033 N. Hedge Tree St. Ct.* asked to discuss the future of the Ice Center. *Chambers* said he felt there has been misinformation about the ice center and that the group of users he represented generates 50% of its revenue. There is a group of members that have formed to meet with the city for discussion on this topic but were denied a meeting. We just want to give input as future reference when the city looks for someone to run the facility.

Landwehr arrive at 6:35 p.m.

Chambers continued at present we don't know what's going on and we would like to communicate with City Council what kind of skating potential there is for the facility. The current financial status for the center is in the black and with

Interest Bank Arena hosting ice rink events, we want people to know this facility is second to none. Members from the Wichita Figure Skating Club, the large Hockey Speed Skating, etc. formed an advisory board to give input and I was asked to come and communicate this today.

Miller said the City has issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the rink but there is no firm that has made a proposal yet. We will ask for public comment when we get to that point and we will contact you when we know more.

Chambers finished saying since we're a major part to the facility all we want is to provide input on a new operator of the rink.

Weihe arrive at 6:40 p.m.

Miller said she appreciated him coming and would express your concerns to the City Manager and staff.

Lawrence Colona 1734 N. Woodland wanted to discuss the upcoming trash plans being reviewed by the city. *Colona* said he and his neighbor share the same service and both are in opposition of a \$20 a month payment.

Miller said the proposal about revised trash service has been heard in a City Council workshop and also listening to input from the 22 trash haulers in the city. At this point all we are doing is collecting feedback. The current proposal is not going forward and we will continue to get public input. **Miller** also said it is a city ordinance that every resident has to have trash service.

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

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Patrol South: *Officer Schweithale*, reported larcenies are down and it has been easier closing Old Town due to the cold weather. There have been burglaries down south which has pulled officers from Old Town at times.

Patrol West: *Officer Perkins*, reported in Delano and Indian Hills in December there have been incidents while warming up vehicles they have been stolen. Officers have handed out flyers on this. We're closing out year end-complaints at present. At Central/West we have had some burglaries such as Walgreen's; officers are working with Investigations on this. There have been complaints about kids on the ice in the river or along the big ditch and people are calling 911. This is a big safety factor as they don't know if the ice is solid. Please report this if you see it.

Patrol North: *Officer Jerrell* reported 41 beat has had no crime trends for December. Burglaries are increased even after Christmas due to gifts of electronics that were received. If you see anything suspicious please call 911.

Patrol North: *Lt. Kevin Mears* 3rd watch reported he replaced Lt. Nolte and he works closely with SCAT on drugs and gang activity. *Mears* said his 2011 goal is to focus on DUI enforcement and educate the public. You can contact me at KMears@wichita.gov if needed.

Patrol North: *Officer Lang* reported on Index crimes for Wichita from 2006-2010. The chart represents crimes such as homicide, rape, robbery, etc. and indicates a decrease of all these crimes for 2010. *Lang* reported for Beat 49 that Benjamin Hills had been having daytime burglaries during the holidays and we now see a decrease since then. *Lang* said you can go to the city's website and look under police statistics to find out what is going on in your neighborhood. **VanWalleghen** asked *Lang* if he would be present and the January 4, Benjamin Hills meeting. *Lang* responded he would.

Miller thanked the officers for their support to District 6 and said she appreciated their fast response and thorough work.

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

4. Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Newby reported annual figures for 2010 where four fire deaths occurred compared to three in 2009. Two of the four were due to careless smoking, in one case smoking was suspected but could not be confirmed and the last case could not be determined due to the extreme damage that occurred but no criminal activity was suspected. For 2010, 57 fires investigated were determined arson where in 2009, 73 fires were arson. 19 arson related arrests were made by the FIU in 2010 compared to 20 in 2009. The arrest rate for 2010

was 33.3%, which is well above the National Median Arrest Rate determined at 24.9%. Out of 203 fires investigated by the FIU resulted in an estimated \$9.7million in loss compared to \$10.7 million loss in 2009 for 213 fires.

There was an overall increase in alarms for 2010 from 2009 which included the totals from EMS, Fire and the County.

Newby also reported on winter fire safety tips such as: have chimneys professionally inspected and cleaned, make sure wood stoves are properly installed, space heaters are kept three feet away from flammables, use a glass or metal screen in front of a fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting drapes, carpet, etc. and never use a stove or range to heat a home. For more fire safety tips please go to the city's Fire Department website. *Newby* also included to never let kids out on the river or lake ice unless you know its frozen solid.

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

New Business

5. The Opportunity Project for Early Learning (TOP)

Barry Downing presented on The Opportunity Project for early learning (TOP). The program is supported by the Wichita TOP Children's Fund and the Downing Foundation. *Downing* said many children growing up in poverty or low-income households lack the resources they need to succeed in school. TOP focuses on providing at-risk kids during their most formative years (1-5) with the academic and social skills that result in readiness for kindergarten. With an emphasis on literacy, children attending TOP are taught early math skills, writing, vocabulary, science, technology, art and creative play.

Downing said as a local businessman he has had success in business and because of that is giving back to the community. The center will be built on the Evergreen property where there is a boxing club at present next to the library. There will be room for 200 children to be taught pre-school education and prepare them for kindergarten. There will be quality teachers for the 8-10 hour days the child will spend there. They will be given two meals and snacks daily. Along with the child's education each family will be required to fill out a family improvement plan.

TOP is a private and public partnership with \$3-4 million already acquired to build the center. The land is owned by the city and we've already been to the Park Board for their approval. The operations will run around \$1.5 million annually from our public partners such as USD 259 and others.

Aldrich stated he commended *Downing* for what he was doing with this program by including the parent to be involved in his child's life. *Downing* said the parent is not paying and they are getting a free benefit so they need to commit to the program. There will be parent activities and events including the improvement plan to help with any needed resources. **Aldrich** asked what percentage was private funding. *Downing* responded it was 100% private and the operations and existing programs are not used from any new tax or spending.

O'Leary-Siemer asked with the decrease in State funding to USD 259 would it impact TOP. *Downing* said the funding would continue to pay for children and save by \$259. for each child but again there a lot of private dollars being used.

Weihe asked how people are told of this program. *Downing* said it was the best kept secret but mainly by word of mouth as parents tell parents. We are usually full before we ever open.

Landwehr asked if it would be open like the school year schedule and would the school be working with the Evergreen Library. *Downing* responded it would be open 52 weeks and include Christmas vacation and our school has its own library.

Aldrich asked if there were any boundaries on enrollment, could anyone attend and would the school have a safe room. *Downing* responded the school was open to the poor and the school is required by the State to have a safe room.

Miller asked if the school was already full with a waiting list. *Browning* said there were 40-50 on a waiting list now.

Doug Kupper Park Director said the City would maintain ownership of the land and the Park Board had already given their approval for the project. The Boxing club that was in this building has been relocated to 18th/Market which they really felt was a better fit for their club.

Martha Sanchez 2826 N. Edwards said she represents the Latino Caucus who has been meeting and holding workshops for parents to help with the future path of their children. *Sanchez* said everyone was very excited for this project and many community leaders are in full support and that word of mouth had already spread about what was coming to the area.

Abel Perez Ex-Director of the Hispanic Chamber said this project was good for the community and the Chamber was in support of this.

Miller stated this was so wonderful for Wichita at large to have a program for early childhood development.

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

6. Regional Energy and Sustainability Summit and Fair

Becki Lewis, Environmental Services said to continue its public education efforts, the City of Wichita is again hosting a regional Energy and Sustainability Summit and Fair. *Lewis* thanked **Councilmember Miller** for her support and helping with the event. *Lewis* said the Dept. of Energy and the Aveda Cosmetic Corporation would be just a few of the presenters. For the Community Day we have plenty of fun planned and workshops to help with restoration of existing homes turning them to energy efficient homes. There will be a voucher program to purchase rain barrels for \$25. and other great projects to see.

Aldrich asked how to keep moss out of a rain barrel? *Lewis* said to use a tiny bit of olive oil to keep the moss out.

Miller said it would be a fun day for the community. Hope to see you there.

Miller thanked Becki for speaking this evening.

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

Board Agenda

7. Problem Properties

- 736 N. Hoover has been all cleaned up.
- 751 N. Hoover is a work in process.
- McLean along 13th to 21st/South to Central and then to Seneca there is an increase in large truck traffic and there is not to be large trucks along that route.
- **Miller** said Police asked No Trucks signs to be taken down, which was not a good thing. They are putting in a work order to put in No Truck traffic signs again.
- Alley-grading between 1300 Blk. of Emporia/St. Francis
- SE corner of 18th /Farrell: the streetlight is out also the street light is out to entrance of this center.

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

8. Neighborhood Reports

Weihe asked if there had been any calls about the yellow flashing lights along 13th street. **Miller** said she had not received any calls. **Gunzelman** said he had not received any calls but saw some people stopping at the yellow light.

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

Updates from the Councilmember

VanWalleghen asked about the current trash proposal and his concern about the price. How will it affect landlords and what about the \$20 administrative fee?

Miller said the City is taking over the billing and for stop/starts. The haulers are in support of the new proposal.

Aldrich asked if there would be the option to shop around as in Oklahoma City they pay \$80/mo. which includes Water/Sewer, trash recycling for free, once a month bulk trash hauled away. **Aldrich** said there is lack of trust with the city getting involved in trash service. People support it due to the amount of recyclables left out of the landfill.

Miller said before any decisions are made this would be presented to the DAB's.

Announcements

- Next DAB meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 19, 2011** for a planning case on CUP2010-00029 a CUP DP-289 Amendment #1 requesting the removal of the masonry wall requirements along the south and west line of the CUP (GP#13), generally located at the southwest corner of North Meridian and West 53rd Street.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Guests

Rita Solis Chavez
Christine Eberle
Lawrence Colona
Rosa Molina
Leigh Chamber
Cindy Claycomb
Veronica Triana
Martha Sanchez
Greg Boyajian
Officer C. Burnett
Abel Perez

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant