

DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 4, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19th, Wichita, Kansas 67214

Members Present

Treatha Brown-Foster
Gerald Domitrovic
Shane Dundas
Debra K. Miller Stevens
Janice Rich*
Steve Roberts
James Thompson
Shontina Tipton
Lavonta Williams

Members Absent

Inga Taylor

Guests

Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 GW Blvd
Chloe Nave, 1802 Looman
Dorothy Nave, 1802 Looman
Joel Schlegel, 1821 Looman
Joann Hartig, 1756 S. Main
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston
Chris Kliewer, AIA Chapter

*Alternates

City of Wichita Staff Present

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Officer Nate Schwiethale, WPD
Officer Justin Whyte, WPD
Bill Longnecker, MAPD

Order of Business

Call to Order

Pro-tem Domitrovic called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the guests. He then asked if anyone present wished to be added to the Public Agenda. **Dorothy Nave, Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association**, requested to be added.

Domitrovic (Roberts) made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes

Domitrovic stated that the April 2007 minutes would be approved at the July meeting, as no minutes were taken in May due to the interviews for the District 1 City Council seat.

Approval of Agenda

Roberts (Thompson) made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Agenda

1. **Dorothy Nave, 1902 Looman, Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association**, reported that there is a man in their neighborhood stating that Officer Kimble is harassing him and she is representing the neighborhood in support of Officer Kimble. She stated that in 2004, they adopted new bylaws to start enforcing codes of the City – trash, illegal parking, loose dogs, etc. This same person put a fence around a lot that he does not own, says he is being harassed, drains oil on the ground with cars he works own, and speeds through the neighborhood.

Domitrovic asked whom has he complained to, has he complained to Community Affairs, and what is the purpose to bring this before the board? Ms. Nave responded that he has complained to neighbors and a lot of folks. He complains to everyone but the neighborhood association. He also said that he has spoken with Chief Norman Williams, but she could not verify this. She is coming before the board to inform them that they support their Community Police officer and this gentleman is not being harassed. **Brown Foster** said that Dorothy came before the board to back Officer Kimble and to represent the neighborhood association on this issue.

Kay Johnson, ES, reported that they have received complaints since 2003 to 2007. Two cars were removed through abatement.

Domitrovic (Roberts) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

2. Off Agenda Items

No items submitted.

Staff Reports

3. Police Report

Officer Whyte, 32 Beat, reported the following: 1) the College Hill burglar has been caught and is behind bars; 2) there are two new community police officers out East: David Nienstedt, 38 Beat and Matt Lowe, 39 Beat; 3) Patrol East sponsored a "Hooked on Fishing" Camp that had 157 kids sign up. 27 officers and 20 volunteers participated, Texas Roadhouse did the cooking, and Sedgwick County Zoo provided door prizes; 4) June 11th – 14th, Camp Awareness will take place in partnership with the Boy Scouts located at Kings Camp at Lake Afton.

(Officer Whyte's response is in italics)

Williams asked if the camp is full? *I am not sure. The Boy Scouts recruit all of the kids. There are roughly 210 kids to date. Last year, 160 kids participated.*

Officer Schwiethale, 22 Beat, reported the following: 1) there is an increase in downtown auto thefts, which is consistent with the River Festival; 2) there are a lot more juveniles downtown due to the skate park, so WPD is currently addressing skateboard robberies; 3) solved several vandalism cases through security cameras from businesses; 4) Union Rescue Mission picks up and drops off the homeless at the Central Library. As a result, Home Depot has agreed to build a shelter at 2nd & Waco. In partnership, the police, the homeless, and Home Depot will build the shelter.

(Officer Schwiethale's response is in italics)

Tipton asked has the construction started and when would it be completed? *The project is scheduled to start this Friday and would be completed the same day.* **Thompson** asked about vandalism downtown. *The majority of vandalism is to automobiles. On the website, we encourage people not to leave valuables in view in their vehicles.* **Williams** asked what are the hours to the skate park and do parents drop off their kids? *The hours are from dusk to dawn, which follows the curfew. Officers are allowing kids to skate later due to increased lighting. Parents drop their kids off or they walk from the neighborhood. The kids are as young as 10 or 11 up to 18 years old.*

Officer Paul Kimble reported the following: 1) the Zodiac Club is closing the end of June. There is currently ongoing enforcement and monitoring until that time; 2) 45 Beat is experiencing an increase in robberies. Officer Gerdes is working with detectives on this issue; 3) 47 Beat: 2600 North Grove has drugs and possible prostitution; 4) 44 Beat, Officer Patton, is working on blight issues; and 5) 47 Beat is dealing with blight and abandoned vehicles.

Brown Foster commented to Officer Kimble that he is doing a real good job and asked him to elaborate on the situation Dorothy Nave spoke on. Officer Kimble responded that in 2005, the Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association generated a complaint concerning trash, debris, broke down vehicles, loose dogs, etc. That particular area is bad and had multiple violations that are currently being addressed.

Domitrovic (Roberts) made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

New Business

4. Animal Control and Protection Ordinance

Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services, asked the board to send comments, via e-mail, on the proposed changes to the Animal Control and Protection Ordinance. Those comments can be sent to herself, Don Henry, or Virdena Gilkey.

Ms. Johnson added that there are too many unwanted animals in Wichita. She gave the following information: there are 5400 abandoned animals with 1500 being pit bulls; 800 annual dog bites with 1 of 3 being pit bulls. Other information was provided concerning the percentage of pit bulls shot since 2004 due to aggression and the fact that owners do not claim loose pit bulls. The changes in the ordinance are written to address biting issues for any type of dog and pit bulls. Proposed is to remove the one bite free exception rule. This is also in alignment with the US Humane Society's National guidelines. The purpose is to close loopholes for dogs that are threats to public safety and to address issues with the postal carriers.

She continued by stating another area this addresses is animal fighting paraphernalia such as steroids, antibiotics, dog treadmills, bandages, etc. Animal fighting is illegal and pit bulls are specifically bred for fighting. Animal Services took in 66 pit bulls that cost \$1,500 per puppy for food and shelter. With this case were child endangerment issues, the dogs were improperly bred, and real deformities were apparent. This added definition requires dog breeders to have a breeding license and no more than one litter of puppies annually. The license fee could be lower, but is recommended to cost \$250. The purpose is to register breeders more so than the cost. Also, pit bull owners would have the microchip requirement. The exception would be for dogs that attend the Dog Show by the Wichita Kennel Club. Looking at reducing the licensing fee, if dogs are micro-chipped.

(Ms. Johnson's response is in italics)

Miller Stevens asked if the breeding license would apply to those selling puppies on street corners and at west Sam's and Wal-Mart? *That is not supposed to be happening. We will have to follow up on this. But the short answer is yes.* **Tipton** inquired about the cost to microchip. *It cost \$20 to \$30. It is not real expensive.* **Williams** asked what is micro-chipped and was did ES receive the additional staff budgeted? *A microchip is a tiny microcapsule, placed in the back of the neck of an animal. If lost, animals are wand for ownership before euthanasia. ES will receive two full-time staff. One has been trained and is out working. The other staff is to be hired within the next two weeks.* **Brown Foster** asked what do you do about dogs that don't have tags, is the

Magnum Law in effect, and do you have a database for pit bulls? *If dogs don't have tags, call your CP officer or Environmental Services. Magnum Law is in effect, however, Sedgwick County has not prosecuted any cases. This must be prosecuted by District Court. Currently, there is no database.* **Dundas** stated that he appreciated what is being accomplished and suggested that they work with the Kansas Pit Bulls Rescue Organization that works diligently to get them adopted. Dundas added that he has a friend that has 5 to 6 pit bulls and all are spade/neuter and trained. He asked how are puppy mills identified? *Most animals that we take out of situations cannot be adopted. Your friend is over the allowed limit for the dogs. Animal Maintenance license limits the dogs to four. Puppy mills are generally in a residential area, where it can be noticed. However, ES would need to be notified.* **Domitrovic** asked about tethering and what is the dog bite trend? *With tethering, the issues are more with people who don't have a fence. Dog bites are actually down from 1,800 to 800 plus.*

John Stevens, 3215 East Boston, commented that Wichita Independent Neighborhoods (WIN) has worked with Environmental Services for many months and supports their efforts. WIN asked the City Council for additional Animal Control Officers and three were granted. To assist with animal control issues, the council approved \$45,000 for new tracking software. He stated that now it is the advisory boards turn to step up and ask the City Council to support the amended ordinance. Lastly, he thanked Kay Johnson for their support and stance on this issue.

Domitrovic (Tipton) made a motion to forward comments on the proposed amendments to Kay Johnson. Motion carried 8-0.

Ms. Johnson ended by stating that she and a team has spent the last week submitting a grant for Beats 43 and 44. WIN endorsed the grant, as well as KU Medical Center and the Sedgwick County Health Department. From this \$145,000 grant, an Environmental Specialist would be hired to match health needs to services.

5. **CON2007-00013**

Bill Longnecker, MAPD, explained that the site is located in an areas surrounded by single-family zoning on the north, south, and east with a public park on the west. In addition, the use of the subject site's single-family residence as some type of residential use other than single-family was reported to OCI by the neighbors. OCI's subsequent inspection of the residence found that it was an illegal duplex that had also had building code issues. OCI advised the applicant to address both the building code issues as well as the zoning issue. The applicant is now proposing to make the duplex into a group residence, limited, by removing the basement's kitchen and allowing free access for the site's tenants between the basement and the ground floor. The use has been introduced into the single-family neighborhood before the zoning was resolved. To address one of the concerns, the owner has agreed to remove the kitchen in the lower area. Lastly, duplex zoning is not recommended for this site.

Randy Spark man, OCI, explained that the house is divided into upper and lower area. Upper level has bedrooms with padlocks with separate individuals living there. The basement is an open area with mattresses on the floor. At least eight people are living there with two separate kitchen areas. One concern is the lower area, which has a common shower. The shower is located next to a sump hole with electrical wiring next to the hole, which is dangerous. There are no smoke detectors at the home, the frame on the house is in disrepair, and a supporting wall has been removed creating a structure failure. In addition, there have been quite a few discussions with the owner.

The board was concerned with the following: 1) what has been done about the code violations; 2) is there any evidence that the owner is trying to comply; 3) are there other properties suited for

this type of request; 4) is the owner or representative present; 5) concerned for the safety of the neighborhood; 6) what is to say that the owner would not put the kitchen back in once the zoning has been approved; and 7) does the owner live in the residence?

Staff responded appropriately to all concerns. A few additional comments were made.

Thompson (Brown Foster) made a motion to deny the request. Motion carried 8-0.

Steve Roberts left at 8:46 p.m.

- 6. Chris Kliewer, AIA Wichita**, explained that AIA Wichita Chapter has put together a 150-year celebration for Blueprint for America and has applied for a grant to work with local city government and individual neighborhoods to design transportation hubs throughout the city and surrounding areas. WAAMPO and MAPD would be partners in providing interconnectivity of the parks and recreation, bike paths, walking paths, and public transit system.

(Mr. Kliewer's response is in italics)

Brown Foster asked had they spoken with Jay Banasiak, Wichita Transit Director and requested longer hours, shelters, etc.? *We envision more than benches/bus stops, but a hub – coffee shop, showers, etc. We will have a design competition, in the future, for architects and students. Part of it is getting public feedback and design around public need.* **Miller Stevens** asked if the design is a concept only and who is providing the funding? *We have applied for a grant to advertise the project. We are working with WAAMPO and MAPD, as it helps as a resource to present an entire package.* **Miller Stevens** commented that there is a redevelopment plan for South Central where this type of project would be interesting for better appearance, as the hub would be neighborhood specific. **Williams** asked if their website was any different and stated that a visual of their plan was needed. She encouraged AIA to present to WIN. Lastly, she asked how would the hubs affect the homeless population? *It is our intentions to present to many neighborhood groups. There is the potential for homeless issues to occur. We will lean on experts' citywide to deal with a process to address those issues.* **Domitrovic** asked if this would be a recreational hub? *The hubs would be in neighborhoods and not just downtown. The idea is to create "hot spots" throughout the city that are linked by an infrastructure for public transit and recreation.* **Rich** commented on the woes of the transit facility downtown. She stated that this idea might change the whole concept for public transportation and give it a better image. **Thompson** for clarity in using biking and walking paths in this plan. Is it make it easier to get to different places? *All areas in a neighborhood would be considered in this process, including walking and bike paths.*

Mr. Kliewer asked the board to send any additional comments or questions to his e-mail at: ckliewer@wdmdesign.com and he would respond.

Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

Board Agenda

- 7. Updates, Issues, and Reports**
 - Virdena Gilkey, NA**, explained the District 1 Coalition Breakfast was cancelled for the month of June, as the new councilperson was to be appointed in the next two weeks following and because there were no pressing issues. Also, she had spoken with Mayor Brewer and he

would like to see the breakfast meetings remain in the hands of the councilperson. Due to his efforts, all districts now have a breakfast or lunch meeting monthly and are council driven.

Also, she announced National Night Out on August 7th. In the past, Mayor Brewer (former City Council Member) would rent a trolley for the group. This year, the board and the new council member need to decide if that event will remain.

- **Brown Foster** announced the following: 1) the tour of the new Boys and Girls Club and that President Bush was to attend. She asked about the ribbon cutting ceremony and invitations. **Gilkey** responded that only those who received personal invitations would be allowed to attend the on-site presentation; 2) the Barbeque Cook-off on Friday, June 8th; Cowtown, \$15 per ticket. She also had tickets for the drawing of a new vehicle for purchase; and 3) the Day Reporting Center will assist with the neighborhood cleanup on June 23rd for Northeast Millair NA.
- **Williams** reported that on June 9th, the Ken Mar Neighborhood Association would host their cleanup and on August 4th, the Power NA would hold their cleanup. She asked for volunteers to assist, as Power has more elderly citizens.
- **Thompson** reported that the Elm NA would host their cleanup on June 9th and their annual garage sale on June 22nd.
- **Rich** reported that Hyde NA would host their cleanup on June 23rd.

With no further business, **Domitrovic (Brown Foster)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virdena Gilkey
Neighborhood Assistant