

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2007
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The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at the 7:00 p.m. at the Lionel Alford Branch Library. In attendance were eight (8) District Advisory Board members, ten (10) staff and approximately eight (8) citizens with four (4) signing in.

Members Present

Nancy Wilhite
Joshua Blick
Mary Cockburn
Hestel Sewell
Michael Gisick
Ed Koon
Gerald Marsh
Tom Engelmann

Staff Present

Officer Gomes, Police
Officer Carlson, Police
Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office
Officer Bachman, Police
Officer Bryant, Police
Officer Davidson, Police
Larry Foos, Park and Recreation
David Maguire, Park and Recreation
Joe Dermid, Career Services
Debbie Nguyen, City Manager's Office

Guests

C Townsend, 4520 Kainer
Irene Armstrong, 1109 GreenfieldWichita
George Walta, 10630 Carr
John Pangle, 1415 N ByrghWichita, KS 67212

Members Absent

Peggy Bennett
Jim Benton

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Engelmann (Sewell) moved to approve the agenda for the November 7, 2007 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Wilhite (Blick) moved to approve the minutes from the October 3 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

Public Agenda

The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues not on the agenda to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to five minutes unless extended by the Board.

1. Scheduled Items

2. Off-Agenda Items

No items were submitted.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Education Update

Debbie Nguyen, Community Educator, addressed the board regarding various community programs that have been implemented in South Wichita. Some examples she gave include:

- AARP Drivers Safety Course
- Job Ready Skills
- Credit/Debit Class
- English Language/culture/government
- How to buy a house
- Karate
- Diabetes testing

The Board asked if participants in the language class had to be legally allowed in the United States. **Ms. Nguyen** responded that all participants in this program must be in this country legally.

Action Taken: Received and Filed.

4. Community Police Report

Officers present reported the following:

- School zones around Douglas and Maple have been closely monitored and 44 people have received citations for speeding in this area.
- Police are monitoring a drug house on South Martinson Avenue
- There have been 2 arsons on 12 beat, but the two incidences do not appear to be connected
- Patrol West handed out 1250 Halloween bags for children at local elementary schools. To get one, contact Patrol West or the west community policing office.
- Barry Gomes is the new community police officer for 14 beat.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

New Business

5. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Review Committee Appointments and Elections

Joe Dermid, Career Development Office, was present to answer questions regarding this item to appoint or elect one of the Board members to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Review Committee.

The City of Wichita receives federal CSBG funds to provide services to low-income Sedgwick County families and individuals. Current CSBG funding is over one-million dollars and supports operation of the Neighborhood City Halls, assists the neighborhood clean-up program, provides prescription medicines through Project Access, provides summer day care and recreation for children of low-income families, provides employment assistance and homeless overflow shelter support. Federal law governing the use of these funds mandates a board to participate in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the CSBG Program. As part of the changes in advisory board structures in 1999 and 2000, the City Council created the CSBG Review Committee to meet these requirements. The Council chose to base the membership of the Review Committee within the District Advisory Boards to take advantage of the special knowledge base of the DAB members

Action Taken: The Board re-appointed **Blick** and **Marsh** to service on this committee.

6. Off-Road Motor Sports Venue (District 2)

Larry Foos, Parks and Recreation, presented this item. The Visioneering Document states that citizens desire more recreational opportunities and that the City should seek and develop new ways to attract and retain our current young population.

The need for an off-road motorsports venue in the greater Wichita area has grown rapidly in the past years and is fueled by the fact that no substantial public facilities for off-road motorsports recreation currently exist in the Wichita area. Currently there are 10 known off-road clubs in Kansas with over 2,500 active members and 9 non-automotive off-road dealers in Wichita.

Without a designated public off-road recreational facility in Wichita, off-road use along the Valley Center Floodway (big ditch) and the Arkansas River corridor has been a popular, yet illegal area for users. These practices create damage to public property and compromise public safety when not held in a properly designed setting.

In 1996, the City of Wichita purchased 1,400 acres of land in northeast Sedgwick County to be used for future landfill purposes. Portions of this area are currently used for agricultural purposes and there are few surrounding residents. The Park and Recreation department seeks to utilize 160 acres of this land to develop the off-road motorsports venue.

Federal grant funding through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Recreational Trails Program is available as well as various other sponsorship opportunities aimed at making the venue a reality.

The Board asked the following questions (**Mr. Foos'** responses are in *italics*):

- Were there other locations considered for this venue? *No because this location has limited housing around it with a lot of hills. This will have three riding venues in one park, so dirt will have to be shifted around for each venue.*
- If there is a disturbance or need for emergency personnel, who will respond? *The City of Wichita. There will be both full-time and part-time staff at the park. The park would be gated from when the park is not operating from about dusk until 8:00 am.*
- Are the people who live near this location ok with this proposal? *Staff wanted to first get the project concept approve and then work with citizens to explain the details and get support.*
- How will we ensure that the City of Wichita is not liable for injury? *The City would be covered from liability under the Kansas Tort Claim Act.*
- If you pay for a membership, you will not be assessed daily rates? *Correct, the membership will allow you easier access to the park.*
- How will the park have water in case of fires? *There are existing utilities in this area already. The City's mounted police unit had an office there previously and restrooms will be added.*
- How will you control noise from the activity in the park? *Trees will be planted and this will be looked at further when the project is designed.*
- How will you get public input on this project? *Through distributing flyers, holding informational meetings.*
- How will you control dust? *Dust will be controlled through placing water on the tracks.*
- Will a safety course be required before patrons are able to use the park? *Possibly.*

Citizens present stated that this is a much needed entertainment venue in Wichita as the nearest park for this activity is one or two hours away, it is a money making proposition and a good idea.

Police suggested that alcohol not be allowed in the park.

Action Taken: Gisick (Sewell) motioned to recommend development of the off-road motor sports park. Motion passed 8-1.

7. New Communities Initiative

George Kolb, City Manager and Mary K Vaughn, Director of Housing and Community Services, presented this item to the Board. The City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas have joined together to launch the New Communities Initiative (NCI). The initiative is designed to: provide quality housing for all incomes; provide employment opportunities for those needing and seeking jobs; enhance the learning environment across all age groups; reduce the conditions of blight and revitalize the neighborhood; address and positively impact quality of life issues; and develop nurturing opportunities for children and youth. The overall goal is to support and enhance successful families and sustaining communities.

The NCI has an oversight Policy Group which includes representatives of government, education, business, philanthropic and social service sectors. The Policy Group wants to embark upon a comprehensive Master Plan for the current NCI area to provide a framework for the comprehensive development of the area and to identify the kind and quantity of housing appropriate for the area that will meet the identified needs.

It is anticipated that Policy Group members and other members of the community will share the Master Plan cost. Preliminary estimates are up to \$800,000 although that amount could be reduced based on the design and scope of the Request for Proposals. The City Council has been asked to consider committing \$250,000 toward the cost of the Master Plan. The source of funding is from the Capital Improvement Program within the Landbank project (Economic and Redevelopment allocation).

The Board asked the following questions (responses are in *italics*):

- Why is 67214 the area that needs the most attention? *As people progress, they leave the core area of a city and the people left behind are renters.*
- Is this part of the STOP BLIGHT initiative? *Yes, we are trying to slow down the decline of neighborhoods, so NCI will provide the tools to accomplish this hopefully throughout the City.*
- Does this effort focus on developing houses or individuals? *Both, this is a comprehensive effort to provide wrap-around services.*
- How will the migration of people effect this plan? *A master plan will be created to identify how to get people to remain in these areas and buy into this initiative.*
- How will land be acquired for this initiative? *Through eminent domain, tax foreclosure, purchasing houses.*
- How much will the project cost? *A master plan will have to be done to determine cost of this initiative. The master plan will cost around \$800,000 which the community will assist in paying.*
- What has been the reaction from the citizens in this area so far? *Mixed. Most are supportive, others are skeptical and others are watching and observing to see what the outcome of this initiative will be.*

Action Taken: Received and reviewed the New Communities Initiative and proposed Master Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

8. No items were submitted.

BOARD AGENDA

9. Board Updates and Issues

Gisick announced that police are reviewing their current work schedule of 4 10-hr days in comparison with 5 8-hour days.

Engelmann stated that he and his wife attended the Citizens Academy program this fall and enjoyed it and encouraged others to attend also.

Council Member Gray announced that the district breakfast will be the second Saturday of this month.

Action Taken: Received and Filed.

8. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.