



Community Engagement
Cyrus K. Holliday Bldg.
Holliday Conference Rm.
620 SE Madison

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Citizen Advisory Council Vision Statement: *“A community of neighborhoods illuminating collaborative models to foster harmonious and balanced neighborhood communities.”*

Citizen Advisory Council Mission Statement: *“The Citizen Advisory Council is a community of neighborhoods organized to forge available resources to empower, rebuild, and revitalize areas within the city of Topeka.”*

I. CALL TO ORDER & CAC UPDATES

The Citizen Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair at 7:02 p.m.

City Employees Present: LaToya Burnett, Community Engagement Coordinator; Monique Glaude, Director of Community Engagement; Brent Trout, City Manager

City Council Members Present: 0

CAC Members Present: 8 (see annual attendance ledger)

Other Public Attendees and Substitutes: 0

II. STAFF UPDATES

- A. **EBB**_[CM1] – Digital Inclusion Program – *Monique Glauδέ, Director of Community Engagement*
A Digital Equity and Inclusion collaborative has been established to identify funding and other resources to provide affordable and equitable access to computer and internet equipment and services, along with technical support and training for low- and moderate-income families. The collaborative partnership includes the City of Topeka, Greater Topeka Partnership (Momentum 2022), Topeka Public Schools, **ISBA**_[CM2], Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Topeka Workforce Center, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka Housing Authority and Housing & Credit Counseling, Inc. The collaborative is applying for a \$250,000 grant on Friday, June 4, 2021, through the Kansas Health Foundation. If awarded, the City of Topeka will be the administrator for the Digital Equity and Inclusion Program under the management of Community Engagement.
- B. **Blight in the community** – *Monique Glauδέ, Director of Community Engagement*
Blight in the community has significantly increased over the past year. Community Engagement administers the Inmate Crew Services Program that addresses blight through clean up service efforts provided by inmates from the Shawnee County Corrections Facilities.

Currently, due to the pandemic and the addition of new service opportunities for inmates in the community, inmate crews have become more limited and there are not enough crews to maintain all of the blight in Topeka. The City is asking NIAs to help with this effort by hosting community clean up events and/or reminding residents that they can get rid of one large item each week with their regular trash pick-up and up to 15 trash bags of waste.

- C. Updating NIA Mailing List – *Monique Glaudé, Director of Community Engagement*
Community Engagement is in the process of reviewing and updating the mailing list for all 21 NIAs from now through September 30, 2021. Staff will be driving through neighborhoods to verify all addresses on each NIAs current mailing list. NIA officers are welcome to assist with this effort. Please contact Sarah Douglas, Community Engagement Coordinator, if you would like to help.

III. PRESENTATION

- A. Blight – *Kim Thompson, CAC Vice-Chair*
See linked report.
- B. Affordable Housing Review Committee Report – *Kim Thompson, CAC Vice-Chair*
The committee will have a meeting on June 3, 2021. The committee has been discussing some concerns about future funding, but they are working on developing sustainability plans. Kim will keep the CAC informed of committee actions and decisions.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Logo – *Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair*
CAC needs to update logo. The logo will be used on business cards, infographics, t-shirts and any marketing, branding, and promotional items of the CAC. Donald Fortin (Tennessee Town) proposed that the CAC re-consider the other two options from the previous CAC logo designs in 2018. . Laura Pederzani (North Topeka West) proposed that the CAC look for a local artist to design the logo and consider incorporating the colors of the Topeka flag. Susan presented a logo for the CAC to consider (see linked logo). It was decided by informal group consensus to proceed with seeking a local artist to design the logo and that CAC members could provide up to two ideas for the CAC to consider.
- B. Enhancement Program Committee – *Michael Bell, CAC At-Large Member*
Former Enhancement Program awarded points for NIA members’ volunteer efforts in the community. Points could be redeemed for personal home improvements. This committee is currently identifying agencies to provide community volunteer opportunities, reviewing the points monitoring system and potential recommendations to make to the City for improving the program. The proposed program would be divided into two parts: 1) owner occupied home improvements and 2) tenant occupied (minor repairs). The committee will provide further details at the July 7 CAC meeting. Donald Fortin (Tennessee Town) reported that he has been contacting local repair and hardware contractors and vendors for this program and that the committee will need to develop a memorandum of understanding for the contractor process.
- C. Clean-Up Committee – *Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair*
The next community clean up event is the Free Landfill Day on June 19. Residents of Shawnee County can drop off one covered, pickup truck load of waste at the Rolling Meadows Landfill

and Recycling Center, 7351 US-75, Topeka, KS 66618. NIAs are encouraged to promote the event to residents. Monique Glauvé (Director of Community Engagement) stated that Community Engagement has distributed 7900 resource bags to date (2021) and has plans to distribute a total of 20,000 by the end of the year. Staff will put the provided Clean Up flyer in the community resource bags.

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Logo – see above
- B. Clean-Up – see above

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- A. A special CAC meeting is June 9, 2021, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (see Video Presentation Link)
- B. The next regular CAC meeting is July 7, 2021, at 6:45 p.m. in the Holliday Conference Room (Zoom link will be provided upon request).