

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 1, 2022

In Person: Holliday Conference Room, 1st Floor, 620 SE Madison Ave and via Zoom

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.”*

AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTIONS OR DECISIONS	PRESENTER/RESPONSIBLE
I. CALL TO ORDER	<p>Susan asked meeting attendees to enter their names and represented neighborhoods or organizations on the sign-up sheet or use the chat feature in Zoom.</p> <p>Susan introduced Jim Edwards, a new member at large for CAC. Jim has lived in Topeka since 1982, retired in 2012, also served as chair for TSCPL and he enjoys bicycling.</p>	Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.	Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair
II. PRESENTATIONS	NONE		
III. STAFF UPDATES	<p>A. Get Digital Program Update TSC Infographics for the E-cycle event and Eligibility for TSC Get Digital were shared. The E-Cycle event was on April 16, 8 am-noon at Stormont Vail Events Center parking lot. Recycled items collected were desktops and laptops to support TSC Get Digital Program. PC’s for People, from Kansas City collected the devices to refurbish for Topeka clients. Approximately 800 devices were collected at that event.</p> <p>Monique shared that Susan Harris, director of Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, provided funding for the refurbished computers. Their \$140,000 donation allowed the City to purchase 1200 desktop computers to distribute to 60 plus seniors who are LMI.</p> <p>We have signed up 225 people at this time but we have 1200 to give out, so we need your help to get the information out to your neighbors. We will be happy to share the infographic with you to hand out. If you can help us distribute the infographic through your</p>	<p>Chair asked to see a show of hands of those present if they think this program would benefit their neighborhood. Same sign for those who think it would not benefit your neighborhood.</p> <p>Discussion followed about including a snow removal project.</p>	Monique Y. Glaude’, Director of Community Engagement & Ombudsman City of Topeka City Manager’s Office

	<p>newsletters. Send neighbors to the website or call the TSC phone number, 785-368-3098.</p> <p>B. Board Leadership Training – Deadline July 6 There are 15 seats left. It is free and a light dinner will be available.</p> <p>C. Neighborhood Lawn Mowing RFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Committee, City Council is working on this project – Members are Karen Hiller, Christina Valdivia-Alcala, Neil Dobler, and Spencer Duncan • Opportunity to send in RFP closes June 10 • \$25,000 seed funding from the Anti-Blight Program is being used to provide a stipend for gasoline and to allow for the purchase of up to \$5,000 worth of equipment • Eight or nine businesses attended the RFP meeting • Will need to hire a temporary part time person to answer phones for this project 		
<p>IV. TOOLS</p>	<p>Kim presented on 10 Strategies for Creative Problem Solving Processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floundering • Rush to accomplish • Wanderlust – follow an agenda • Reluctant participants • Discounting/ignoring participants • Attribution of motives • Dominating participants • Feuding participants • Unquestioned acceptance of opinion • Overbearing experts 		<p>Kim Thompson, Citizen Advisory Council Vice Chair</p>
<p>V. CAC WORKING GROUPS' REPORTS</p>	<p><u>Affordable Housing and Food Deserts and Food/Nutrition Insecurities</u> Michael Bell and Jill Rice have worked on this project and have submitted a full report for everyone to read. It is available online as an attachment. Time was included for questions after discussion.</p> <p><u>Dumpster Project</u> The Group has not met. However, there have been inquiries about the use of our dumpster from neighborhoods. They are aware that we have a shared Chesney / Central Park dumpster.</p> <p><u>Membership</u></p>	<p>The working groups were asked in January to include scope and vision of their group, and what the group wants to accomplish on the second, third, and fourth quarter. Some of the groups are meeting and some that are not. For the groups that have not met or are not</p>	<p>CAC Working Groups</p>

	<p>Susan asked if anyone desired to lead this group and lead the discussion. Current members include Tommy Green, ShaMecha Simms, replacing Debby DuBois, Don Fortin, and Susan McClacherty</p> <p><u>Infrastructure</u> Group members: Alicia Barber and David Bawden. David requested Alicia's email.</p> <p><u>Translation for Spanish speaking families</u> ShaMecha Simms is working on this project. She is interested in knowing if the CAC wants to pursue creating a library of translated materials in order to have templates available for all to use. El Centro can translate materials for a fee.</p> <p><u>Water Drainage Problems and Flooding</u> Kim Thompson is working on this group. On his tour of the NIA's he found that trees are growing too close to homes, shrubbery and bushes growing into the foundations and under sidewalks, no curbs, bad gutters, leaky roofs, debris needs to be cleared and erosion is happening. Kim provided a report a couple of months ago. Kim added he would be willing to do presentations and provide information that would be useful/ help any of the NIA's to work on this project. Laura Pederzani would like to be on this committee.</p>	<p>meeting you need to be thinking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it important or not important? • What do you want to do? 	
VI. MINUTES	Approval of the April and May minutes	Motion to approve by David Bawden; Seconded by Kim Thompson; motion carried.	Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair
VII. ROE INFORMAL ASSESSMENT	<p>Discussion covered where the group used the ground rules well and where we can improve. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover too much ground and limit ourselves to stay on track • Stay on topic and not just discuss personal topics as a sidebar • Wandering off topic • ShaMecha thanked Laura & Michael for helping her clarify her thoughts about the Spanish translation project <p>What are the areas we can improve? Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better balance between presenters and the CAC members interacting • Many activities going on in the community; appreciate the leadership body getting people before us who can inform us about what's going on, however, it possibly deprives the members of a chance to talk among ourselves 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible if presenters could get their presentations out before meetings so members could read it. Bullets on presentation; abstract provided. 		
VIII. ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.	Motion to adjourn by Laura Pederzani; seconded by David Bawden; motion carried.	Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair
NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Fry – Topeka Community Bike Project • Fire Department – presentation is their quarterly report • Corrie Wright – Housing and Neighborhood Development, City of Topeka • Bill Cochran – Homeless camp clean up and clear up rumors 		
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS	<p>A. Live @ Lunch Series 2022 – Recurring weekly on Wednesdays until June 29 at Everygy Plaza</p> <p>B. FREE Summertime Blues Concert Series – Topeka Blues Society – starting June 15 at Gage Park Amphitheater from 7-9 PM</p> <p>C. FREE (In-Person) Sunflower Music Festival 2022: “The African-American Experience”, 1700 SW College Ave, Garvey Fine Arts Center/White Concert Hall, Washburn University; Recurrence June 17-June 25 starting at 7:30 PM</p> <p>D. Topeka Fiesta Mexicana 2022: set for July 14-July 16 on the grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 201 NE Chandler. Daily food windows start at 4 PM while music and entertainment will begin at 5 PM.</p> <p>E. Free Yard Waste Disposal for Residents Only at Forestry Products Recycling Center (3431 SE 21st) is July 16 from 8 AM – 5 PM. [All loads of trees and limbs should be covered and secured.]</p> <p>F. Free Board Leadership Training starts July 20 from 6-7:30 PM at CRC – Avondale East, 455 Golf Park Blvd (media room)</p> <p>G. National Night Out is August 6 and held in various neighborhoods throughout Topeka</p>		