



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

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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.”*

CALL TO ORDER – *Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair*

Susan asked meeting attendees to enter their names and represented neighborhoods or organization on the sign-up sheet or use the chat feature in Zoom. Susan also thanked everyone for taking time from their day and being present this evening.

The call for the meeting began at 6:45 by Susan. She introduced the first presenter for the evening:

Michelle Cuevas Stubblefield, Senior Vice President of Strategy, Greater Topeka Partnership presenting on Momentum 2027

Michelle stated that we are still in Momentum 2022 and she provided an update on Momentum 2022. Momentum 2022 is a 5-year strategy with objectives. (See presentation slides for this presentation)

There are:

- Five primary pillars
- 14 objectives
- 54 strategic initiatives

Michelle stated that the presentation outlines the new activities and events that have made Topeka a stronger more vibrant place to live. Plug and Play and Innovations are just two of the outstanding projects mentioned.

As Momentum 2022 comes to an end, the development of Momentum 2027 strategic plan has already been established as a 4 Phase process which will begin in August 2022. The presentation outlines the 4 Phases and the timeline to complete them.

Momentum 2027 also has 22 strategic initiatives listed in the presentation.

Equity is central to each of the four primary Momentum 2027 goals listed below.

1. A Place to live
2. A Place to learn
3. A Place to prosper
4. A Place to belong

The final steps for the 2027 implementation plan received approval from the Momentum Steering Committee and Chair on February 24, 2022. The steering committee will also close out the Momentum 2022 Program. The Steering Committee consists of 50 members in the community representing diversity, different zip codes, and different demographics. They also used surveys and interviews from the community to provide the initial focus groups and ideas.

A public website will be developed soon for the community to view the strategy. There will also be a form on the website, for those interested in signing up to join a task force.

Momentum 2022 – completed at end of this year

Momentum 2027 – begins Jan 2023 and ends August 2027

The work has already started on some of these initiatives: the Housing Task Force completed a housing study; the Childcare Task Force was created to help parents who are dealing with going back to work and trying to find quality childcare. Just this year, we have lost several childcare centers, both commercial and private.

The Choose Topeka Program has been successful in helping some new families and individuals move to Topeka. Those who have moved here have entered into positions with \$80,000+ annual salaries and we continue to have many more families moving into Topeka.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Karla Hedquist, Director of Community Health Engagement, Stormont Vail Health Community Health Needs Assessment

The Community Health Needs Assessment is completed every 3 years. This year it was conducted by Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods, Stormont Vail Health, and the Shawnee County Health Department. There is a link to the needs assessment and community plan on the Health Department and Stormont Vail websites.

The presentation highlighted the purpose of the Community Health Needs Assessment, which is to help healthcare agencies better document and understand current community health needs. The assessment provides insight into the health challenges that are facing the community and what needs to be done to meet those challenges. The assessment also meets the regulatory accreditation standards for each organization involved.

The slide presentation covered the following:

- There was an increase in participation – a survey done in English and Spanish
- 2021 Community Primary Feedback – 2,536 responses this year

- 2021 Community Survey Participation – in past there was low participation of over 65 but this improved and also showed increased participation by other age groups.
- 2021 Assessment Primary Data – Concern for our community
- Secondary Data Analysis – look at available county data sources
- Town Hall Community Conversations – showed a graphic of the conversation
- 2021 Assessment Prioritizations – 4 areas were selected but they are the same as in the last 3 years:
 - Behavioral Health
 - Access to Food
 - Substance Abuse
 - Health Equity

Next steps: workgroups need to reassess and update the Community Health Improvement Plan, then a new cycle begins in 2024.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Adam Vaughn, Senior Financial Analyst, City of Topeka
Outcome-Based Budgeting

Adam stated that the general objectives for the City going to an outcome-based budgeting model are to 1) remove departmental silos and 2) assess and focus on what the community needs. There is traditional budgeting which focuses on what to cut and then there is outcome-based budgeting which focuses on what to keep. Outcome-based budgeting shifts the focus to Citywide outcomes (or priorities) and the services that departments provide.

The city has five main strategic planning priorities. These goals and objectives for these priorities are adopted by the governing body each year. While the goals and objectives may change from year to year, the main priorities have typically remained the same over the past few years.

5 City Strategic Planning Priorities

- Investing in Infrastructure
- Continuing a Commitment to Developing Neighborhoods,
- Continuing a Commitment to Public Safety
- Selected Strategic Investments toward Quality of Life
- Improving Fiscal Sustainability

Outcome-based budgeting takes those priorities and seeks feedback on goals and outcomes from the community. The City held five individual meetings covering each of these priorities with members of the community and City Directors. The community feedback from these meetings will be taken into consideration to create outcome-based indicators for tracking and evaluating funded programs.

Each priority is expanded to create strategies for city services to meet the community’s goals and objectives. These Outcome-based budgeting strategies would be organized into a strategic plan for each priority. Based on the outcome-based tracking indicators, a scoring team will assess each proposed project or program to determine if it should be funded based on how it would meet community needs.

Adam showed the schedule on his slide presentation for the 3-year implementation plan. Year 1 (2022-2023) – Finalize goals, determine indicators, mapping of current services, develop performance measures; Year 2 (2023-2024) Finish program inventory and performance measure development, develop community-based outcomes, department proposals submitted by service provided; Year 3 (2024-2025) allocate funding to budget priorities, establish proposal review teams, continue to improve and strengthen performance measures.

Adam stated that the City wants to provide services the community wants and be more transparent and innovative.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Kim Thompson, CAC vice president
Tool for CAC

Kim presented on “Confusing graph and chart labels”. The presentation showed how data can be skewed depending on it is presented. He showed some data fallacies to avoid. He shared the title of a book called “Misused Statistics” by Hebert Spirer, Louise Spirer, and A.J. Jaffe for further reference to this issue.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Bill Fiander, Director of Planning & Development Services
Topeka DREAMS Program

Bill stated that Councilmember Hiller had additional questions and recommendations concerning the DREAMS program that Planning and Community Engagement staff needed to review and provide answers and consideration for. Due to this, we determined that it would be more appropriate to reschedule the DREAMS Informational Workshop to allow us time to address these issues and make program changes as deemed necessary.

The changes are as follows:

DREAMS 1 – No changes to the program. Bi-annual selection of one NIA (intensive care or at-risk 2.0 or lower block group health rating). The total funding available is still \$1.7 million in the current CIP, \$330,000 in HUD funds, and an additional \$150,000 in Utility Funding has been added for stormwater, water, and/or wastewater utility projects.

DREAMS 2 – Changes include: bi-annual selection of up to four neighborhoods to receive project grant funds ranging from \$100,000 up to \$1 million in infrastructure improvements; selection of four neighborhoods to receive HUD housing funds that will be awarded on a first

come first serve basis to any income-eligible household in the selected neighborhoods. Neighborhoods can be selected for housing only, infrastructure only, or both. Interested Community Partners may also partner with NIAs to apply for project grants. The total funding available is still \$1.7 million in the current CIP, \$330,000 in HUD funds, and an additional \$150,000 in Utility Funding has been added for stormwater, water, and/or wastewater utility projects.

For housing, there will be a cap so not one neighborhood would be awarded the entire amount. With \$330,000 we could possibly fund 11 major rehabs.

DREAMS 3 – Changes include: range of awards is now \$1,000 to \$50,000. The total funding available is still \$200,000 with \$140,000 for infrastructure (GO Bonds), and \$60,000 for community projects (CDBG). Annual selection of multiple NIAs.

Neighborhood Consult Meetings – will take place after the informational workshop. These are individual meetings for each NIA's officer(s) to meet with staff during scheduled times to discuss potential projects. LaToya has a great schedule. These meetings are open to any inactive or active NIA.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Staff Updates

Monique Glaude' Director of Community Engagement & Ombudsman

Anti-Blight Proposal

Monique did not provide the anti-blight report. She stated that she had met with the City Manager and Public Works staff about the grave concern that is taking place in mostly NIA neighborhoods regarding an increase in blight and illegal dumping. Monique provided budget and costs information for blight clean-up efforts and asked LaToya to show the photos of the blight that is happening in the neighborhoods.

Printing Service RFP Update

Monique stated that no vendors have applied for the printing services contract for neighborhood mailings. We are meeting with the current printer to discuss the option of printing in-house. If it comes to that we will be looking for volunteers. Monique suggested that the CAC create a newsletter committee to help to develop a volunteer plan for this effort. She will provide another update at the May meeting.

TSC – Get Digital Program

Monique stated that there is an E-cycle event scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, 8-Noon. The event has been advertised, and we are asking everyone to bring us any laptops, desktops, tablets, or monitors that you need to get rid of.

Changing the Culture of Property Maintenance

Monique stated that the Public Health and Safety Committee is comprised of council members, Hiller, Dobler, and Valdivia Alcala. Valdivia Alcala wants to start a new program called the Community Mowing Pilot Program and an RFQ is being drafted. Monique has offered to provide \$25,000 to this program.

Status of CAC Working Groups

Michael Bell and Jill Rice are working on a drafting a report on housing and the food desert
Deb McClelland – Code Compliance – two meetings

ROE informal assessment

Glad that Kim kept us on schedule.

Minutes – Susan requested a motion to approve the March 2 meeting minutes. Kim Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by David Bawden. Motion carried in favor. Michael Bell abstained.

Susan reminded everyone that on the back of the agenda there's a variety of upcoming activities NIAs may be interested in noting. Today's Safe Streets Coalition had Tommy Green as one of the panel members and was attended by Maria and Susan.

Upcoming Events

- A. Valley Parks is having an Easter Egg hunt on April 16th from 10:00 – noon at Stout Elementary; also having a Housing Resource and Safety Fair at Central Park Community Center, on June 11th.
- B. Free Yard Waste Disposal for Residents Only at Garick Biomass Yard Waste Facility is April 16 from 8 – noon - All loads of limbs, trees, leaves, and grass should be covered and secured.
- C. First planning meeting for National Night Out is April 19 at 6:30 PM at TSCPL, Rm 101ABC
- D. The next regular CAC meeting is May 4, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.
- E. Get Down and Get Dirty is April 23 from 10 AM to noon – Community-wide cleanup. Free t-shirts, free lunch, and prizes. Volunteers needed.
- F. Free Landfill Day is June 18
- G. 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.
- H. National Night Out is August 6.

Other announcements not on the list included: Valley Park NIA is having an Annual Egg Hunt on April 16th from 10:00 – noon at Stout Elementary. There also is a Housing Resource and Safety Fair on June 11th from noon to 4 PM at the Central Park Community Center.

David Holl moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by David Bawden. Motion carried.