

**City of Topeka**  
**CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

**In Person:** Holliday Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.”*

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

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.

Susan stated that in April she asked CAC members to send her their top 3 transportation safety issues in their neighborhoods. Since only some of the CAC members responded, she asked all present members to state them:

- Stop and yield signs, speeding, neighborhood streets not cleared after snow storms
- No stop or yield signs in any direction causing collisions, no sidewalks on main streets for pedestrians causing accidents/fatalities and no coverings at bus stops
- Shrubbery hides the signs, make sure signs are reflective
- Safety at bus stops, no benches, no lighting, no bus housing, elderly find it’s hard to go across the grassy area to get to the bus stop
- Bicycles - don’t have headlights, riders don’t wear reflective clothing, don’t follow traffic rules
- Scooters where they are left, interfering with traffic and some are left in middle of the sidewalks
- ATV non street runners, they are not street legal
- People walking in the streets, there is a \$50 fine if there are sidewalks
- Twelfth street project, crosswalks are missing on Twelfth St., why are they only on one side

**Update on Futures 2045 – Carlton Scroggins, Transportation Planning Manager, and Jim Tobaben, JEO Consulting Group** (See slides for their presentation)

Jim Tobaben presented the long range transportation plan and discussed the top 4 issues the public has selected :

- The preservation of existing facilities, above building new facilities
- Transit system
- Intersections that have issues
- Sidewalks

A questions and answers session followed the presentation.

### **Landlord Letter – Laura Pederzani, North Topeka West NIA**

Laura shared a letter that her NIA plans to use in their area to address property maintenance issues with landlords. She explained how they planned on using this letter to help bridge the gap between tenants and landlords to address issues before property owners receive citations from the City.

Discussion followed about the impact that the letter could have on NIA and resident relationship and other issues the letter could potentially cause.

### **Staff updates:**

Monique Glaude', Director of Community Engagement & Ombudsman provided the following updates:

- **City Manager Survey** - encouraged everyone to complete the City Manager survey that will provide public feedback on priorities for choosing the next City Manager.
- **Printing Newsletter update** - Thanked everyone for suggesting printing agencies. Community Engagement (CE) is still searching for a new printing agency to replace GoBlue and CE will now manage the bulk mailing services. CE will need to purchase new mailing software; the former printer will train the staff on how to use the new software. Hope to share more at the next meeting.
- **Board Leadership Training** - Monique stated that this training is open to anyone and that there will be a series of classes. If you are having trouble opening the flyer contact LaToya and she will send it out to you again.
- **TSC – Get Digital Program update** - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging (JAAA) has agreed to provide funding for 1200 individuals ages 60+ to receive desktop computers. All 1200 must be selected by June 31<sup>st</sup>. An infographic was created to promote the project. The program will be promoted using various means, such as posters, and banners in public locations such as the Library, Red Carpet, senior housing, and in public buildings including City Hall. We will also be speaking on early morning and afternoon TV shows. This is our first initiative for purchasing refurbished computers to distribute. If anyone would like to volunteer to help at the intake sessions, please contact Monique. Selected individuals will receive a desktop computer, webcam, keyboard, and headset. They will be able to take computer classes at the Library free of charge, beginning with "Getting Started on a Computer" and "Mousing Around" to practice mouse skills. Later sessions will include learning to set up their email address and how to use Zoom.
- **Anti-Blight Proposal** - Since January we have picked up 6.53 tons of trash out of the right-of-ways and NIA areas. Monique met with the interim City Manager and he has assured her that funds will be established to keep the program going. We will hire people for the pay that they could get if hired at the Walmart Distribution Center so we hope they will decide to come work for us. It's hard to find workers as everyone is hiring. Monique will share updates as they become available.

Susan added information she received from ShaMecha Simms concerning the option for the CAC to purchase billboard ad space between 21<sup>st</sup> and Gage, 29th and California or Topeka Boulevard headed towards the Shawnee Heights area. It was suggested that it would read something like "Come back to Center and back to Community Legacy. Sponsored by the Citizen Advisory Council." Ad space is not cheap but it would help to spend some of our extra budget.

Questions and answers followed.

### **Status of CAC working groups:**

Susan opened the opportunity for the working groups to report out. She stated that Mike Bell and Jill Rice will present their housing committee update in June and their presentation will coincide with the City's Housing Services update.

Laura Pederzani and David Bawden stated that they had provided an update to the City ordinance and Topeka municipal code sections regarding NIAs. These drafts were provided to Community Engagement for review by the City and will be provided to the NIA officers and the CAC to make any additional recommendations before the final draft is submitted to the City Council for approval.

NIAs begin discussing past SORT funding and the four NIAs that will be receiving additional funds to complete projects in their areas. Susan stated that she has asked for better accounting of the funding, by the City, going forward with these programs.

**Rules of Engagement:**

None stated

Susan asked if there were any announcements about upcoming community events or activities. She announced the following events:

- Valley Park Summer Kick Off on Tuesday, May 24th showing a movie called Gifted, on south side of Plaza 21 shopping center, at 21<sup>st</sup> and Randolph. Want to invite anyone who would like to join us.
- Juneteenth, the first year it is recognized as a national holiday.
- Mexican Fiesta
- German Fest
- Free Landfill Day is June 18
- Free Yard Waste Disposal for residents only at Forestry Products Recycling Center (3431 SE 21<sup>st</sup>) is July 16 from 8 AM – 5 PM. [All loads of trees and limbs should be covered and secured.]

**Motion to adjourned:** Kim moved; David seconded  
Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.