



City of Topeka

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The Citizen's Advisory Council meeting was called to order by James Prout at 6:00 p.m.

City Employees Present: LaToya Burnett-Martinez, Community Engagement Coordinator

CAC Members Present: 16 (see annual attendance ledger)

Other Attendee and Substitutes: 5

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: CAC Draft Meeting Minutes June 5, 2019 - A motion was made by Janet Fisher, seconded by Dawn Downing to approve the CAC draft meeting minutes from June 5, 2019. The motion carried.

III. SCHEDULED ITEMS (20 minutes)

A. Guest Speaker – Kimberly Atchison & Darrell Stewart, Shawnee County Parks & Recreation – presented Adopt-A-Park/Trail Policy for NIA/NA Park adoption. The new policy includes clean up litter control 2 times a month, park enhancements such as trees and flower bed cleaning up. Per the new policy, after 3 months of service, the adopting organization will receive an “Adopted By” sign in the park. Currently no neighborhoods are part of the program. SNCO Parks & Rec. would like to facilitate more park involvement from neighborhoods to encourage community engagement and beautification. Old signs will be replaced with the new signs upon completion of the new form and 3 months of service. SNCO Parks and Recreation will provide their new Rec and Roll van, games, and other activities, at neighborhood NIA events in the park/preferably combined (multiple) neighborhood initiatives. SNCO Parks and Rec is also working on developing an interactive map to show which parks have been adopted and by whom. A copy of the Adopt-a-Park trail adoption application will be made available to all NIAs.

B. Guest Speaker – Glenda DuBois, Go Topeka discussed Momentum 2022 (M2022) and the Neighborhoods. M2022 is the strategy administered by the Greater Topeka Partnership to move Topeka forward, measurably improve access to opportunity for all people to experience increased hope, health, happiness, and prosperity. Goals are to attract investment in Topeka, attract businesses, and increase population growth. The Greater Topeka Partnership is a combination of Visit Topeka, GO Topeka, Topeka Chamber, Downtown Topeka, Inc. Funding sources include JEDO (1/2 cent sales tax), M2022 Donations, Hotel Bed Tax, and Memberships. The

M2022 strategy included Community input online surveys, focus groups, and interviews in the community. M2022 has been involved in projects including Washburn Tech East, Future Downtown Topeka development, along 7th & KS Avenue, culinary program in Forrest Park for students in the community that also provide business training. M2022's goal is to increase diversity and neighborhood leadership involvement on local boards. Dr. Rubin West will be in Topeka on Sept 5 5:30-8 pm. M2022 is asking 10 members from each NIA to this event to discuss Topeka pride. The cost is free and the event will be held at the Maner Center Sunflower Ball Room 1717 SW Topeka Blvd.

C. Michael Bell – Proposed that the CAC host an NIA Recognition Ceremony at the upcoming CAC event, and suggested coordination with the CAC and Neighborhood Relations is needed to organize this event. James Prout stated that further discussion on the CAC Community Event would be needed before voting to host this ceremony.

IV. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS (10 minutes)

A. SORT Program Overview

LaToya Burnett-Martinez provided an overview of the Stages of Resource Targeting (S.O.R.T.). SORT is a neighborhood investment program designed to increase the quality of life through public infrastructure and affordable housing improvement in “Intensive Care” or “At Risk” neighborhoods in Topeka. The City will invest \$1.7 million in public infrastructure through capital improvement funding (sidewalks, curb & gutter, alleys, etc.), and \$330,000 in housing rehabilitation through HUD funding. **N.I.A. Applications are due to Department of Neighborhood Relations (DNR) August 2, 2019 @ 5pm. The Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) will select the 2020 SORT designated NIA at the September 2019 meeting. DNR will present the recommendations to the City Council in October 2019.**

B. Dawn Downing announced that on July 24, 2019 from 6-8pm, Ward Meade will have a Team Up to Clean Up/Walk and Talk and requested help with this event from the CAC. Susan McClacherty and LaBonna Speakman offered their help.

V. ACTION ITEMS (60 minutes)

A. CAC Community Event Planning Meeting

The committee discussed partnering with Knowledge Beyond Structures (KBS) Construction, Inc. to host The Community Appreciation event at the Topeka Zoo on September 28, 2019. The planning committee will need 30 volunteers to participate in making the event a success. The Planning Committee members decided to have a special meeting on August 7, 2019 to discuss volunteer responsibilities, donations, and CAC logo selection. The City will address the event marketing plan. This meeting will be held at the Holliday Building, 620 SE Madison in the Sunflower Conference Room at 6pm.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by James Prout, seconded by Janet Fisher, carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

**Special CAC event planning committee meeting – August 7, 2019, at 6pm in Sunflower Conference Room, 620 SE Madison*

**Special CAC – Presentation of SORT Applications - August 14, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Holliday Conference Room, 620 SE Madison. Please note that this is a special meeting only for members whose neighborhoods are not applying for the 2019 SORT Designation.*

The next regular CAC meeting will be held September 4, 2019 at 6pm in Holliday Conference Room, 620 SE Madison