



Department of Neighborhood Relations
Cyrus K. Holliday Bldg.
Holliday Conference Rm.
620 SE Madison

City of Topeka

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The Citizen's Advisory Council meeting was called to order by James Prout

City Employees Present: LaToya Burnett-Martinez, Community Engagement Coordinator; Sasha Haehn, Director of Neighborhood Relations, Sarah B. Douglas, Community Engagement Coordinator

CAC Members Present: 12 (see annual attendance ledger)

Other Attendees and Substitutes: 2

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: CAC Draft Meeting Minutes September 4, 2019 - A motion was made by Susan McClarcherty, seconded by David Holl to approve the CAC draft meeting minutes from September 4, 2019. The motion carried.

III. STAFF UPDATES

A. Ecycle- LaToya Burnett-Martinez reminded CAC about the upcoming events

i. **E-cycle-** October 26th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ii. **Nonprofit 501c3 & Budget Workshop-** Registration deadline October 4th & workshop is October 19th

B. Empowerment Grant and Sort -Sasha Haehn announced that the Empowerment Grant and Sort neighborhood recommendations will be presented to the City Council on October 8 and pending final HUD approval, the Empowerment projects will be funded and awarded in January 2020.

IV. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Guest Speaker- Sherry Hess, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Learn & Play Bus- a mobile learn and play bus that provides a fun, interactive, play-base environment to teach 0-5 year olds the essential skills necessary for school readiness. This bus features story time, circle times, activities and children's books for checkout.

B. Guest Speaker- John Campos, Community Project Ideas- cancelled

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. CAC community Appreciation Event – Topeka Zoo on September 28, 2019. Total of 4,396 guests. James Prout thanked all of the CAC and NIA members that volunteered. James stated that there was an incident at the event involving a volunteer using profanity towards a guest. He reminded everyone about the importance of appropriate behavior of CAC volunteers and the impact on public perception about the CAC and NIA organizations.

B. NIA Recognition Event Vote- 8 to 3 voted to table until next year.

C. CAC Community Visioning & Topeka Community Asset Mapping

LaToya Burnett-Martinez led the CAC in voting for a new draft CAC Vision Statement and 2020 Work Plan Goals. The outcome was as follows:

Draft Citizen Advisory Council Vision - selected by a majority of six (6) members was number 1: “Through community involvement stakeholders will build a safer, healthier, and prideful community.”

2020 Community Work Plan Goals – listed below in order of priority by number of votes:

2. 5 votes for Crime – Drugs, human trafficking/prostitution, person to person robbery/assault
5. 4 votes for Housing – Vacant properties, homelessness, housing/property violations
3. 1 vote for Community Engagement – lack of community pride/engagement, facilities, resources
4. 1 vote for Health – Drug addiction, mental health, other medical conditions, food security and safety, childhood obesity
1. 0 votes for Sanitation – cleanliness of neighborhood, street maintenance, and property maintenance
6. 0 votes for Zoning & Development – high/low commercial development, housing development and zoning requirements
7. 0 votes for Youth – lack of youth activities, youth safety concerns, and delinquent behaviors

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan McClacherty, seconded by Elinor Cowell. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

****The next CAC meeting will be held on Nov. 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Please note that the election for the 2020 Citizen Advisory Council Chair and Vice-Chair is scheduled at this meeting. Please come and vote.***