



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

City of Topeka

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 6, 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; Sasha Haehn, Director of Neighborhood Relations, Sarah B. Douglas, Community Engagement Coordinator, Monique Y. Glaude', Division Director of Community Engagement

CAC Members Present: 20 (see annual attendance ledger)
Other Attendee and Substitutes: 0

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: . CAC Draft Meeting Minutes from October 2, 2019 with correction made regarding the spelling of McClacherty. Motion for approval after the correction of name was made by Janet Fisher and seconded by Bonna Speakman to approve the CAC draft meeting minutes from October 2, 2019. The motion carried.

III. STAFF UPDATES

- A. **2020 Budget Planning Session-** LaToya Burnett Martinez- offered to help NIA officers sign up at the meeting.
- B. **Division of Community Engagement to Visit Upcoming NIA meeting-** Sarah Douglas spoke about the weekly communication that she is having with the NIAs. She explained that Walk n Talks would pick up again in March 2020. She requested that all CAC members and NIA officers fill out the Significant Dates Form so that the department can send greeting cards to CAC members, NIA officers, and/or families as needed.
- C. **CAC & NIA Holiday Gala-** LaToya stated that November 22, 2019 is the deadline to RSVP.
- D. **Central Park and Chesney Park** –Linda Finch spoke about their “Meet the Mayor” event.

IV. SCHEDULED ITEMS

- A. **Guest Speaker- Cherié McGinnis, Topeka Al-Anon** – The Al-Anon Family Groups are an anonymous fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems of living with an alcoholic, and to help others

to do the same. Alcoholism is an illness that can be arrested, and that changed family attitudes can often aid in recovery. Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. By practicing the Twelve Steps, by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics and by giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic.

- B. Guest Speaker- Marsha Schrempp, Topeka Nar-Anon-** Nar-Anon is a Twelve-Step Program, which has been adapted from Narcotics Anonymous. We offer fellowship through the sharing of our experience, strength and hope with those affected by someone else's addiction. We share our feelings, and we listen and learn. The only requirement for membership is that there be a problem of addiction in a family member or friend. Purpose is to offer the families and friends of addicts a safe environment, free from judgment. We offer comfort by sharing our experience, strength and hope. Since addiction is a "family disease," Nar-Anon offers us an opportunity for recovery by using Nar-Anon's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

V. Action Items

- A. 2020 CAC Chair & Vice-Chair Elections-** LaToya Burnett Martinez facilitated the nomination and election process. John Campos was asked to assist with tallying the votes. The Nominees for Chair: James Prout (11), Ivan Weichert (3), Dawn Downing (2). Nominees for Vice-chair Donald Fortin(1), Dawn Downing(11), Ivan Weichert(2), and Susan McClacherty (2). The 2020 CAC Chair James Prout and Vice-Chair Dawn Downing accepted the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair.
- B. Tribute to Wanda Bean-** Yvonne May spoke about Wanda Bean as a member of the Central Highland Park NIA.. Chair, James Prout proposed that the CAC donate \$500 from the CAC budget be designated for a memorial tribute to Wanda. Sasha Haehn stated that a park bench would need to be approved by Shawnee County Parks and Recreation.. Dawn Downing suggested checking with Vo-Tech school to help make the bench. A motion was made by Susan McClacherty to put \$500 towards a memorial tribute for Wanda Bean, Dawn Downing seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- C. Christmas Bureau Family Donation-** Monique Glaude' stated that the Division of Community Engagement will provide \$500 to the CAC if they would like to participate in donating to this program. A motion was made by Chair James Prout and seconded by Marty Hillard and the motion carried.
- D. 2020 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference-** Monique Glaude' , , announced that a drawing will be held December 4, 2019 at the CAC Holiday Gala for members and NIA officers to be selected to attend the May 2020 conference in Little Rock Arkansas. A drawing will be held later in the year for the August 2020 Conference.
- E. 2020 CAC Community Visioning & Topeka Community Asset Mapping**
LaToya Burnett-Martinez facilitated the group activity and discussion to create vision statement drafts for the CAC. Drafts will be discussed and finalized at the February 2020 meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by James Prout, seconded by Susan McClacherty, carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

**The CAC Holiday Gala will be held on December 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.*

**The next CAC meeting will be held on February 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.*