City of Topeka  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, July 5, 2023  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In Person; 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.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>ACTIONS OR DECISIONS</th>
<th>PRESENTER/RESPONSIBLE</th>
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</table>
| I. CALL TO ORDER | ShaMecha asked meeting attendees to enter their names and represented neighborhoods or organizations on the sign-up sheet or use the chat feature in Zoom. | The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. | ShaMecha King Simms  
Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com |
| | • Call to Order  
• Open floor for comments on minutes from June  
• Motion to approve June minutes was made | | ShaMecha King Simms  
Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES and July Agenda | A. Approval of June 2023 meeting minutes.  
Call for additions or edits hearing none. Motion: Michael Bell  
Second: Jim Edwards  
Motion passes  
• Adopt the July Agenda  
Please take few minutes to look over the July Agenda.  
Motion to approve: Michael Bell  
Second: Bonna Speakman  
Motion passes | Before and after photos was shared | ShaMecha King Simms  
Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com |
## PRESENTATION

**Quarterly 2023 Con Plan Update – Housing Service Programs**
- Accessibility Program
- Emergency Repair Program
- Property Maintenance Rehabilitation
- TOTO Program
- Impact Avenues
- Equity. Access. Shelter.

See the attached presentation Projects were shared, statistics on all programs Q and A opportunity

**Carrie Higgins**  
Division Director of Housing Services Planning and Development  
chiggins@topeka.org  
785-368-4456

## STAFF UPDATES

**Division Status and Program Updates**
- **NIA Support Programs**
- **Introduction of Ombudsman**
  - LeRoy Younger, Ombudsman  
    - Community Engagement  
    - City of Topeka  
    - Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office  
    - 785-368-1619  
    - lyounger@topeka.org

Discussion and Q & A followed on each NIA update

**Bianca Burnett**  
Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator  
City of Topeka  
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office  
☎: 785.368.3663  
✉: lburnett@topeka.org

## CAC UPDATES

**Infrastructure**
- Broke into groups of 4 for discussion
- Need recommendations on items you would select to present to the governing body
- Tally and select those with highest number of frequencies
- Curb, alley ways were discussed as parking in some neighborhoods
- Utility costs per households

Handout was provided to work on in groups  
Discussion & Q & A followed

**ShaMecha King Simms**  
Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Discussion of Infrastructure Recommendations to Move Forward</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. In groups of no more than 4, share out which recommendations you individually selected as something to go forward as is or with more exploration. <em>(7 minutes)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. In your groups, tally and record which recommendations had the highest number of frequencies. Assign a leader to read the recommendation numbers to the whole group. <em>(5 minutes)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Weigh in as a group on what is needed to make the remaining recommendations stronger.</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Determine if more labor and time is required to strengthen recommendations and who would be willing to complete the task.</td>
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<td>4. If more labor is needed, a final vote will be deferred until the work is completed.</td>
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<td>5. If no further labor on the recommendation is desired by the group, ask for a motion (and second) to call the vote of primary CAC members (or alternate if the primary is not present) to vote which recommendations go forward.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Placement in NIA’s who would like a WU student assigned to their area. Roll call per NIA:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hi Crest – Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>- North Topeka East – No</td>
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<tr>
<td>- NTW – Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Tennessee Town – Yes</td>
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<td>- Valley Park – Yes; could use 1 or 2 students</td>
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<td>- Historic Old Town - Yes</td>
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*ShaMecha King Simms*
*Citizen Advisory Council Chair*
*informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com*
### CAC UPDATES

**Nancy Perry Day Update**
- Only Valley Park interested at time; painting fire hydrants (46 hydrants)
- Nancy Perry deadline coming up, July 10th
- Interested in participating contact Susan

**Discussion of event also opportunity to check on follow-up**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **District 2 Discussion on Homelessness**
   Monday, July 17th
   6 pm – Serendipity, 820 N Kansas Ave.

2. **Fiesta Topeka**
   Tuesday, July 18 - 22nd
   4 pm – 10 pm – Oakland
   *HOSTING A BOOTH*

3. **DREAMS Collaboration**
   July 16th at 6:00 - 7:00 pm
   Holliday Building Conference Room
   *ZOOM version on July 27th
   2:00 pm-3:00 pm

4. **National Night Deadline – July 7th**
   - 8 NIA’s participating on the day of NNO

5. **Michael Bell Announcements on events Tennessee Town has hosted.**

6. **Bonna Speakman**
   Announcement about a meeting at WU VO-Tech on Evergy trying to raise rates in specific neighborhoods

7. **Susan McClacherty**
   Shared they had a great time at the Funfest Event in Valley Park

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*ShaMecha King Simms*
Citizen Advisory Council Chair
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com
| ADJOURNMENT | Call for motion to adjourned  
Motion – Michael Bell  
Second – LaBonna Speakman  
Motion passes | ShaMecha King Simms  
Citizen Advisory Council Chair  
informhistoricoldtownnia@gmail.com |

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 2, 2023**  
HOLLIDY BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR  
620 SE MADISON  
6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.