

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 6, 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.”*

AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTIONS OR DECISIONS	PRESENTER/RESPONSIBLE
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 6:03 p.m.	ShaMecha King Simms Citizen Advisory Council Chair informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order • Open floor for comments on minutes from August • Call for additions or edits 		ShaMecha King Simms Citizen Advisory Council Chair informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com
APPROVAL OF MINUTES and September Agenda	<p>A. Approval of August 2023 meeting minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Jim Edwards • Second: Susan McClacherty • Motion: Passes <p>B. Adopt September 2023 Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Michael Bell • Second: Susan McClacherty • Motion passes 		ShaMecha King Simms Citizen Advisory Council Chair informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com
PRESENTATION	None scheduled for the evening		ShaMecha King Simms Citizen Advisory Council Chair informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com

<p>STAFF UPDATES</p>	<p>Community Engagement Division Status and Program Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fight the Blight project seems to be going well • Reminder: schedule a Fight the Blight pickup. There is no cost to NIAs and flyers are sent out from Community Engagement office at no cost • Community Engagement will be offering Resource Fairs beginning in 2024. Will be partnering with the neighborhoods • Project Report tonight is longer than one-page overview • Received a recommendation to our division to propose to the CAC that all NIAs have a single newsletter format. There are examples provided. Director Glaude´ asked they be shared tonight. City does not require you all to have the single format. It’s a decision to be made by CAC and NIAs. 	<p>Time for Q & A was allotted</p> <p>Reservations for Resource Fairs will begin in November</p> <p>Like more information on Project Report contact Bianca</p>	<p>Bianca Burnett <i>Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator</i> <i>City of Topeka</i> <i>Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office</i> 📞: 785.368.3663 ✉: lburnett@topeka.org</p>
<p>CAC UPDATES</p>	<p>Greater Topeka Partnership Grant Awardees Project & Final Reflections</p> <p>A. NIAs receiving funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Highland Park – Yvonne May - A lawn care program. Money to help mow lawns. Eleven lawns were mowed • Hi Crest – Jill Rice - Beat the Heat Program Purchased \$150 AC window air conditioners and then sold them for \$50 to neighbors. Partnered with an HVAC person to install the unit if needed. • Valley Park – Susan McClacherty - Advanced Recycling Program Check out their website for additional information: valleyparknia.com 	<p>Discussion & Q & A followed</p>	<p>ShaMecha King Simms <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>
<p>CAC UPDATES</p>	<p>B. Valley Park – Susan McClacherty Fire Hydrant Project Reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent email out on lessons learned to CAC members <p>C. Topeka Community Policy Debate – ShaMecha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 32 people in person and 12 online attended • Gave a \$250 donation to TWHS debate team 		<p>ShaMecha King Simms <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>

	<p>D. Props Official Page Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennessee Town NIA, Jefferson Square NIA Historic Holliday Park NIA, Central Highland Park NIA <p>E. Poverty Simulation Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Beacon Event Center, 420 SW 9th St Thursday, October 26th 12 noon – 5:00 pm for volunteers if want lunch; 1:00 – 5:00 pm if participant to 5:00 p.m. Looking for sponsorship for room cost \$1,000 Expanded to include “Topeka Conversation on Poverty” topic with panelists Volunteer Opportunity is live on United Way of Kaw Valley Volunteer Site <p>F. November will hold the elections for 2024 CAC Chair and Vice-Chair - Nominations will be taken at that time</p>		<p><i>ShaMecha King Simms</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>
<p>Discussion Items</p>	<p>A. Complete Street Advisory Council 12th Street Walking Audit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 10th Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods Complete Street Advisory Council A Pedicab will be available 	<p>Questions and Answers followed</p>	<p><i>ShaMecha King Simms</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>
<p>Discussion Items</p>	<p>B. Housing Services/United Way of Kaw Valley Listening Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for an intervention to help the homeless Standalone special meeting Work into Con Plan presentation by Housing Services <p>C. Build Kansas Fund Infrastructure Matching Dollars Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change Transportation Neighborhood lighting <p>D. Accessibility Considerations for Community Handouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pages are hard to read Bags are distributed for free 		<p><i>ShaMecha King Simms</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pages in color 		
ANNOUNCEMENTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women’s Fall Forum - Thursday, September 8th \$15.00/Participant, 8:00 AM-10:00 AM, Hotel Topeka at City Center, https://topekapartnership.com/gtp-events/ DREAMS 3 Scoring - Saturday, October 7th, Community Engagement will provide location details Hi-Crest NIA Candidate Forum - Wednesday, October 25th - CRC – Avondale East -6:00 PM D. Poverty Simulation - Thursday, October 26th, The Beacon Event Center, Noon-5:00 PM 		<p><i>ShaMecha King Simms</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Call for motion to adjourned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion – Susan McClacherty Second – Bonna Speakman Motion passes <p>NEXT MEETING: October 4, 2023 HOLLIDAY BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM FIRST FLOOR 620 SE MADISON 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.</p>		<p><i>ShaMecha King Simms</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i> informhistoricaltownnia@gmail.com</p>