



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

**City of Topeka**  
**CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL GALA**  
**MEETING NOTICE AND MINUTES**  
Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair at 6:30 p.m.**

Susan opened the meeting welcoming everyone in attendance both in person and on Zoom.

**II. STAFF RECOGNITION – Kim Thompson**

Kim presented Staff Recognitions Awards to:

- James Jackson, Director of Public Works
- Monique Glaude, Director of Community Engagement and Ombudsman

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS – Susan McClacherty & Kim Thompson**

- Margo Rangel – was presented a plaque for her service to CAC as Member At Large from 2018-2021. Margo was appointed by the Mayor to fill this position. Margo is retiring from the board.

**RECOGNITION FOR THE NIA's WHO SUMMITTED DREAMS APPLICATIONS:**

- Highland Acres
- Historic Old Town
- Valley Park
- North Topeka West (will be mailed)

**INDIVIDUAL RECOGNITIONS OF CAC MEMBERS:**

- Michael Bell – Member at Large
- Don Fortin – Tennessee Town NIA
- David Bawden – Oakland NIA
- Debby DuBois – Historic Old Town NIA
- Donald Holl – Hi-Crest NIA

- Yvonne May – Central Highland Park NIA
- Debra McClelland – Historic North Topeka East NIA
- Alicia Barber – Jefferson Square NIA (will be mailed)
- Linda Finch – Chesney Park NIA (will be mailed)
- David Holl – Hi-Crest NIA (will be mailed)
- Courtney Seever – Chesney Park NIA (will be mailed)
- ShaMecha Simms – Historic Old Town NIA (will be mailed)
- Laura Pederzani – North Topeka West NIA (will be mailed)

### **Round Table Discussion – Susan McClacherty, CAC Chair**

Susan asked everyone to share what the greatest NIA or CAC accomplishment/event for them in 2021.

- **Yvonne May – Central Highland Park NIA**  
The greatest NIA accomplishment for 2021 was getting the electronic sign at Hillcrest! We have been working on this for the past three/four years. I also want to thank LaToya for her hard work on this project.
- **Margo Rangel – Member at Large**  
I want to speak about the group despite COVID challenges they set goals and I see them doing great things in the future.
- **David Bawden – Oakland NIA**  
It took two and half years to get a LULAC a grant from ArtsConnect for a mural. The dedication was a big celebration in Oakland. I also want to thank LaToya for her help.
- **Debby DuBois – Historic Old Town NIA**  
We were able to form partnerships and collaboration with Stormont Vail and Grace Episcopal Cathedral. The Church is starting a garden and we will be working with them on this project.
- **Kim Thompson – Central Park NIA**  
Issues were taken to Public Works Department and they have done a great job helping us.
- **Debra McClelland – Historic North Topeka East NIA**  
It was a challenge last year due to COVID, it limited what we could do. We were however able to host National Night Out in our NIA this year.
- **Don Fortin – Tennessee Town**  
Over the last several years, we were a SORT Award recipient which allowed us to work at cleaning up the alleyways, do some street work, and create a basketball area. We also received a second SORT Award which we used to work on the sidewalks by adding cutouts in the curbs for our handicapped neighbors who use wheelchairs and canes. Also worked on the lightening on the Washburn St corridor. We met several challenges with the lighting but it was corrected.
- **Michael Bell – Member at Large**

The work we did on the Ordinance and providing the CRC Tier 2 option for NIAs was accomplished. The Tennessee Town NIA duplexes on 1100 block of Lane were a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Stormont Vail, Cornerstone and our NIA. The Tennessee Town NIA is currently working with SENT to see if it's possible to recreate their program in Tennessee Town. A shout out of thanks to Sandy and Ronald Lassiter for doing a great job and pulling off National Night Out this year.

- **Susan McClacherty – Valley Park NIA**

We just heard that USD 501 plans on closing Stout Elementary School in our neighborhood. It seemed like a quick decision. There have been a couple of informational meetings but people aren't showing much interest. A petition is circulating. Like to have more interaction with the School Board. The CAC has worked on clean-up efforts and capturing survey data as a baseline was important this year.

Thank you everyone for sharing what's happening in your NIAs and their future plans.

**Action item:**

Susan called for a motion to approve all the minutes from 2021.

- Don Fortin moved to approve all of the 2021 minutes.
- Kim Thompson seconded.

Motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

Susan encouraged all members to participate in the Board Leadership Training to be held by the United Way of Greater Topeka, cost is \$75. Training fees can be covered by your NIA if you want to participate.

Susan moved to adjourn the meeting.

Kim – Seconded

Motion passed

**LaToya Burnett – Community Engagement Coordinator**

LaToya conducted a prize drawing. Public Works Director James Jackson came up and drew the tickets and called out the numbers. Everyone in attendance chose a prize from the gift table.