



Community Engagement
Cyrus K. Holliday Bldg.
Holliday Conference Rm.
620 SE Madison

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 1, 2021
6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER & CAC UPDATES

The Citizen Advisory Council met remotely via Zoom and in person at 6:45 p.m. Attendees present included: 8 members, 1 non-members and 6 City of Topeka staff including City Manager Brent Trout (see Citizen Advisory Council 2021 Attendance ledger link).

Susan McClacherty, Citizen Advisory Council Chair called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

- A. Yard Waste Disposal Participation Report for event held July 17th, at Forestry Products Recycling

Susan McClacherty presented the Yard Waste Disposal Participation Report for the event held on July 17th. Most participants indicated that they found out about the event on Facebook, and more specifically from Eric Ives from WIBW Facebook page.

II. STAFF UPDATES

- A. Public Health & Safety Changing the Culture of Property Maintenance Meetings

Monique Glaudé, Community Engagement Division Director, stated that the public health and safety committee has upcoming meetings seeking public input on solutions including substandard properties, vacant properties, overgrowth, trash, and overall changing the culture of property maintenance in Topeka. The focus of the meetings will be to determine what property maintenance or citywide initiatives the public health and safety committee could explore to make our city safer and better. The committee encourages the public to watch the video, “Beyond Clipboards: A Strategic Approach to Code Enforcement,” during the second week of September. The City will also offer public video showings sessions for those who don’t have Internet access on September 13 in the Holliday Conference Room at 620 SE Madison on the 1st floor from either 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The public input sessions were scheduled on September 13 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Hillcrest Community Center and at Central Park Community Center; September 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Crestview Community Center; September 22 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Garfield Community Center; September 23 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Holiday Building and September 30 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Holliday Building.

- B. DREAMS Grant total applications received and number of NIAs submitting applications

LaToya Burnett, Community Engagement Coordinator, stated that there was a total of eight applications received from four different NIA's and that the applications were currently being reviewed by the Internal Review Committee before being presented to the CAC for final scoring and funding prioritization recommendations to the City Council. There are available \$200,000 available in program funds and total funds requested for the 2022 Topeka DREAMS grant funding is \$359,430.63.

III. DIALOGUE WITH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NIA REVITALIZION

Council Members Sylvia Ortiz, Michael Padilla, and Christina Valdivia-Alcala

A. CAC members discussed various issues and concerns with the attending City Council Members. Some issues included:

Infrastructure

Oakland sidewalks, expense of the 50/50 sidewalk program for LMI residents, lack of citizen involvement in planning and discussion of major infrastructure projects affecting their neighborhoods, lack of project updates and neighborhood notifications regarding infrastructure projects affecting their neighborhoods.

Housing

Hosting public informational sessions at NIA meetings on the city of Topeka Housing Rehabilitation and Repair Programs, continued nuisance properties, LMI residents who may not just have the funds to rehab/repair properties, possible changes to either landlord tenant education /issues educating tenants on their rights, local landlords with multiple neglected properties, problems/issues with starting vacant landlord or the vacant property registration programs, urban renewal laws and what changes could be allowed through property maintenance enforcement, policy changes for how the City approaches rental properties, dilapidated properties and unrealistic property values, addressing the disconnect between what is actually happening and what people can actually do to fix these properties

Safety: What does a safe neighborhood mean to you?

Return of the Community Policing program: police officers attending NIA meetings consistently and establishing rapport with the neighborhoods; safety issues with regard to people using sidewalks for scooters and not knowing the rules of multipurpose sidewalks, traffic is running too fast, illegal traffic: unlicensed dirt bikes on public streets, driver safety and uncontrolled intersections, no speed signs or speed limit signs, Strong Town Approach/revitalize or die that's on Facebook, approaching public policy with bottom to top planning,

Neighborhood Engagement

It's really difficult for people to want to engage when they're taking care of family and/or working long hours, incentivizing people to get involved, basketball tournament, going out knocking door to door and put flyers out, NIA awareness: we need to let people know that we're there, National Night Out, neighborhood cleanups, bring in experts to discuss what has worked in other cities, getting youth invested

SCHEDULED ITEMS

2022 DREAMS Program Overview, Application & Scoring Process –

LaToya Burnett, Community Engagement Coordinator, presented the 2022 Topeka DREAMS Grant overview of the application and scoring process. 2020 dreams program provides funding for neighborhood projects ranging from community engagement projects to small neighborhood public improvements or larger local match fund projects with other agencies or entities in the community. This year there is \$200,000 in award funds; \$140,000 from general obligation bonds and \$60,000 community development block grant (CDBG) funding. Grant awards can range from \$2,000 up to \$100,000. Eligible projects include public improvements, public accessibility projects, public infrastructure, neighborhood beautification, and community engagement projects. The Informational workshop for the NIA's was held on April 28 and applications were due to Community Engagement on August 6. The Internal Review Committee met on August 24. This committee consists staff from our engineering division, neighborhood planning division, City HUD Program administrator, Utilities Department, and Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, and the CAC Vice Chair. These subject matter experts will provide any eligibility requirements and other recommendations for the projects to the CAC. Their final recommendations and report will be compiled on Tuesday September 7, 2021. Eligible CAC member (non-applicants) will be provided copies of all applications and recommendations from the committee. CAC review members will have until October 4th to submit their final scores and recommendations to Community Engagement. Final score and all recommendations, included those from the Internal Review Committee, will be compiled into a report and shared at the next CAC meeting on October 6. Projects with the highest score will receive priority funding until available funding is exhausted. In October or possibly early November those recommendations from both the CAC and the internal review committee will be presented to the City Council by Community Engagement, the CAC chair and the CAC vice chair. Approved projects would then begin the implementation process in January of 2022.

IV. MEMBER INPUT (10 minutes)

Round Robin – 2022 Topeka DREAMS Scoring Process Options

- a. Option 1 - Special CAC Meeting: Wednesday, September 15th, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Receive applications and overview of reviewing and scoring process. Completed score forms due to Community Engagement on Monday, October 4.
- b. Option 2 - Special CAC Workshop: Saturday, September 11th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. receive application packets and instructions for reviewing. 12:00 p.m. score the DREAMS applications and leave when you have finished. Must be done by 4:00 p.m. Lunch provided by Community Engagement.

6 to 0 vote approved for option 2.

V. ADJOURNMENT (2 minutes)

- A. Special Meeting/Workshop for Topeka DREAMS scoring on September 11, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- B. The next regular CAC meeting is October 6, 2021, at 6:45 p.m. All DREAMS application scores will be tallied, and the 2022 recommended DREAMS designees will be determined at the meeting.

Susan McClacherty called for a motion to adjourn. David Bawden moved to adjourn. Donald Fortin seconded. Motion carried.

VI. CAC MEMBERS NETWORKING DISCUSSIONS (*until 8:30 P.M.*)