

**District VI Advisory Board
Minutes**
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**Monday
December 4, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

**Evergreen Recreation Center
2700 N. Woodland
Lounge Clubroom**

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with Seven (7) District Advisory Board members in attendance. Five (5) city staff were present and four (4) members of the public.

Members Present

Linda Matney
Bob Wine
John VanWalleghen
Sandra Whittington
Charlie Claycomb
Marsha Carr
Carol Skaff

Members Absent

C. Bickley Foster
Bob Schreck
Jaya Escobar

Staff Present

Mark Stanberry, Housing
Officer Mallard, Patrol West
Officer Schweidal, Patrol West
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Brad Davis, Transit

Guests

Listed at end

Council member Fearey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. welcoming everyone and asked the DAB Members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for November 6th were approved with amendments and the minutes for November 15th were approved as submitted. (**Carr/Matney 7-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted. (**Wine/Carr 7-0**)

Public Agenda

1. **Scheduled items:** No items were scheduled
2. **Off-agenda items:** No items were scheduled

Staff Presentations

3. **Community Police Report**

Patrol West: *Officer Mallard*, Beat 14 covers from Central to Harry and West to Meridian streets discussed the area has seen 1% decrease in crime and for overall Patrol West 29% decrease. Robberies for the entire district are decreased. There is an arsonist in the Riverside area, which is similar to the one we had last year. On Nov 4th we assisted with a neighborhood

clean up. We have undercover officers working due to the holiday season. Patrol West has a new commander his name is Captain Dessenberger.

Fearey asked if the Blue A on the Civitan club located around 900 Porter had been reported as graffiti. *Mallard* responded the A stands for anarchy for Neo Nazis in this area. Officers are monitoring this activity. **Fearey** stated a lady from the club was going to take pictures & email them to Officer Kyle. **Carr** asked what would you look for? *Mallard* responded you might see a Nazi flag in front of the house.

Patrol South: *Officer Schweidal*, Old Town stated they are seeing homelessness problems at the library. We are establishing new homeless pick up sites to take them to the Rescue Mission instead of having everyone be picked up at the Library. We are working on getting the bars in Old Town to use plastic bottles so that the glass ones can't be used in assaults.

*******Action:** Receive and file

New Business

4. Request for Resolution of Support for Application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (Del Ray Apartments)

The District VI Advisory Board considered a resolution of support for application for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. *Mark Stanberry*, Housing presented the background of the project from information provided to the DAB prior to the meeting.

Grant Gaudreau, applicant stated his project was a continuation of a near neighborhood improvement. The Old English apartments he previously asked for tax credits were almost finished and invited the DAB to go look at the rehabilitation to the apartments. *Gaudreau* stated he wanted to resurrect the existing building, as the structure of the building is good. There will be 16 units with the apartments renting for less the \$300. We will be using universal design standards and have asked an ADA architectural design expert to include a small exercise room on the facility grounds. There will an elevator also a laundry on each floor.

Carr stated she was glad you have an elevator included but how can you account for 10 parking spaces? *The parking spaces would be minimum width allowing for 16 spaces.* **Claycomb** asked if the trees would remain between this property and Nifty Nut House? *Yes, the trees will remain.* **Carr** asked if the Midtown Association had looked at this plan? *Yes.* **Wine** asked if you have any intention to pave the alleyway? *We could look into this.* **Wine** said it should be strongly considered.

Janet Miller, representing HMCA stated she had brought a letter of support for the proposed redevelopment of the association but wanted the DAB to consider a few concerns. The City of Wichita has an established policy referred to the 80/20 rule to allow at least 20% of available housing units for market rate tenants. Midtown neighborhood has seen quite a few developers awarded a waiver to allow for 100% low-income units in our area and believes the 80/20 rule is the best interest for our neighborhood. In this part of our association area, the neighborhood is lacking in residential development and the building has been so long in disrepair we welcome the improvements. We hope this allows for future redevelopment opportunities for our neighborhood. This project will serve people with special needs, HMCA works well with Mr.Gaudreau and we are glad about his early notification of the project.

***** **Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend the adoption of the resolution of support for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit application to include the 80/20 rules. (**Wine/Claycomb 7-0**)

5. Transit Department Fare Adjustments

Brad Davis, Wichita Transit discussed the proposal to increase its base bus fare from \$1.00 to \$1.25 eliminating charges for transfers and to increase its base van fare from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per ride. *Davis* stated there had not been an increase to the Transit fares since 1996. Transit operations have always maintained from their provided budget sources but due to a dramatic increase in fuel prices doubling since 2004 and along with an increase in specialized (ADA) accessible transportation, the increase would assist in possibly not eliminating services.

6. Route Change (Districts IV and VI)

Brad Davis, Wichita Transit explained there are 18 fixed routes to the public throughout the city. The North Meridian Route is Wichita Transit's least productive route, ranking last in ridership. By cutting the North Meridian Route, and making adjustments to the South Meridian route we can still cover practically all the service area of North Meridian along with a savings of around \$300,000.

The following are comments/concerns/questions of the DAB: *responses in Italics*

- What do you mean by eliminating services? *It's possible we would have one bus going only in one direction*
- Does that mean people can go but not come back from where they have been? *They may have to reconnect with another bus.*
- Will there be education to riders about the changes? *We would use flyers posted on the buses.*
- Has there been a survey on the percentage of Wichita riders? *Yes, many are low-income and just wanting to use the bus. 75% will get a transfer for free.*
- Is that one transfer? *It is one transfer between two buses.*
- Fuel costs, how do you expect to cut that? *We are going to smaller buses. There is a perception of no riders but we see 79,000 riders between 6:15/6:45 a.m. the buses are packed.*
- How do we compare to other Cities our size? *Tulsa/KC have increased their fares some time back. We are lower than anywhere in this region.*
- Van contract costs have doubled, why is that? *Other van agencies have transferred their services onto Wichita Transit and we have to hire more drivers and utilize more busses.*
- For our homeless population, what is done? *We use passes. The buses have Electronic Fare Boxes where the rider uses a card to access service.*
- How do they get cards? *Social Service agencies pass out the cards.*
- If we are just catching up to the fare rate level now, wouldn't it be easier to do a larger increase now and not raise the fare for another 10 years? *Our Manager looked at this and felt it was the right move for now.*

Bruce Simkins asked how profitable is this to Wichita Transit and is there any discussion about privatization? *Davis responded the funding is 80% federal dollars for a public service. We provide the best service at the lowest fares. Very few transportation systems are privatized.*

Janet Miller asked about 13th Street and the gap between St. Paul/West Street. The seniors tower East of Dillon's store will no longer have a bus stop? *We will offer Para transit rides but not bus*

rides out of this agency. What about fatalities in this area where pedestrians have been hit? Don't know about this.

Fearey asked *Davis* to check about the senior tower and if any pedestrian accidents. Please inquire on this info.

Carr finished by saying Thank you as the Red Cross Volunteers use the busses and she works closely with them.

VanWalleghen asked how close do fares come to 20% of total budget? *About 1/3 percent.*

*******Action** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend approval of the fare adjustments for transit services. (**Wine/Carr 7-0**)

*******Action:** The District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommend approval of the Meridian route changes. (**Wine/Carr 7-0**)

Board Agenda

7. Problem Properties

11th Waco & Fairview: Couch in right-of-way on North side of the street.

*******Action:** Receive and propose appropriate action.

8.. Neighborhood Reports

Benjamin Hills: Is expanding the neighborhood boundaries and at the Dec 5th meeting will adopt the area from North 29th to Floodway and Amidon W to Interstate.

RCA/Midtown/North Riverside: Will be holding a joint meeting. We want all the info from other neighborhoods to go to Marsha so we can put on our calendars.

*******Action:** Receive and file.

Updates from Council Member Fearey

- January DAB meeting: Will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20th we will host a dinner and a DAB meeting.
- The Grand Chapel case was heard, staff recommended to include Bickley's comments but MAPC passed without the statement included.
- Cell Towers: discussion about mapping all towers in the City and if a tower wants to be placed in a certain area it would need an administrative approval. With the maps, they can identify locations that could/couldn't hold more towers. This will be coming soon to the DAB so we can hear more.

Van Walleghen mentioned Tim Divine would like to work with Cell Tower issues.

With no further items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Guests

Grant Gaudreau	254 S. Laura
Jerry Prichard	1607 N. Clarence 67203 Indian Hills- Riverbend N.A.
Christine Eberle	1814 Joann N.W. Big River N.A.
Janet L. Miller	1102 Jefferson HMCA