

District IV Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2007
www.wichita.gov

The **District IV Advisory Board Meeting** was held at the 7:00 p.m. at the Lionel Alford Branch Library. In attendance were seven (8) District Advisory Board members, nine (9) staff and approximately ten (10) citizens with six (6) signing in.

Members Present

Nancy Wilhite
Peggy Bennett
Michael Gisick
Hestel Sewell
Tom Engelmann
Edwin Koon
Gerald Marsh
Jim Benton

Council Member Gray

Members Absent

Joshua Blick
Mary Cockburn

Staff Present

Officer Carlson, Police
Officer Floyd, Police
Kelli Glassman, City Manager's Office
Officer Maris, Police
Shawn Mellies, Public Works
Stephen King, Public Works
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Debbie Nguyen, City Manager's Office
Patricia Houston, City Manager's Office

Guests

George Walta, 10630 Carr
Albert Hubl, 6400 W 36th St S
Lee Webster, 337 N Exposition
Richard Wunnenberg, 2815 W 30th St S
Alice Wunnenberg, 2815 W 30th St S
Debby Moore, 501/503 W 55th St S

Order of Business

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Engelmann (Blick) moved to approve the agenda for the December 6, 2006 meeting. The motion was passed 7-0.

Blick (Marsh) moved to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2006 meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Agenda

The public agenda allows members of the public to present issues not on the agenda to the District Advisory Board. Each presentation is limited to five minutes unless extended by the Board.

1. Scheduled Items

Maury Kerschen, presented information on all the activities done to promote abstinence education through a federal grant received.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

2. Off-Agenda Items

George Walta, 10630 Carr, again extended appreciation to Councilmember Gray for quickly addressing sewer line issues in his neighborhood.

Debby Moore, 501/503 W 55th St S, addressed the Board regarding illegal hunting and dumping. It was advised that she contact the game warden for these matters.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Officers Floyd, Carlson and Maris reported that they have all completed warrant sweeps which have been very successful. They also informed the group that they have been working on issues such as residential burglaries, storage shed thefts, speeding, and underage smoking and truancy.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

New Business

4. Community Education

Debbie Nguyen and Patricia Houston, City Manager's Office, made the Board aware of the fact that district 4 will now be served by community education and that they are excited to begin programs which will help serve the citizens of this area.

Community Education is conducting a survey to best determine citizen needs so that classes can be offered on these topics.

Ms. Houston and Ms. Nguyen encouraged the Board and citizens present to contact them if they have any ideas for future classes or projects.

Action Taken: Engelmann (Cockburn) motioned to recommend City Council approval of both the fare adjustment and route change. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Environmental Services 2006 Year-End Report

Kay Johnson, Environmental Services Director, made the presentation. Ms. Johnson explained that the Wichita Environmental Services (ES) Department provides a number of services to Wichita neighborhoods including environmental code enforcement, animal control, restaurant inspection and food protection, childcare licensure and registration, air quality, water quality, storm water compliance, environmental remediation, and environmental management systems.

Environmental Service programs provide regulatory oversight through permits, inspections, licensing, and general enforcement of City of Wichita codes. Food protection, childcare licensure, and air quality programs also help to ensure compliance with state regulations through inspections and compliance recommendations to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Debby Moore, 501/503 W 55th St S, asked about recourse for illegal dumping. **Ms. Johnson** stated that an ordinance for this is currently being drafted for City Council review.

Action Taken: Received and filed.

6. LED Signage

Over the past several months, concerns have been voiced about certain types of illuminated advertising signs, primarily those that use what is known as “LED”, “plasma” or “wedgebase” technology to create changeable copy, animation and moving graphics (hereafter referred to as “LED signs”). This relatively new technology is still evolving, but has seen significantly increased use in the Wichita market over the past 3 - 4 years. These signs, while significantly more energy efficient than older, incandescent bulb-lighted signs, are also significantly brighter, with greater technological ability for copy change, movement and graphic animation.

Concerns have included: (1) excessive brightness, especially at night (which has generated some complaints from neighboring property owners or adjoining neighborhoods); (2) possible traffic safety issues due to distractions of extremely bright, changing or moving advertising copy and images; (3) general aesthetic concerns, especially as related to use of such sign technology in historic districts or within the environs of historic buildings or districts.

The City of Wichita has approximately 100 - 125 operating LED-type signs. Only a few have generated documented complaints from citizens. Like Wichita, many (if not most) jurisdictions with sign regulations have no specific controls regarding LED-type signs, particularly with respect to brightness and/or light intensity. Most jurisdictions, like Wichita, allow “electronic message center” and/or “electronic variable message” signs that permit electronically changeable copy, moving copy and/or animation. Only a few cities, including Lincoln, NE and Mesa, AZ, have developed regulations and/or standards specific to LED-type signs. A significant amount of information was obtained from Lincoln, NE and Mesa AZ as part of staff’s LED sign review.

Staff met with industry representatives (including sign contractors, installers and manufacturers) on November 8, 2006 and December 4, 2006 to review issues, gain a better understanding of the technology, and to review potential regulatory and/or non-regulatory solutions to reduce citizen complaints (several of the participants had been involved in the Lincoln, NE LED regulatory process). Based on staff research and reviews with the industry, several alternate approaches were developed by staff (with input from industry representatives). Other issues/considerations were also discussed, including: (1) traffic safety issues; (2) whether or not existing LED signs affected by any new regulation should be “grandfathered” (allowed to remain as legal non-conforming signs); (3) whether or not special consideration/regulation should be developed for LED signs in or within environs of historic districts and/or buildings; and (4) whether or not there should be minimum setback requirements for LED signs from property lines.

The most aggressive regulatory approach could require City purchase of rather expensive light meters (or contracting out for someone to check light intensities). The more aggressive regulatory approaches could also increase LED sign costs for business consumers, especially if new, non-conforming LED signs were required to be retrofitted or replaced to comply with new regulations.

Board members made the following comments: 1.) Existing signs should be grandfathered to avoid replacement costs for new signs if they do not fall within the newly created guidelines. 2.) Intensity of LED signs near residential areas should be considered and monitored. 3.) Consider allowing one those LED signs which can be adjusted as desired. 4.) Concern that any new regulations adopted may not allow businesses to keep up with future LED technology. 5.) Concern of having a high concentration of LED signs in an and its impact on the surrounding neighborhood. 6.) It is too soon to regulate LED signage. If they are obtrusive, individuals should complain directly to the business that owns the sign. 7.) Regulations for LED signage should be established now before there are even more placed throughout the City. 8.) Consider adopting statewide standards for LED signs.

Action Taken: Reviewed LED advertising sign issues, and provided feedback for consideration by the City Council.

7. Petition to construct a Sanitary Sewer to serve the Schulte Area (North of MacArthur, west of Maize)

Stephen King and Shawn Mellies, Public Works, presented this item. The project will construct a sanitary sewer for a residential and commercial area known as the Schulte Area (North of MacArthur, west of Maize) that is currently served by private septic tank systems.

The estimated project cost is \$167,000 with the total assessed to the improvement district. In addition, a sewer main benefit fee of \$16,800 will be assessed to the improvement district. The method of assessment is the square foot basis. The estimated assessment to individual properties is \$00.35 per square foot of ownership plus \$00.035 per square foot for the main benefit fee. The signatures on the Petition represent 18 of 31 (58.06%) resident owners and 53.65% of the improvement district area.

The Board asked several questions (Mr. King and Mr. Mellies' responses are in italics)

Is this in the City limits? *The new edition portion of this is in the City. If this petition is approved, the additional portions outside the City limits will waive the right to protest annexation.*

Was there a public hearing on this for citizens in the benefit district? *Citizens were notified of this meeting where they would be given the opportunity to provide comment.*

How far apart are the manholes and why are they in front on the properties? *Typically manholes are every 400 feet and these will be placed in the front of the properties to provide easier access. However, exact placement will be determined during the design phase if this project is approved.*

Action Taken: Gisick (Benton) motioned to approve the petition. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

8. No items submitted.

BOARD AGENDA

9. Board Updates and Issues

Marsh announced that he is still taking part in the CDBG application process and learning a lot. He also mentioned that he is no longer the President of the Delano Business Association.

Benton announced that his neighborhood association met last night and that newsletters will no longer be printed for free. Also, the neighborhood clean-up has been scheduled for June 2 or 9.

Gisick stated that there may be a conflict between the District Breakfast and the Seneca Street Parade dates this year.

Engelmann said that they are having troubles with vandalism in his neighborhood.

Action Taken: Received and Filed.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.