

**District VI Advisory Board
Minutes**
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**Monday
September 19, 2007
6:00 p.m.**

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

The District VI Advisory Board meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Recreation Center Lounge Clubroom 2700 N. Woodland. District VI councilwoman led the meeting with nine (9) District Advisory Board members in attendance, ten (10) city staff and ten (10) members of the public who signed in.

Members Present

Marsha Carr
Bob Schreck
Stacie Longwell
C. Bickley Foster
Bob Aldrich
John VanWalleghen
Jaya Escobar
Sandra Whittington
Charlie Claycomb

Members Absent

Carol Skaff
Pat Randleas
Janet Miller

Staff Present

Officer Carlson, Patrol South
Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant
Officer Sharp, Patrol North
Officer Leeds, Patrol West
Scott Knebel, Planning
Chief Garcia, Fire
Chief Williams, Police
Ron Aaron, Fire
Shawn Mellies, Public Works
Mike Rudd, Fire

Guests

Listed at end

Council Member Fearey called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. welcoming everyone and asked members to introduce themselves and state their representation on the board.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for August 6, 2007 were approved as submitted. (**Schreck/Claycomb 8-0**)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted. (**Schreck/VanWalleghen 8-0**)

Public Agenda

1. Scheduled items: None at this time
2. Off-agenda items: None at this time

*******Action:** Provide comments/take appropriate action.

Staff Presentations

3. Community Police Report

Patrol North: Officer Sharp stated there had been an increase in burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts. Officers have been doing plain clothes activity and arrested one person for six burglaries and another burglar moved to the South bureau and was caught. We will soon have discussion on more special assignments.

Patrol South: Officer Larry Carlson Old Town said officers have identified a crime trend where 40 cars were vandalized up and down Douglas street. We are now doing split shift assignments with undercover officers to try and catch whoever is doing this. Wherever you park your vehicle please don't leave anything visible to prevent it from being stolen.

Carlson also said he is looking at the City's noise ordinance and will be getting trained on decibel readers so they can be used in Old Town. Since he is a new officer to the Old Town area he is getting familiar with business owners by working split shifts to learn what is happening.

Patrol West: Officer Leads, 11Beat said they have also had an increase in crime both non-residential and residential burglaries including businesses. Residents continue to leave their garages open which is a cause of burglaries. There have been auto thefts due to people leaving the car running and then go into a store and someone comes along and takes the running car. Please make sure you secure your homes and help with crime prevention. We have done a lot of traffic enforcement and have caught speeders and made lots of DUI arrests.

Member Escobar arrived at 6:14 p.m.

Chief Norman Williams stopped by to discuss some issues taking place and thanked **Council Member Fearey** for allowing him the time. *Williams* discussed there has been an increase in crime. In the last three years crime has increased 1/10% including homicide with 37 already where at this same time last year there were 16. The homicides have been people who know each other, homicide/suicide; four have been drug related and six domestic violence homicides. We have cleared close to 90% of the homicides with 21 homicides taking place in residences. Our citizens have given us good assistance with the homicides. There have been 237 auto thefts, this is a combination of many reasons why the cars are stolen. People steal cars/motorcycles and take them to non-regulated wrecker services to have them crushed to get money. Many of the vehicles have been Lexus, Escalade, and other high-end vehicles. *Williams* continued on gang issues saying police have arrested 730 gang members with 40 being charged in Federal Court including some with homicides. We have been very active with arrests but we need your continued help to catch people doing crime. Some of the 1990-gang members are coming back and trying to refuel old problems. We have new gangs not wanting old gangs in the area, drugs and youth who want to belong to gang that are causing the problems.

Member Aldrich asked what the percentage is of gang homicides? There have been six (6) gang on gang and 26 that have been gang related. Gangs won't snitch and this is a problem as we can't get information from them.

Rob Jacobs asked if there is any legislature trying to change auto thefts? *Police are going to look into this.*

Alejandro Calderon asked if gang presentations are being done and what about the school resource officers (SRO) helping? *We have had 40 presentations on gang awareness and our.*

SRO's have been trained about gangs and they teach about this in school.

Jerry Prichard asked is leaving your keys in the ignition not illegal anymore and if so will that ever change? That is correct on leaving the keys in the ignition and we would need to pull together statistics to show any impact by this and then visit with the City Manager and City Council to see any changes.

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

New Business

4. Petition to pave Agnes, between 36th and 37th Street North

Shawn Mellies, Public Works presented the case background on the project to provide paved access to a developed residential area along Agnes. Mellies said the petition was signed by 57% of homeowners giving this 66% of the area.

Member VanWalleghen asked if in past similar paving, have any surrounding streets been ordered in? *Yes, if there is no right of way.*

Member Aldrich asked for *Mellies* to explain estimate assessments. *An estimate assessment is the fee to be paid based on different size of property lots.*

John Born, 522 W 36th Street North stated he had the two bigger lots with houses and a duplex and asked if paving will end at the duplexes due to a drainage problem? We will need to look at grade issues for this.

Member Aldrich asked how will you reroute run off? *If there is no drainage at this time we may need to run it off underground. At this time there is no money for drainage so we may do a possible re-grade.*

Fearey asked *Mellies* to contact *Mr. Born* and check with him about this problem as our goal is to not make anything worse for the owners.

*******Recommended Action:** District VI Advisory Board made a motion to recommended Approval of the petition. (Schreck/Carr 9-0)

5. Station 13 Fire Department Vehicles

Fire Chief Garcia discussed the fire staffing reassignment of Station 13. A PowerPoint presentation was given to further explain this process. *Garcia* explained about the type of vehicles and their uses for the station saying this change is occurring due to less call demand than other areas in the city. We will continue to provide increased level of service and this is not the only station in the city this is happening to.

Member Schreck asked to express his concern about the fire staffing changes. **Schreck** began by thanking councilmember **Fearey** for adding this presentation to DAB on such short notice, thanks to the concerned citizens for attending the meeting and congratulated *Chief Garcia* on his retirement. **Schreck** went on to say I first heard this distributing rumor about removing the rescue vehicle and did not believe it. I started asking questions and then sent a letter to Mayor Brewer, Vice-Mayor Fearey, and City of Wichita Manager Kolb and Mr. Steele from the fire department.

My letter stated we want to keep both the Rescue and Ladder Vehicles at Station 13. The rescue truck can always respond quicker than the ladder truck. Since the rescue truck contains water it can get to a fire in the big ditch quicker than the larger truck. The ladder truck is needed because the houses in the Moorings and Harbor Isle do not have back yards and the ladder truck can reach the back of the houses. Also Wal-Mart will be finished soon and additional businesses will be built soon

in the area. As our population is mostly older people and we hope to get older, we depend on the fire department reaction time. Seconds could mean living or dying.

The Fire Department mission is to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters. This will not happen in our neighborhoods without Rescue Squad 13. The ladder truck takes longer to get to the emergency. Maybe by as much as 2 minutes. I know your goal is to respond by six minutes 90% of the time.

The City of Wichita has a Balance Scorecard with the five goals. First is Safe and Secure Community. Specific to this goal is to reduce crime, injuries, and loss of life and reduce property loss. This goal must be important because in the 2008 City budget the Council approved 147.8 million out of 495.6 million to achieve this goal. How do you plan on achieving this in our area by taking away one of our trucks? You are doing a disservice to the Moorings/Sherwood Glen neighborhoods.

Isn't it true that if the ladder truck arrives at a house with 3 crew that they are not to be allowed to enter a burning building until you have the fourth person? (2 in 2 out) How do you plan on achieving this in our area by taking away one of our trucks? *Deputy Chief Rudd stated between the arrival of the Squad and the Quint truck is six seconds. If a squad arrived at a house fire they couldn't do much.*

Isn't it true that the crew will call for backup if someone is having a heart attack so you will have extra personnel to take turns doing CPR? How do you plan on achieving this in our area by taking away one of our trucks? *The Squad was to deal with small fires but now is used for medical emergencies. If the call is due to a serious injury you want more people to give maximum care.*

Isn't it true you want to add a 4th Battalion? With the new battalion you will probably increase your management personnel insist of increasing your key firefighters. This does not help meet your mission statement. Management does not put out fires or rescue people. Citizens need more firefighters and not management. *We are looking at adding one safety officer at this time and soon to have a total of 4 safety officers. These safety officers can be on the scene in a short amount of time and are added for safety of fire fighters as field supervisors.*

As for the numbers, you can make anything work to your advantage.

Wichita is ranked the worse for the number of fire stations per sq. miles and Wichita firefighters are responsible for more citizens and square miles. To meet recommended staffing, the Wichita Fire Department would need to hire 160 more firefighters.

Finally, your chart shows Station 13 has fewer calls. By moving the rescue squad you NOW have told us we are less important than other citizens in Wichita that have more calls. *The call volume at station 18 is like station 13. We focus on the need for the amount of units to serve the needs of the station.*

Fire Chief Garcia continued saying we do our very best with our limited resources. Our whole fleet has been replaced and we are doing better than most cities. *Chief Rudd* said we do our jobs safer than most other departments in peer cities, we confine fire to room of origin and give less cost per citizen.

Citizen Ron Jacobs asked why was the amount of trucks okay when the facility was built and now with an increase in population you want to take equipment away?

Member Schreck continued to say he disagrees and his concern is a safety and life issue and wants to do a petition against the removal of the fire staffing in his neighborhood and give it to **Council member Fearey** to present to council.

Council member Fearey responded saying years back, La Placita neighborhood was in an outcry since their station was to be moved to Coolidge. We take the resources we have and try to do our best. We still will have a station there and will watch for any issues and adjust staffing if needed.

Chief Garcia encouraged **Schreck** to do everything possible if that is writing letters if you see a slow response from this station.

Fearey asked **Schreck** if he would rather have a squad or quint? To *Garcia* she asked if we could look at that? *Chief Garcia* said maybe there could be possible cross staffing but we would have to look at calls to determine what could be done. **Fearey** finished saying the Fire department could check calls, do more research and check about cross staffing and then have a meeting between Sherwood Glen/Moorings neighborhoods for further discussion.

Member Aldrich commented that public safety is much needed. Construction of three new stations will carry us for several years to come. The Quint can do everything and the Squad is limited. Call volumes in the Moorings should be looked at.

Chief Garcia finished saying his staff would work with the neighborhood assistant and Mr. Schreck to have a neighborhood meeting.

Member Carr stated to the presenters she appreciated them working with us.

******Action:** Receive and File

6. Offender re-entry program

Sandra Haas, Re-entry Coordinator discussed background information as to how the program came about which started in February 2002. The program was hosted by WSU and included 130 community representatives offering recommendations about community safety, housing, employment and support services.

Member Aldrich asked how the program was funded and how many have graduated? *The State of Kansas is the funding source and we have had two people complete the program and have remained good. What percentage of sex offenders is in the program? Around 15% are sex offenders and they are older men.*

Member Schreck asked how many were previous gang members? *Around 20% are gang members. Officer Pierce is monitoring for any gang activity that may be taking place in the program. We have had no issues at this point and we want to give participants tools to change their thinking about doing crime. Our youngest participant is 15 yrs old.*

Member Foster asked how many employers does this agency work with? *Yes we have employers we work with and Winfield has a sheet metal company who assists in training opportunities. Many employers shut the door on these offenders and do not want to work with them.*

Alejandro Calderon, El Pueblo asked if the 15 yr. old was housed with the older men and how many in the program? *We can have 150 and are housed together but don't interact with others. We keep the younger offenders segregated.*

Haas continued that this is a non-mandatory program and is strictly voluntary. Participating in this program has to be the offender's choice.

Member Carr asked what educational achievement level do they have? *Around 75% don't have their GED.* **Carr** continued saying can't they get their GED in prison and I would think this would be priority for them to begin working on their skills. **Carr** asked if DAB could get yearly updates on the program? *Officer Courtney Pierce can come anytime to update DAB.*

*******Action:** Receive and File

7. DR2007-05: Proposed Amendments to the Unified Zoning Code Pertaining to Wireless Communication Facilities

Scott Knebel, Planning staff presented on the considered improvements to the zoning regulations pertaining to wireless communication facilities. *Knebel* gave a brief timeline on the review process before taking the final results to Council.

The Board expressed the following:

- Lattice Towers should be outlawed, how do we handle these? *The lattice towers are only for reception not transmission and broadband data access.*
- If the cell tower does not exceed the height limit, are they just allowed thru administrative approval? *The towers can be approved as long as they are below a certain height. If the tower exceeds height restrictions they will have to ask for a Conditional Use.*
- What about religious symbols on top of a tower? *Religious is not classified as a sign*
- Does the school district allow other antennas? *Not commercial communication only for the school.*
- Cell Tower provider's research, how much consideration was taken? *This has been community reviewed.*
- My neighbor wants to put a tower in my backyard. *This cannot happen and you would need to take them to civil court and notify Office of Central Inspection. The property owner would get a citation. Regulations are required for permitting individual locations.*
- Are these changes for the city's overall use for staff to have connection when working out in the field? *Not at this time.*
- Will you use park property for towers and which parks? *There has been no application on parks-yet. Any park property in District VI could be used but this is more for residential with limited height.*

*******Action:** The DAB made a motion to recommend Approval of the changes based on staff recommendations (**Aldrich/Claycomb 6-2-1 abstain by Member Foster**) .

Board Agenda

8. Problem Properties

- *Sandra Whittington, alternate DAB member* said she has a problem with her neighbor who barbeques under her bedroom window. The neighborhood assistant is to have a community police officer go visit with her about this problem.

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

9. Neighborhood Reports

Riverside: Annual Chili Supper on 2nd Tuesday in November

Indian Hills Riverbend: Neighborhood clean up on Saturday Sept. 22nd

Orchard Park: 10th Anniversary Party in Park on Saturday Sept. 29th from 11-3 p m.
everyone is invited to attend.

El Pueblo: We are working on handing out a survey to find out about neighborhood needs.
The Boxing Tournament held last weekend was very good.

Moorings: Working with Officer Lenzie to handout flyers due to increased crime. Also we
may start Neighborhood Patrol again.

Historic Midtown: on Oct 13 & 14th we will be hosting our annual Walking Tour. There will
be six homes along the 1200 and 1300 blocks of North Emporia. Volunteers are needed and if
you are interested in helping contact Janet or me.

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

Updates from Councilmember

- ❑ Update on Minisa Bridge repairs: Repairs have been approved, the bridge has been re-examined and considered safe. When repairs take place they will close the bridge to all traffic.
- ❑ Four District VI CIP projects have been approved. They are 21st and Broadway intersection; 25th street bridge, Midtown bikepath and the bikepath west of the river between Central and 13th. The path is already there, but is going to be enhanced and part of it relocated from the immediate riverbank up higher so that it won't flood.
- ❑ The Mayor and **Fearey** will be meeting with the owners of World Treasures to find out why they are thinking of moving out of Wichita.
- ❑ I have been to see the Prairie Ranglers- great food and entertainment.

Announcements

- ❑ Next DAB meeting will be Monday, October 1, 2007.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Guests

Rob Johnson	3736 Agnes Ct. 67204 rofojo@cox.net
John H. Born	13020 Killenwood
Tom Carr	1027 W. River Blvd. 67203
Dale & Janelle Johnson	1725 W. 39 th St. N. 67204 Sherwood Glen
Kathy Gutowski	3933 N. Clarence Sherwood Glen
Jerry Prichard	1600 N. Clarence Indian Hills Riverbend N.A.
Liz Weyman	3921 Friar Ln Sherwood Glen lweyman@sbcglobal.net
Leonard & Leslie Hicks	2230 Cardinal Dr 67204 castledoor@sbcglobal.net

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Dozal, Neighborhood Assistant