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CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD, DISTRICT 5 – MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 12th, 2024, 4:00 PM

2937 E Oaklawn Dr., Wichita

Board Members in attendance: David Sowden, Chair; John Nicholas, Vice-Chair; Liz Loera, Secretary; Amanda Amerine; Joseph Elmore; Olivia Hayse; Bryan Porter; Brad Smith; Rebecca Tang

Excused: Denise Meirowsky

Absent: Christopher Wyant

County Representatives: Commissioner Jim Howell; County Clerk Kelly Arnold

Attendees: Three members of the public (no sign-in) attended the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Chair David Sowden called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.**
2. **Invocation** – Observed by a moment of silence.
3. **Flag Salute** – Members stood for the flag salute.
4. **New member swearing in** – Rebecca Tang, student member of the board, was officially sworn in by County Clerk Kelly Arnold.
5. **County Clerk Kelly Arnold comments**
 - a. Mr. Arnold shared that the County Clerk’s office is processing homestead property tax relief filings. An informational sheet will be provided to the advisory board at next month’s meeting.
6. **Roll Call – Determine Quorum**
 - a. David Sowden, John Nicholas, Liz Loera, Joseph Elmore, Olivia Hayse, Bryan Porter, Brad Smith, Rebecca Tang
 - b. Amanda Amerine arrived after the roll call.
 - c. Quorum was present.
7. **Approval of minutes – December 1, 2023**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes made by Chair David Sowden.
 - b. Motion seconded by Brad Smith.
 - c. **Approved 8-0.**
8. **New member introduction – Rebecca Tang**
 - a. Rebecca shared that she is a sophomore at Derby High School. She is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the board and learn from the other members. She hopes to become a better leader and improve her communication skills during her time on the board.

9. Public agenda -- No members of the public signed up for public comment. One attendee shared comments later in the meeting—see below.

10. New business

a. Commissioner Howell 2023 Report/2024 Issues

- i.** Commissioner Howell appreciates the work of the board and thinks they have done great work this year.
- ii.** Governor Kelly included \$40 million in proposed budget for a homelessness infrastructure grant program; hopefully this will allow for the multi-agency center to be fully funded within a year.
- iii.** Metropolitan Area Building and Construction Department (MABCD) and technology are now housed in separate funds thanks to legislation passed this year.
- iv.** Driver’s license bill introduced in the legislature yesterday would allow for restricted licenses to be issued after revocation due to traffic violations.
- v.** Commissioner Howell distributed two handouts detailing the Sedgwick County 2024 legislative platform and Emergency Communications department developments in recent years (attached).
- vi.** BoCC approved a joint legislative platform with the City of Wichita, Greater Wichita Partnership, and Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP); Commissioner Howell would like to see more active language rather than “support” statements.
- vii.** Vice-Chair John Nicholas asked about amendments to statutes related to public works listed on the legislative platform document.
 1. Commissioner Howell believes this is a funding issue; he will come back with a more detailed answer.
- viii.** Chair David Sowden asked about placement issues related to the juvenile offender code.
 1. Commissioner Howell said that this refers concerns regarding residential options for youth who have been affected by the criminal justice system but do not qualify for placement in either foster care or detention.
- ix.** Commissioner Howell said that the community-based 911 board is in the process of being formed.
- x.** Two weeks ago, a new process began to review 911 calls on a weekly basis if they involve injury due to a fire or if there is a critical discussion regarding a call. Data related to these calls are being made public.

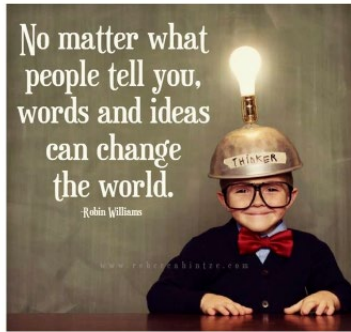
11. 2023 Year in Review Report – Chair David Sowden



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5th District Citizens Advisory Board 2023 Chairman Year In Review

DAVID SOWDEN



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"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." – Thomas Jefferson

"The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." – James Madison

2023 Meetings in Review

- We held 9 meetings
- Had presentations from:
 - Lindsay Poe Rousseau, SGCO CFO
 - Mark Clark, SGCO Appraiser
 - Kirk Sponseal, SGCO Assistant County Counselor
 - Julie Stimson, SGCO Emergency Mgt Director
 - Lane Pearman, Wichita Battalion Fire Chief
 - Justin Waggoner, SGCO County Counselor
 - Elora Forshee, SGCO Director 911
 - Bill Rhiley, House Representative
 - John Turner, Derby Fire Chief
 - Sheena Schmutz, SGCO HR Officer
- Dealt with:
 - Traffic Issues, including 47th street & k15, trains, Clifton & 47th Street, 87th Street South paving, lighting at 55th St S. and Rock Road, 55th St S and K15; Infrastructure Improvement Plan; Warranted Traffic Light at 55th/Rock Rd
 - 2024 County Budget
 - Election Security
 - Juvenile Crime/Justice Reform
 - Mental Health – Multi CAB
 - County HR Policies
 - 911
 - Emergency Management
 - Appraisal
 - Public Safety/Juvenile Detox/Treatment Ctr
 - Exploration Place Funding Request
 - LAVTR
 - Food Sales Tax



2023 Meetings in Review

- Dealt with:
 - 911 including a Site Visit
 - Training
 - Staffing
 - Workspace
 - 2024 Budget
 - Juvenile Crime / Resources
 - LAVTR
 - Emergency Management



2023 Meetings in Review

- We had a full CAB of 11 members throughout 2023
- We lost 1 member as he graduated from high school and moved
- We discussed and put into motion a plan to find a:
 - Current Military Member – a servicemember has been assigned to the CAB to speak for McConnell Air Force Base
 - The high school position has been refilled for 2024.

• THANK YOU!!!!!!



2023 TOPICS

Juvenile Justice Reform

- Discussed SB367/HB2200
- Reviewed the SGCO Legislative Agenda on this topic HB2676
- Discussed the need for treatment facilities for juveniles, especially with drugs and alcohol; discussed combining with the new mental health campus.
- Effects of SB367 on current juvenile crime



2023 TOPICS

911

- Site Visit
- Discussed the need for:
 - Increased staffing
 - Lack of bi-lingual operators
 - Physical location drawbacks – space etc
 - New CAD system to assist with dispatching and locations
 - Hold Times
 - Training
- Discussed the tragic Brookhollow Apartments Fire



2023 TOPICS

2024 BUDGET

- \$14M Shortfall Expected
 - How and What to cut
 - Increase taxes
 - Food Sales Tax to Zero Impact
- Exploration Place \$14M budget request



2024:

- Joint Lobbying with other District 5 Jurisdiction and Governing bodies
 - Wichita/Mulvane/Derby
- CAB 5 YouTube Channel – created – needs to be utilized
- Multi CAB Roundtable
- Work with Dist 5 High Schools & area Universities to Host the CAB in new areas to facilitate more public attendance opportunities ✓
- 2 year Budget Shortfall of \$14M
- Suspended Driver's Licenses



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
EFFORT IN 2023!**

- a. Olivia Hayse believes that the CAB's priority should be getting more public involvement. She also asked what items the CAB formally submitted statements on in 2023.
 - i. Chair David Sowden answered that there were no formal opinions submitted to the BoCC in 2023.
 - ii. Olivia would like to see more action from the board; she believes that the CAB covered a lot of topics but did not take it beyond meeting discussions this year.
- b. Rebecca Tang suggested that the board expand the social media platforms that it uses to make content more accessible to a wider audience.
- c. Commissioner Howell said that public attendance is a challenge for all CABs. The purpose of the CAB is to advise him, and he welcomes opinions. He mentioned that the BoCC's agendas are very full, and meeting once a month might limit how many topics the CAB has time to discuss.

3. New officer elections

- a. Chairperson nominations
 - i. John Nicholas self-nominated.
- b. Chairperson election
 - i. Motion to elect John Nicholas as Chairperson made by Chair David Sowden.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Brad Smith.
 - iii. **Approved 8-0.**
- c. Vice-Chairperson nominations
 - i. Denise Meirowsky self-nominated.
 - ii. Secretary Liz Loera nominated Chair David Sowden; David declined the nomination.
- d. Vice-Chairperson election
 - i. Motion to elect Denise Meirowsky as Vice-Chairperson by Chair David Sowden.
 - ii. Motion seconded by John Nicholas.
 - iii. **Approved 8-0.**
- e. Secretary nominations
 - i. Liz Loera was nominated by Brad Smith; Liz accepted the nomination.
- f. Secretary election
 - i. Motion to elect Liz Loera as Secretary made by Chair David Sowden.
 - ii. Motion seconded by Joseph Elmore.
 - iii. **Approved 8-0.**

4. Former Chair David Sowden remarks

- a. David shared that he will be leaving the board. He said that the role of the CAB members is to solicit comments and concerns from the public. He believes that the CAB's conversations have always been civil and respectful, and this needs to continue. He shared that County officials recognize the impact of this CAB. He thanked everyone for their participation on the board.
- b. Commissioner Howell shared that he was initially hesitant about forming a CAB, but that his opinion has changed. He thanked David Sowden and described him as detailed, faithful, organized, communicative, and knowledgeable.

5. Public comment

- a. George Theo Harris shared that his wife Janet was on this board previously and he wanted to come to the meeting to show respect for David for his work while she was on the board up until now. He mentioned that he would like Commissioner Howell to encourage the Sheriff to legalize marijuana.

6. Meeting adjourned by newly elected Chair John Nicholas at 5:18 PM.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Review of future subject matter – determine priority and interests.

- Kansas 911
- Long-term plan to address homelessness
- ICT-1 Follow Up
- County fines versus State Allowance Resolutions

- Driver's License Suspensions etc.
- SGCO HR
- LAVTR – Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Status
- Blake Carpenter – Bill Presentation
- K15 Corridor
- SGCO EMS

ADJOURNMENT

The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be February 2nd, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

County Closed:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 15
- Presidents' Day – Monday, February 19

Commissioner Howell Events:

- 2nd Monday of each Month – Bullet Points @ Range 54 (5725 E Kellogg Dr S., Wichita) 4p-5:30p
- Last Friday of each Month – Cuppa Jo with Jim @ Calvary Baptist Church Gymnasium (1636 E. Patriot, Derby – enter through the glass doors on the East side of the Building) 7a-9a.
- 3rd Tuesday of each Month - June 20, 7a – 9a – Coffee with the Commish; The Grill, 222 N. 2nd Ave., Mulvane