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CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD, DISTRICT 5 – MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 2nd, 2024

2937 E Oaklawn Dr., Wichita

Board Members in attendance: John Nicholas, Chair; Liz Loera, Secretary; Joseph Elmore; Olivia Hayse; Brad Smith; Rebecca Tang; Christopher Wyant

Excused: Denise Meirowsky, Bryan Porter

Attendees: Rev. Lory Mills and two members of the public (no sign-in) attended the meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Chair John Nicholas called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.**
2. **Invocation** – Rev. Lory Mills
3. **Flag Salute** – Members stood for the flag salute.
4. **Roll Call – Quorum was present.**
 - a. John Nicholas, Liz Loera, Joseph Elmore, Olivia Hayse, Brad Smith, Rebecca Tang
 - b. Christopher Wyant arrived after roll call.
 - c. Amanda Amerine has resigned from the Board.
 - d. Quorum was present.
5. **Approval of minutes – December 1, 2023**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes made by Brad Smith.
 - b. Motion seconded by Joseph Elmore.
 - c. **Approved 6-0.**
6. **Public agenda** – No members of the public signed up for public comment.
7. **New business**
 - a. **Board member introductions** – Chair John Nicholas invited members of the board and other meeting attendees to share short introductions about themselves.
 - i. John Nicholas moved to Kansas after being raised in the western United States. His father worked as a preacher and his mother worked as Kindergarten teacher. John has worked as a nursing home administrator and in residential energy.
 - ii. Liz Loera was born and raised in Mexico before moving to Colorado and later to Oaklawn. She and her siblings attended Derby High School. She has worked at TOP South Early Learning Center and Oaklawn Elementary. She and her husband own a grocery store/restaurant and she is a mom of two.
 - iii. Brad Smith was born in Wellington, KS. He began his fire service in Winfield and served as the Derby Fire Chief.

- iv. Joseph Elmore was born in Louisiana and attended the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He served in the Air Force and retired from McConnell Air Force Base. He worked at Boeing and holds a degree from Newman University in industrial management. He began substitute teaching in 2008 and continues to do so out of a desire to help children, particularly Black children. He is a part of many local organizations including the Black Elders of Wichita Southeast, Sedgwick County Black Republicans, and the Pachyderm Club. He has been married for 25 years and enjoys fishing.
- v. Olivia Hayse is originally from South Texas. She is the state director for the Libertarian Party and has a background in digital marketing. She works part-time at the Derby Community Foundation and homeschools her two children. She is an author and published her first book last year.
- vi. Rebecca Tang was born in New York, and her family moved to the area to start a business: her uncle owns the Great Wall in Derby. She attends Derby High School and is involved in Speech and Debate and marching band.
- vii. Christopher Wyant lives in Mulvane and has been with the board for about a year and a half.
- viii. Rev. Lory Mills is a deacon at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. She is also involved in a clothing ministry at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Southwest Wichita.
- ix. One member of the public shared that they moved to Oaklawn in May. They are a member of Lighthouse Community Church.
- x. One member of the public moved to the area from Colorado in 1998 and works at an assisted living facility.

b. Organization Review and Approval

i. Meeting schedule, time, and place

- 1. Olivia Hayse proposed holding at least some meetings during an evening time slot and/or in different locations. She referenced the library and Derby Rec Center as potential venues that are open in the evening.
- 2. Brad Smith said that Fridays are not ideal and that he wants to consider people who work, have children, etc. and have to work around those schedules.
- 3. Christopher Wyant said that 6:00-7:00 PM would be a better meeting start time.

ii. Board action: Chair John Nicholas shared a draft Board policy: "When the Commissioner requests board advice on a specific issue, that request is automatically considered to be a formal motion by the board chair, seconded by the vice chair for consideration by the whole board."

iii. Public attendance and sign-in: To make a public comment, members of the public must sign up prior to the meeting. Members of the public may also use the comment box available at meetings or contact the Board Chair via email (posted on the Board's unofficial Facebook page).

iv. Board member attendance: Board members must sign in and be present for roll call to determine quorum.

v. KORA and KOMA

1. Applies to all boards and subcommittees
2. Board must provide advanced notice for all meetings
3. Board members should not discuss Board business outside of public meetings
4. KORA requires that Board members retain their text messages and emails related to the board

vi. Topics

1. Board bylaws outline responsibilities, which include: capital improvement, local traffic concerns, programs within the district to encourage citizen involvement/disseminate information, etc.
2. Selected items carried over from last year: K15; Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction (LAVTR); driver's license suspension; County fines; 911 center follow-up

vii. General Updates

1. Another fire-related 911 call that ultimately resulted in an individual's death has come up as a concern. This call has been discussed in a BoCC Agenda Review meeting. Olivia Hayse expressed concern that the situation seems to involve issues similar to those from the Brookhollow Apartments incident.
2. Chair John Nicholas shared that the resolution establishing a citizens' review board for Emergency Communications is on the BoCC agenda for this coming Wednesday, February 7th.
3. Olivia Hayse shared that no one from this Board has expressed interest in serving on a LAVTR subcommittee, but that she has had discussions about it with others in the community and across the state. She has been focused on meeting with other people interested in the topic, but is still open to meeting with the subcommittee if others are interested.
4. Rebecca Tang suggested creating pamphlets/informational materials about the Board to display at local libraries.

viii. Department presentations desired for 2024: Household Hazardous Waste; Aging and Disabilities; Corrections; Economic Development; Emergency Management/Advanced CERT Teams; Forensic Science Center

ix. Chair recognition: Chair John Nicholas presented three awards of recognition to the following individuals/groups:

1. David Sowden, former Board Chair
2. Amanda Amerine, former Board member
3. Board of County Commissioners for moving forward with securing the land for the state mental health hospital

x. Around the Table

1. Rebecca Tang is interested in gathering feedback from young people on their mental health needs.
 - a. Motion to create subcommittee on youth mental health led by Rebecca Tang made by Olivia Hayse.

b. Motion seconded by Christopher Wyant.

2. Christopher Wyant is interested in looking at recent casino tax issues in Mulvane, school maintenance/improvement funding and bond issues, and energy costs.
3. Joseph Elmore said that most of his concerns are related to schools and the mindset of young people after the pandemic.
4. Olivia Hayse shared that she is pushing for cannabis legalization at the state level and working with several groups on elections. She recently wrote a letter to the editor regarding the City of Derby's use of eminent domain, which she believes should never be used. She said that she feels that the City's use of eminent domain is pushing out generational businesses.
5. Rebecca Tang voiced concern about the section of Rock Road near Derby High School being dangerous.

8. Meeting adjourned by newly elected Chair John Nicholas at 5:40 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 March 1st, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

County Closed:

- 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