

BOCC MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS

06/07/2023

These are questions and comments received through the County website and through the Strategic Communications email.

Name:

Dr. Kate Coleman

Contact Information:

drkatecoleman@aol.com

Received By:

This comment was received via the Communications email.

Subject:

Qualifications of Advisory Board Members Kept Secret to the Public and Voters

Comment:

Please submit with a request for the Chair to read into the Record the PUBLIC COMMENT below for the Weekly Meeting Wednesday May 7. Thank you. If there are questions regarding the letter please contact in time to permit the submittal of it by 5 pm Tuesday.

Dear Commissioners and County Manager Tom Stolz-

At the Agenda meeting last Friday, it was announced by County Manager Tom Stolz that the qualifications of advisory board members representing the citizens "will be private" and not discussed at a public meeting.

Mr. Stolz said, "We do not want to embarrass anyone, " which meant the potential advisory board members.

Commissioners - why would you believe it is necessary to hide and keep secret the qualifications of citizens advisory board members?

Either the commissioners' words about transparency are either true or false.

The advisory board members represent the citizens, not the commissioners. Their qualifications affect the citizens.

Do the advisory board members represent the majority of citizens in the district or not? Without the board member's qualifications, how will the citizens know?

As an example, if a commissioner's interest is in real estate development or mothers' views and members are primarily collected from this perspective, it will not be a fair representation of the district, and the advisory board will be defunct before it assembles.

The purpose of the Sedgwick County Commissioners' developing and selecting citizens advisory board members is to keep the elected officials accountable and transparent.

Keeping the qualifications of advisory board members secret from the public defeats the purpose of keeping the elected officials accountable through transparency.

As known, there have been ethical complaints filed against commissioners.

The qualifications of advisory members are a significant part of transparency to the public. Are they like us or the commissioners' policy directions? A likely big difference.

To hide and keep secret advisory board members' qualifications because it may embarrass them is a red flag problem.

Either the candidate needs to be appropriately vetted, or there is the appearance of unethical appointments for the benefit of a commissioner.

There is not a profit or non-profit business that does not share its board members' required qualifications with posted resume'. Why would elected' board members at Sedgwick County be different? It wouldn't.

For the public to assume, without a chance to view the qualifications of their advisory board members to their elected commissioner - the process is working and transparent is an error.

One district may have over 60,000 citizens represented by a few board members that may or may not be representative of the district but more representative of the commissioner's policy directions.

As one can see, it is a severe error in judgment to hide and keep secrets from the public the qualifications of its advisory board members.

Either Sedgwick County intends to be transparent or not with decisions that affect the public and their districts, of which none could be more critical to the public than their advisory board members.

We are looking forward to a correction of the secret path for advisory board members announced by County Manager Tom Stolz. All appointed advisory board members qualification should likewise be posted.

Thank you for allowing me to describe what will be a severe error if not corrected. Please advise how the public will know members' qualifications before being approved.

Best regards and gratitude,

Kate Coleman
Coleman Science and Research LLC
drkatecoleman@aol.com
sedgwickcountyvotersdistribution
wichitacityvotersdistribution
sponsor4419

Name:

Cassandra Linnebur

Contact Information:

cassaundraaa@gmail.com

Received By:

This comment was received via the online form.

Subject:

Rezone Club Rodeo into City Limits

Comment:

Club Rodeo plays excessively loud music that rattle homes and keeps families awake until 2am, and we are over 1500 ft away from the facility. They are currently bordered by Wichita City Limits. We are asking that they are to be annexed into Wichita City Limits so they are held accountable for how they are affecting the residents surrounding them. We have been asking for resolve for over 2 years. This is CRUEL PUNISHMENT to allow a business to disturb family homes so they are unable to be in their own homes without rest. We have asked Commissioner Howell for help, but have not seen any solutions arise. Annexation would allow enforcement of ordinances that would benefit family residents, first responders and the community alike.