|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting**  **Minutes**  Monday, March 25, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.  *Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS* |

**Board Members in Attendance:** Judah Craig, Steven Burt, Jacqueline Kelly, Daniel Bateman, Kathryn Herzog, Joseph Dozier, Jim Reid

**County Representatives:** Sedgwick County Commissioner, Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County Sheriff, Jeffrey Easter, Sedgwick County District Attorney, Marc Bennett and Sedgwick County MAPD Senior Planner, Brad Eatherly

1. **Call to Order**
   1. Chair Judah Craig called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
   1. A motion was made by Judah Craig to approve the minutes. Jackie Kelly seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 4-0.**
3. **Public Agenda**
   1. No public comments.
4. **New Business**
   1. Sedgwick County Sheriff, Jeff Easter and Sedgwick County District Attorney, Marc Bennett begin their presentation on the process of prosecuting or not prosecuting marijuana and marijuana charges in Sedgwick County/Wichita.
      1. Tex Dozier asked, you mentioned only three states without public access to some kind of marijuana, which states have done reforms that have brought in law enforcement that maybe provide a model?
         1. Sheriff Easter responded, there's a model out of, I think its Kentucky and Ohio, that three years ago, we said if we're going to go this route, you need to look at how they did this there. But the fact of the matter is, it's already here because you buy Marinol that has the same effects. Just because you can't get high, that's a bad thing? But if you can get a pill that helps you with your pain because you're going through cancer, it helps you with seizures and those types of things but you can't get high on it. Isn't that what you really want, is medicine like that? We don't have the laws in place to try to catch up on that. Like Colorado's had to catch up and do some things. So we're looking at other laws when it comes to DUI.
      2. Judah Craig asked, so, you have to be 21 to buy it but there's seltzers with Delta eight and things like that. What's the difference?
         1. Sheriff Easter responded, I was just catching up on what the stuff actually is. We pass CBD and the labeling on it is it kind of contained less than point .03% THC and it's Delta eight. I think it's now on the Delta nine. But remember those types of things are manmade. So it's all chemically made. What legislators have done is they've taken one compound in there and said yeah, that's illegal. You have delta. But the labeling on it is less than point zero 3% THC. The other problem with this is that we legalize this stuff, oils and extracts. The labs have to have the capability to test it quantify it and our labs can’t do that currently.
         2. Marc Bennett responded, it’s only wonderful if it is controlled. If it's a free for all, than all the organizations can pay for it.
         3. Sheriff Easter responded, if it was totally controlled, and there was a cap on the THC amount then that's the path forward and the way for people to smoke marijuana freely.
      3. Jackie Kelly asked, I know Colorado when they passed it, there was all this stuff to get money from the bill as it came up to be so they could help enforce issues that fall outside of the law. What would be your response be to Okay, we're going to legalize it, but we're just going to make sure of the 3% THC and whatever percent of proceeds go on enforcement, and that will take care of enforcement problems?
         1. Marc Bennet responded, the first year sales had led to a precipitous decline or even a save neutralizing of increase in time that might have worked. But what they're seeing instead, like in Colorado over the course of that first year, yes but over the course of four years, pricing for products increased and so did taxes and they couldn’t keep pace.
         2. Sheriff Easter responded, I’m friends with the Johnson County Sheriff and the Sheriff in Fort Collins, Colorado, they received nothing for enforcement. And in fact, what they’re seeing for the tax dollars is for rehab. The rehabilitation services are in dire need of money and that's where a lot of the money's going through what they got off marijuana taxes.
      4. Tex Dozier asked, is that part of the top three states that are free-for-all vs controlled?
         1. Marc Bennett responded, the only answer to your question is they can’t have a serious conversation at the federal level.
      5. Tex Dozier asked, so let's say they don't allow or require labeling?
         1. Marc Bennett responded, they all require labelling.
         2. Sheriff Easter responded, it doesn’t tell you how much THC is actually in it even with a label.
      6. Tex Dozier asked, is there stuff separate that the legislature should do when we were having the 7.2 paid fee around? Hearing about how Lawrence some in the Douglas County and saying okay, we're not in agreement on this. How does that shape up here since that has passed in Wichita?
         1. Marc Bennett responded, I believe there's a lot we could just do. There's going to be a lot of opportunities for cops to interact with people solely on foot. How many times have people in Wichita been issued a citation solely for marijuana? Nothing, they weren’t.
         2. Sheriff Easter responded, I’d be very surprised when they had a year where they didn't cite somebody for some marijuana possession because back in my day, in the 90s, that didn’t happen. So, if you’re going to do it, make it all the same.
      7. Jim Reid asked, earlier you mentioned things for Kentucky and for Ohio possibly had some examples of where the model may have worked better?
         1. Sheriff Easter responded, so that was two or three years ago when they were introducing legislation as well. That was compared to the legislation that was being forwarded in the Kansas legislative session so there was more checks and balances. I'm not here to help weed business so I have no idea. I just know that their proposed legislation had more checks and balances than the Kansas one did three years ago.
      8. Jim Reid asked, so you don't have any background on whether they were successful?
         1. Sheriff Easter responded, no.
      9. Pete Meitzner asked, did you want something from us or just education?
         1. Marc Bennet responded, just education. But I think it’s important to show up to public events like these and create more awareness for what we do and what we need.
      10. Tex Dozier asked, are y'all ever going to consider this be more state code direction? And let say the person applying for a job with you, has the only thing on their record is a marijuana possession, are you going to be considering that as well in the future?
          1. Sheriff Easter responded, yeah that’s not necessarily a disqualifier. We had to set a standard. We hired somebody that had a possession charge three years ago, yeah. Because we've looked at other misdemeanors that maybe they got diversion, those type of things and as long as they got conversion. I mean, you can look at those things. But you often change your internal policy to deal with it. Now when it rises the level of fentanyl and cocaine and methamphetamines that's a different story.
      11. Brad Eatherly being his presentation on the Zoning Case.
      12. Daniel Bateman asked, is this a normal billboard or an electric billboard?
          1. Brad Eatherly responded, right now it says it's 35 feet, one side is digital and we’re wanting to raise the other side to 42 feet to take the top off at a cap since the Kellogg overpass is an element of obstruction. So it would be digital.
      13. Tex Dozier asked, is that what’s necessary?
          1. Brad Eatherly responded, yes.
      14. Judah Craig asked, will adding the second digital sign have any effect on the residential zoning?
          1. Dustin (Applicant) responded, the lights are obese partially but it’s underdeveloped.
      15. Tex Dozier makes a motion to approve the zoning case.

1. Judah Craig seconds and it passes.

* + 1. Discussion/Housekeeping Items

1. We moved the Admin Building Plans topic to June
2. We suggested having the WSU/KU Bio Center or the 254 Corridor Update to the April meeting
3. We kept HOT with Steven Burt in July
4. Suggested going to Exploration Place to hear the Master Plan
   * 1. Tex Dozier asked, was the multi-use thing of the city that everyone had heard about? With seven new interventions?
        1. Steven Burt responded, it might be the GI Bill. Because the first bill got kicked out and off of the emergency shelter bill and reinstated as a new bill.
     2. Jackie Kelly asked, is the County invested in this project? Is this ARPA money?
        1. Pete Meitzner responded, no, as of now the County has been helping to drive that but the County doesn’t have any financial obligation.
     3. Steven Burt asked, so is the housing director publicly under the mayor’s leadership? How is this being funded?
        1. Pete Meitzner responded, she's got a lot of HUD expertise and it’s under the state leadership.
     4. Judah Craig asked, was the location an issue?
        1. Steven Burt responded, the location was probably not an issue for the people living in Canada, but it was an issue.
        2. Pete Meitzner responded, the city’s going to have the issue of where to build the MAC.

**Adjournment**

1. The District 1 Citizen’s Advisory Board adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be* ***Monday, April 15, 2024, 5:30 p.m.***  *at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS*