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District 3 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes

Monday, October 8, 2019
7 p.m.

Goddard School District
Conference Center

Board members in attendance: Lamont Anderson, Tom Hieger, Nancy Hinten, Pat Gaughan, Janice Manlove, Glen Shafer, David Wright

County representatives: Commissioner David Dennis, Tom Stolz

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Chair Lamont Anderson, 7:01 pm.

Approval of April Minutes – Nancy Hinten moved to accept the minutes. Seconded by Glen Shafer, passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of the Sedgwick County Strategic Plan Draft

Tom Stolz, Sedgwick County Manager has seen seven or eight strategic plans in his time in public service. Two county managers ago they were comfortable with the plan and didn't update it very often, Stolz believe that they should be revised every five to seven years. Three years ago, the previous manager hired a vendor from Denver to complete a strategic plan; the process was done in one month without community input or much department involvement. One year ago, Sedgwick County started over with WSU facilitating the development of the plan. Leadership wanted community and employee input; things that need to change, ideas on how to grow. The strategic plan helps the organization budget and plan for the future and makes sure that we are doing things for the community.

There are four main divisions to Sedgwick County: Administrative Services, Public Safety, Public Works, and Public Services. Ancillary divisions include Finance, Human Resources, and IT.

Stolz highlighted pieces of each division in the strategic plan then briefly discussed the mission, vision, and values, which include the term “innovation.” He noted that with innovation comes risk, and wanted input from advisory board members on their thoughts on implementing innovation in the County.

Manlove first had a question about EMS and veteran mental health patients, wanting to know if they are guided to take them to the VA hospital, or any hospital.

Stolz explained that they will take them to the VA, unless there is a crisis, they would then take them to the closest hospital.

Manlove then mentioned that she notices many ideas are developed when people are allowed to think innovatively, sometimes it is hard to stop though.

The County will look at best practices and see if others have tried what we want to do. It is risky to deviate from normal, but that is what innovation is for. When something fails, we have hard time letting go of it. We are trying to be innovative with the physician led EMS model.

Hinten shared that KAKE news talked about ICT-1, shared good data about the

Leadership just received a 60 day update and we will see where the data is at in 30 days and see if we want to fund it in 2020.

Hinten asked about Century II.

It is a regional effort, working on how it is going to be paid for. A public private partnership seems like the best way. There will possibly be a sales tax of some sort to help pay for it.

Hinten appreciates that they do the city to city visits to see best practices, and forward thinking.

David Wright said that trips like that catalyze thinking. Recently in his work, they finished a project/ plan like this where they discussed innovation and he appreciates that we are including a lot more data driven view.

Stolz added that he likes to see data to influence decisions.

Manlove likes to see Chairman out looking at more than just numbers.

Stolz said a number of the commissioners are out “in the weeds,” understanding what we do and how we can make it better.

Anderson referred to the economic development cluster, and wanted to know if we focused on too many or if the range of industries had been defined.

We have one central base which is aerospace, then agriculture, and we have started seeing more drone development and technology.

Gaughn asked about the problem with Cornejo a few years ago and how the County responded to it. After that, he felt that the County had taken away some of the community's ability to see what the County's transactions were and becoming less transparent.

Unfortunately that case helped the County realize where we were vulnerable and policy change has come from that.

Gaughn doesn't think that the damage has been undone. He also wanted to know what could be done with housing/ zoning enforcement in the rural areas, especially trailer parks. There are a lot of vacant trailers, which are creating an unsafe environment, specifically one approximately three miles east of Goddard.

The County tried to get an anti-blight statute changed at the state level last year and was unsuccessful. They are hoping to try and get that through this year. Rural neighborhoods have grown in the county, and they are worried about the attractiveness of the property around them.

Manlove wanted to know if Farm Bureau had a problem with the anti-blight statute and asked if it was a slippery slope, not necessarily for farmers.

It was noted that every district in the county has some property that has health and safety concerns that need to be addressed, but the County is limited, unlike cities.

Gaughn said that the water supply in areas of county is expensive, and things that a county/ regional water system could be beneficial.

A regional water authority deserves a talk, planning for the future.

Gaughn also commented on the Human Services Division, having a conservative commission in the past that "dismantled" other public health services and we have not quite recovered yet. He also commented that the Health Department does not have or offer some of the latest vaccines available. He would like to see them look into some and try to get them at their locations, such as Shingrix which is a new Shingles vaccine.

Commissioner Dennis also commented that he would like to see the Health Department get the senior flu vaccine.

Tom Heiger wanted to know what would be the downside to merging Wichita Fire and Sedgwick County Fire District 1 (SCFD1).

The merger is very political, Wichita is Union and SCFD1 is not. Over the years, they have taken several steps to begin the process, such as a combined training facility and have planned a combined training class. In order to merge, they have to determine if it is going to save money and provide a better service. SCFD1 has hired Brad Crisp, a retired Wichita Firefighter to facilitate a merger at some level.

BOARD AGENDA

Citizens Advisory Board Members

Manlove mentioned that the 1A show on NPR will be having a segment at 9 a.m. on October 9 focusing on Wichita/ Sedgwick County's ban on wind energy conversion systems.

Commissioner Dennis commented that Wichita also passed zoning code for comprehensive plan; the same decision was passed with City of Wichita as Sedgwick County.

Comments from Commissioner Dennis

1. He was able to meet the Attorney General; they had a private round-table, and were able to ask questions.
2. Wichita Police Department received a grant for bullet analysis and didn't communicate that with the Forensic Science Center. He wants to know if they get grants for three years, how they are supposed to plan to continue the program/project when the grant runs out. How to plan or find continuation funding.
3. Governor Kelly signed SB130 (elections). Johnson County is against it; Chairman is worried that Kansas Attorney General isn't going to make rules for voting, and is dragging their feet.
4. WAMPO receives \$12-13 million per year from Sedgwick County budget. They recently hired a new director and Chairman thinks that he is bringing a lot of talent with him.
5. Jan Luth, Exploration Place President, is retiring soon; they did a national search to replace her and he is not sure if they have picked a finalist yet, there are two good options. Sedgwick County gives \$2.2 million per year for operating expenses and director salary, and \$3 million per year towards the building, which is nearly paid off.
6. Sedgwick County Park recently had two additions to it: an expansion of the Boundless Playscape and the beginning of the Sedgwick County Art Walk. These are both handicap accessible and the product of community partnerships with West Wichita Sunrise Rotary and the Wichita Arts Council.

7. In light of a recent article for the City of Wichita Council, Sedgwick County is revisiting its ethics policy and comparing it with Charter 68. This charter is for the procurement process; everything we buy and sell has to comply with the charter. We may need to tighten up the policy more. Last year the BOCC passed an ethics requirement that was verbatim of the Kansas Association of Counties. Commissioners often get invited for lunch or dinner. Commissioner Dennis, in previous positions, was not allowed to receive anything, including meals from others; he has continued that practice. The question now is with all of the events that commissioners are invited to, who should pay for them?

Manlove thinks that an expense budget should be allocated for official business.

Hinten said there is a difference between the value of a meal and what is charged.

Anderson said if there was an expense account, that we could be transparent with it, like the County's check register.

Wright said the issue is with the public nature of the BOCC.

Manlove suggested having an employee lottery with tickets that are given to the BOCC. Instead of the BOCC using them, give them to employees to attend and enjoy events.

It was noted that Commissioner Meitzner used to have a business contract with Sedgwick County Detention Center, and they weren't sure if that was still the case, this could also be something that would need to be addressed.

8. The Veterans Day parade will be 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 9. It starts in front of the Courthouse and ends at WaterWalk. There will be a ceremony at WaterWalk following the parade.
9. Next week, the State Board of Education is celebrating 50 years. The Board of Regents will be coming to Wichita.
10. There will be a community shred event Saturday, October 19, in the Coleman parking lot.
11. Next year is the 150th for Sedgwick County and City of Wichita; they are working on a joint celebration, including a float for the RiverFest Parade. 2020 will also include celebrations for 10 years of INTRUST Bank Arena, 20 years for Exploration Place, and 50 years for the Sedgwick County Zoo. (Note: the Sedgwick County Zoo will mark its 50th anniversary in 2021.)

Other

ADJOURNMENT

Lamont made a motion for adjournment, David W seconded. Lamont called the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 4, at the Goddard School Conference Center.