



*Sedgwick County...
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District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes

Monday, August 9th, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Zoom Online Meeting
Virtually

Board members in attendance: Adam Bosworth, Jamie Buster, Zach Day, Sara Dixon, Nalini Fraser, Philip Fraser, Maria Elena Gonzalez, Deb Gruver, Madison Shriner, Robert Simon

County representatives and speakers: Commissioner Lacey Cruse, Tom Stolz, Michael Fessinger, Susan Erlenwein

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Nalini Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A quorum was present.

2. Meeting Minutes from April 12th and June 14th (2 minutes)

After review, Sara Dixon made a motion to approve the April 12th minutes. Maria Elena Gonzalez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After review, Jamie Buster made a motion to approve the June 14th minutes. Philip Fraser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. EMS and Budget Discussion (37 minutes)

County Manager Tom Stolz started discussion on the 2022 County budget. He explains that budget conversation began in February 2020 and focused on COVID and market pay issues for County employees.

The recommended budget was given to the Commissioners on July 14th. A public budget hearing took place on August 5th and the second will take place on August 25th.

Tom Stolz explains a large adjustment focuses on employee reclassification and compensation.

Deb Gruver mentions her concerns for COMCARE and EMS staffing. Tom Stolz explains many positions will receive critical pay and that the Commission will hear a sign-on bonus policy on August 18th.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse makes a comment that it is important to retain employees while not making the County insolvent.

Deb Gruver asks a question about the County bond rating and morale. Tom Stolz explains that the bond rating is high and that the County is looking at creating an awards ceremony for employees.

Lonny Wright asks a question on Sedgwick County Fire District pay. Tom Stolz explains the County needs to look at a step raise system for fire fighters and other positions.

Tom Stolz started discussion on Sedgwick County EMS. He explains the County attempted to combine the operational and clinical sides of EMS by switching to a physician-led system in 2019.

Tom Stolz explains that a change in leadership for EMS was necessary and the process of selecting an Interim Director. A Citizens Review and Advisory Board for EMS will be shaped and an employee dispute/conflict policy will be presented to the Commission.

Chairperson Nalini Fraser asks Commissioner Lacey Cruse the best way to provide input on these topics. Commissioner Cruse responds with email.

Philip Fraser asks a question on the 4% pay raise. County Manager Tom Stolz explains that the County budgets one year at a time and creates a five year forecast.

4. Redistricting discussion (16 minutes)

Assistant County Counselor Michael Fessinger starts discussion on redistricting. Redistricting is a process where Commission districts shift in reaction to County population growth. Redistricting is done every ten years in Sedgwick County after the release of Census results.

Michael Fessinger explains County staff will present hypothetical redistricting scenarios to the Commission. The Commission will discuss these ideas in open hearings and vote on a scenario.

Michael Fessinger explains districts must be equal in population and compact. Software used by staff will utilize Census data to create legal hypothetical districts.

Chairperson Nalini Fraser asks a question on potential gap areas. Michael Fessinger does not believe any areas within the County lack Commission district coverage.

Robert Simon asks if economics play a part in redistricting. Michael Fessinger claims economic status is not considered.

Jamie Buster asks if there has ever been public opposition to redistricting. Michael Fessinger explains there is typically no opposition to redistricting.

Philip Fraser asks a question on splitting or merging districts. Michael Fessinger explains that there must be a ballot vote for the number of districts to change.

5. Land-Fill and Unsecured Loads Presentation (26 minutes)

Environmental Resources Director Susan Erlenwein starts a presentation on land-fill, litter, and unsecured loads. There have been many citizen complaints of litter along the highway and roads.

Susan Erlenwein explains the collection and disposal of solid waste to landfills.

Susan Erlenwein explains landfills within Sedgwick County. Some of these landfills run along the highway. It is regulated that property within a half-mile radius of these facilities must be kept reasonably free of debris.

Susan Erlenwein explains that the County has worked with townships for special cleanup programs. The County hosts many waste events.

Susan Erlenwein explains the safety issue of unsecured loads. An accident study found that road debris has caused more than 200,000 crashes from 2011 to 2014.

Susan Erlenwein explains current regulations for unsecured loads in Kansas and the City of Wichita. Steps are listed to potentially address the issue of unsecured loads.

6. Meeting Location Discussion (3 minutes)

Chairperson Nalini Fraser started a discussion on where the next meeting should be held.

Madison Shriner made a motion to continue with zoom and re-evaluate on a monthly basis. Philip Fraser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business (1 minute)

Sara Dixon invited other members to McAdams Park on 8/15/21 for a Wichita Urban Professionals exhibition softball game.

Chairperson Nalini Fraser made a motion to adjourn. Jamie Buster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Monday September 13th, 2021- Will be held over zoom at 6:00 pm.