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CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD, DISTRICT 5 – MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 5th, 2024, 4:00 PM

2937 E Oaklawn Dr., Wichita

Board Members in attendance: John Nicholas—Chair, Denise Meirowsky—Vice-Chair, Joseph Elmore, Bryan Porter, Rebecca Tang

Absent: Liz Loera—Secretary, Olivia Hayse, Brad Smith, Christopher Wyant

County Representatives: Commissioner Jim Howell, Elora Forshee—Emergency Communications Director, Tom Stolz—County Manager

Attendees: Faith Martin, Howard Hutchison, the Nollers

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Chair John Nicholas called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.**
2. **Invocation:** Moment of silence
3. **Flag Salute:** Members stood for the flag salute.
4. **Roll Call – Determine quorum**
 - a. John Nicholas, Denise Meirowsky, Joseph Elmore, Bryan Porter, Rebecca Tang
 - b. A quorum was not present.
5. **Public Agenda**
 - a. Faith Martin shared that many topics that are brought to the CAB by the public never make it to board discussion. She asked that the board add topics to the agenda for an upcoming meeting as the public brings them forward. She repeated her comments from last month’s meeting that the time/day of the CAB meeting is inaccessible to people and suggested that a subcommittee look into dates and times that would be better for the public.
 - b. Howard Hutchison thanked County Manager Tom Stolz and Commissioner Jim Howell for their support of the Veteran Providers Coalition and Vet-to-Vet Support Command Inc.
6. **Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2024**
 - a. Approval of March minutes will be deferred until the May meeting.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Emergency Communications Community Advisory Board—Elora Forshee, Emergency Communications Director**
 - i. Elora Forshee shared the following department updates:
 1. Staffing has improved significantly, particularly with pay increases
 2. Department went through renovation and computer system upgrade

3. Employee advisory board is active
- ii. Elora shared the following upcoming initiatives:
 1. Transitioning dispatching and call taking to separate functions
 2. Moving to discipline-specific dispatching
 3. Focusing on quality improvement and continuing education
 4. Collaborating with agencies for training in the field
 5. Creating third level of dispatcher
 6. Pursuing accreditation
 7. Hiring technology coordinator
- iii. Community Advisory Board
 1. Development of the board came from recommendations from Community Taskforce to Review Youth Corrections Systems Standards
 2. Department already has a Public Safety Advisory Board and Employee Advisory Board
 3. 13 members: 5 appointed by the Board of County Commissioners; 1 appointed by City of Wichita; 1 appointed by City of Derby; 1 appointed by Cities of the Second Class; 1 appointed by Cities of the Third Class; 3 at-large positions; 1 youth position
 4. Still taking applications
- iv. Questions from the Board and guests
 1. Howard Hutchison asked how Emergency Communications responds when calls are dropped or there is no one responding on the line.
 - a. 911 team will focus on verifying location and phone number first on every call; will attempt at least one call back
 2. Faith Martin asked what effect, if any, HB 2690 will have on Emergency Communications. (HB2690 would abolish the 911 coordinating council and establish a state 911 board).
 - a. Most likely will not have noticeable impact to the public
 - b. Funding will be increased to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and local call centers
 3. Howard Hutchison asked how Emergency Communications ensures that a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified officer responds to certain calls.
 - a. CIT is embedded across the system; Emergency Communications has a way to flag officers in the system as CIT certified
 - b. Emergency Communications can send ICT 1-5 or match the caller with community resources rather than sending an officer if that is appropriate for the situation
 4. Commissioner Jim Howell asked how many open positions there are in Emergency Communications.
 - a. 4 positions are open

- b. 9 people will begin in the academy on Monday, April 8th; the next academy class will be in June
 - 5. Bryan Porter asked what incentives are offered to help considering the stress of the position.
 - a. EMPAC Employee Assistance Program
 - b. Internal peer support team
 - c. Hiring bonuses
 - d. Gym reimbursement
 - b. Sedgwick County Strategic Plan—Tom Stolz, County Manager**
 - i. Tom Stolz shared background on the strategic plan and distributed documents for the board's review. Highlights include:
 - 1. 46 departments and/or elected offices to maintain throughout the County
 - 2. Document created in 2019; everything changed after COVID
 - 3. Current Commission is focused on core services; this will impact the next strategic plan
 - ii. Brookhollow Apartments update
 - 1. Competitive bidding process; down to two vendors
 - 2. Will be hiring in next couple of weeks
 - iii. County has been working on criminal justice reform, but there is still a long way to go.
 - 1. Working on refocusing Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
 - 2. District Attorney Marc Bennet would say that 90% of cases are tied to drugs in some way
 - 3. People are not put in jail for using/possessing marijuana unless they are accused of another crime

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Youth Mental Health update—Rebecca Tang**
 - i. Rebecca did some further research on mental health treatment for youth. She found several issues including inaccessibility, isolation, and cost.
 - ii. Rebecca shared that there needs to be a change in the system and wants to advocate for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for people with mental illnesses.
 - iii. Commissioner Jim Howell suggested that Rebecca present to the Board of County Commissioners. Faith Martin suggested that they hold a town hall meeting to get feedback from a broader audience.
- b. Planned Unit Development (PUD) at 13800 East Harry**
 - i. The Nollers are concerned about the PUD's impact on storm water in the area.
 - ii. Property owner is holding event on Monday, April 8th at 6:00 PM for community members to learn about the plans.

9. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Jim Howell

- a. April burn ban now in effect
- b. County working on addressing unclaimed remains
- c. Dam Jam being held in Goddard
- d. New CAB member Vaughn Fox will be in attendance next month

- e. BoCC/City of Wichita City Council had an En Banc meeting to discuss efficiencies and potential future consolidation of parks, recreation, and arts
 - f. Reinvestment Housing Incentive Districts policy coming to BoCC for vote soon
- 10. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM by Chair John Nicholas.**

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 May 3rd, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

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