City of Topeka

CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

The Citizen’s Advisory Council meeting was called to order by James Prout, at 6:00 p.m.

City Employees Present: LaToya Burnett-Martinez, Community Engagement Coordinator; Monique Glaudé, Community Engagement Division Director; Corrie Wright, Housing Services Division Director; Sasha Haehn, Neighborhood Relations Department Director; Molly Hadfield, Media Relations Director

CAC Members Present: 17 (see annual attendance ledger)
Other Attendee and Substitutes: 1

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Meg Sheehan, seconded by Rosie Prall, to approve the CAC Draft Meeting Minutes from September 5, 2018. The motion carried.

III. DNR STAFF UPDATES / COMMUNITY EVENTS

A. E-cycle will be held Saturday, October 20, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas Expo Center
B. Topeka Landlord Expo will be held Saturday, October 27, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel & Convention Center, 420 SE 6th Ave.
C. Historic Wood Window Restoration workshop to be held November 8-10 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Lunch provided) at St. Joseph’s Parochial School, 302 S. Van Buren Street. Visit www.topeka.org/planning/window-workshop for more information.
D. Basic Needs Town Hall and Open House presented by the Human Relations Commission of Topeka on Saturday, November 3, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in the Marvin Auditorium.
IV. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Westar Energy – Customer Care Services – Alison Lee
Alison Lee presented information on various Westar Energy programs available to assist low-income and disabled customers with their electric bills. Programs included: 12 Month Pay Agreements – customer’s total past due account balance can be divided into 12 installments; Cold Weather Rule – Service will not be interrupted if temperatures are forecasted to drop below 35 degrees within 48 hours of date printed on disconnect notice; Average Payment Plan – averages out bills over seasonal highs and lows to help simplify customer budgeting; Low Income Energy Assistance – Federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs through a one-time benefit; Kansas Weatherization Program – Federally funded program designed to assist families with weatherization to reduce energy bills; Project Deserve – a Westar Energy program funded by customers, employees and corporate contributions to provide emergency assistance toward energy costs for customers who have severe disabilities, older adults and income-eligible households; Customer Dashboard – Budget alert, Usage Spike alerts, Weekly/Monthly Energy Reports that can be delivered to e-mail or mobile phones at customer’s request.

B. Topeka Community Cat Fix – Lee Boyd
A nonprofit organization of volunteers that works with the public to trap, spay or neuter, and return feral cats to their colony. The goal is to alleviate suffering of homeless cats, improve their lives and reduce their population in the community. There is no cost for this service. For more information call 785-217-7151.

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2018 CAC 1st Annual Neighborhood Celebration Event
James Prout announced on behalf of the Boots on the Ground Committee that their committee was organizing this initiative to be held on Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at Cushinberry Park; SE 15th Street. The event will include free food, fund and safe activities for kids, bounce house, music, free parking and various other activities. Sponsors include Brown vs. Board Education Center, Hy-Vee, McDonald’s, Sonic, and City of Topeka. The goal of the event is to celebrate the NIAs and their work in the neighborhoods and to encourage more participation in NIA meetings and activities in each neighborhood. Sarah Douglas asked for other CAC member volunteers for the event. Teresa Miller agreed to contact local organizations about door prizes and donating pumpkins. Monique Glaudé stated that the City would post the event on NextDoor and City Social Media networks. Rosie Prall stated that she would inquire about volunteers from Highland Acres NIA. Please contact Sarah Douglas if interested in volunteering for this event by October 19, 2018.

David Holl made a motion to use McKinley Park for this event next year. Wanda Bean seconded this motion. The motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Teresa Miller, seconded by Linda Finch carried and meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the Holliday Conference Room.