

**City of Topeka**  
**CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, November 06, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**In Person; and via Zoom**

**Citizen Advisory Council Vision Statement:** “A community of neighborhoods illuminating collaborative models to foster harmonious and balanced neighborhood communities.”

**Citizen Advisory Council Mission Statement:** “The Citizen Advisory Council is a community of neighborhoods organized to forge available resources to empower, rebuild, and revitalize areas within the city of Topeka.”

AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTIONS OR DECISIONS	PRESENTER/RESPONSIBLE
<b>I. CALL TO ORDER, MINUTES &amp; AGENDA</b>	Susan McClacherty called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. October 2024 meeting minutes motion to approve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motion: Jim Edwards</li> <li>▪ Second: Debra McClelland</li> </ul> October 2024 meeting agenda motion to adopt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Motion: Jim Edwards</li> <li>▪ Second: LaBonna Speakman</li> </ul>	October 2024 minutes approved.  Addendum: DREAMS vote will not take place due to incomplete applications.	<b>Susan McClacherty</b> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i>
<b>II. PRESENTATION</b>	A. 2025 DREAMS Proposals Received and Proposed 5-Year Program Changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Received 2 Applicants for DREAMS 1.</li> <li>▪ Received 1 Applicant for DREAMS 2 Housing.</li> <li>▪ Received 8 Applicants for DREAMS 2 Projects.</li> <li>▪ Received 4 Applicants for DREAMS 3 Projects.</li> </ul> B. Summary of the proposed changes to the 2025 DREAMS Program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DREAMS 2 infrastructure projects will change from 100,000-1 million per project to 51,000-300,000 per project and no more than 5 projects annually.</li> <li>▪ At least 150,000 of DREAMS 2 and 30,000 DREAMS 3 infrastructure funding will be dedicated to contracting with an engineering firm to manage the design and implementation process for all DREAMS 2 &amp; 3 projects.</li> </ul>	If there are any questions email Bianca and she will share the questions with the group at the next meeting.	<b>Bianca Burnett, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator</b>

	<p>C. Recommended Changes Beginning in 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DREAMS 2 becomes an annual infrastructure program, combining infrastructure funding from DREAMS 2 &amp; 3 and continuing 180,00 dedicated to contracting with an engineering firm to manage all projects.</li> <li>▪ DREAMS 3 will become the Community Enrichment Program for service-based, anti-blight, or beautification projects utilizing CDBG funding ranging from 2,000 to 50,000 per project.</li> <li>▪ Housing rehab program is still in discussion.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>III. 2025 CAC LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS</b></p>	<p>A. Accepted nominations for the 2025 CAC Chair and CAC Vice Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nominations for CAC Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan McClacherty</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Nominations for CAC Vice Chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cole Mosier</li> <li>• Yvonne May</li> <li>• ShaMecha King-Simms</li> <li>• Dane Stephenson</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Susan McClacherty was elected for CAC Chair with 7 out of 8 votes.</p> <p>Dane Stephenson was elected for CAC Vice Chair with 8 out of 8 votes.</p>	<p><b><i>Bianca Burnett</i></b> <i>Senior Community Engagement Coordinator</i></p>
<p><b>IV. CAC UPDATES</b></p>	<p>NONE</p>	<p>NONE</p>	<p><b><i>Susan McClacherty</i></b> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i></p>
<p><b>V. DISCUSSION ITEMS</b></p>	<p>A. Remaining CAC Support Fund Options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The CAC identified the following organizations as potential recipients of the remaining Neighborhood Support Funds: Positive Connections Mobile Unit, Center for Safety and Empowerment (YWCA), East Topeka Senior Center, Papan’s Landing, LULAC, Mirror INC, OMNI Circle Workforce Development, Harvesters, Door Step, Let’s Help, North Topeka Outreach, Topeka Rescue Mission, Sunshine Connection, Critter Care, Breakthrough House, Tennessee Town outstanding trophy bill, Highland Park Fall festival, Tennessee Town Grandparent Appreciation, Yearbooks, Homecoming/Prom and Washburn Birthday.</li> </ul>		<p><b><i>Susan McClacherty</i></b> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i></p>

<b>VI. ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>A. CAC votes to allocate CDBG funds to the following organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Positive Connections – 10%</li> <li>▪ Sunshine Connection – 20%</li> <li>▪ Mirror, Inc – 20%</li> <li>▪ YWCA Center for Safety &amp; Empowerment – 10%</li> <li>▪ East Topeka Senior Center – 10%</li> <li>▪ Papan’s Landing – 10%</li> <li>▪ LULAC – 10%</li> <li>▪ Omni Circle – 10%</li> </ul> <p>B. CAC votes to allocate City Funds to the following organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Critter Care – 60%</li> <li>▪ Helping Hands Humane Society – 40%</li> </ul> <p>C. Plan B City funds allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tennessee Town Basketball Tournament Trophies – Fund \$500 bill.</li> <li>▪ The remaining funds will be divided equally between Harvesters, Door Step, Let’s Help, North Topeka Outreach, and Topeka Rescue Mission.</li> </ul> <p>D. Community Engagement will fund Washburn’s 170<sup>th</sup> Birthday.</p>	<p>Remaining allocated funds were voted on.</p>	<p><b><i>Susan McClacherty</i></b> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i></p>
<b>VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<p>A. State of the Community Event, November 7, 2024 Townsite Tower Ballroom, 7:45 AM-10:00 AM</p> <p>B. Community Engagement presents DREAMS recommendations to City Council, December 10, 2024.</p> <p>C. CAC Strategic Plan Retreat 5:30-8:00 PM. Meal will be provided. Location to be determined.</p> <p>D. City Council approves final DREAMS recommendations, December 17, 2024.</p> <p>E. CAC decided to move January’s monthly meeting from January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 8<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>NONE</p>	<p><b><i>Open to all CAC members &amp; Guests</i></b></p>

<b>VIII. ADJOURN</b>	<b>Motion to adjourn:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Motion: Jim Edwards</li><li>▪ Second: Yvonne May</li></ul> <b>NEXT MEETING: December 4, 2024 - HOLLIDAY BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR – 620 MADISON, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.</b>	Motion passes	<b><i>Susan McClacherty</i></b> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i>
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