

City of Topeka
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 5, 2025
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
I. CALL TO ORDER, MINUTES & AGENDA	Susan McClacherty called the meeting to order at 6:00. January 2025 meeting minutes motion to approve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion: Susan McClacherty ▪ Second: Cole Mosier February 2025 meeting agenda motion to adopt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion: Cole Mosier ▪ Second: LaBonna Speakman 	January 2025 minutes approved. February 2025 agenda adopted.	<i>Susan McClacherty</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i>
II. STAFF UPDATES	A. Community Engagement has moved to the Cyrus K. Holliday Building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A meeting space is available if anyone needs to meet with Community Engagement. B. NIA Support Funds Budget meeting was held prior to the CAC meeting. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the city website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAC and NIA support funding will be voted on at the next CAC meeting on March 4th. C. Community Engagement has purchased Strengths Finder 2.0 books and is available to each of the CAC members and your back up. The book includes an assessment that shows	None	<i>Monique Glaudé</i> <i>Division Director of Community Engagement</i>

	<p>you your top 5 strengths. We encourage you to take the assessment and share it with us if you are comfortable to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you like the assessment, it is an allowable expenditure through your Community Development Funding and can be used for the rest of your NIA officers to find out what their strengths are. 		
<p>III. DISCUSSION ITEMS</p>	<p>A. Breaking Down the Consolidated Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City applied and received two new grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency Grant. • Lead Abatement Grant. ▪ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is \$1,801,396. ▪ Home Investments Partnership Program (Home Grant) is \$489,315. ▪ Hurt Emergency Solutions Grant (HESG) is \$162,223. ▪ Governing body hearing will be the first week in April and will ask for approval the following week. After approval it will go to HUD for final approval. ▪ See recording for further details. 	<p>Carrie asked for feedback through a survey from neighborhood leaders. Would like the survey returned by March 1st.</p>	<p>Carrie Higgins, Division Director of Housing Services</p>
<p>IV. ACTION ITEMS</p>	<p>A. Consider all projects the City deemed eligible for the 2025 DREAMS 2 applications and require compliance with all application requirements or forfeit funding to the next eligible project (Total \$2,422,342.60).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion by Cole Mosier, seconded by LaBonna Speakman, to bring to the City Council two options with roll call voting of eligible members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Ask the City Council to allow the sidewalk projects to be funded and for Hi-Crest’s project design to have one side of road with sidewalks instead of both sides 	<p>CAC voted for option 1 with City Council’s approval. If option 1 is not approved, option 2 will be the final recommendation.</p>	<p>Susan McClacherty Citizen Advisory Council Chair</p>

which will reduce the amount, Historic Holliday Park, and North Topeka West projects. In addition, the CAC is recommending full funding for the East Topeka North street project and the remaining DREAMS 2 funds to be allocated to complete the worst portions of Valley Park's SW Shunga DR. mill and overlay. Property owner consent for infill sidewalks is to be contiguous (and if sidewalk support is not contiguous that portion would be cut from the design for the 2025 grant year).

- Option 2: If City Council will not allow the sidewalk projects to be funded, the CAC would recommend East Topeka North street project and the three Valley Park street projects be funded.
- Motion by Cole Mosier, seconded by LaBonna Speakman, was made to have all the property owner consent forms for the sidewalk projects turned into Community Engagement by March 17th. Motion passed. Jill Rice, Sandra Batt, Wayne Roberts, Dane Stephenson, LaBonna Speakman abstained due to a conflict of interest.
- Susan McClacherty moved, Yvonne May seconded to use the unspent funding from DREAMS 3 that was not applied for to be used for contingency purposes for both DREAMS 2 and DREAMS 3 excluding CDBG portion of the funding. Motion passed. Jill Rice, Sandra Batt, Wayne Roberts, Dane

CAC voted to use unspent funding from DREAMS 3 to be used for contingency purposes for both DREAMS 2 and DREAMS 3.

	Stephenson, LaBonna Speakman, Susan McClacherty, and Yvonne May abstained due to a conflict of interest.		
V. ADJOURN	<p>Motion to adjourn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion: Yvonne May ▪ Second: Cole Mosier <p>NEXT MEETING: March 5th, 2025 - HOLLIDAY BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR – 620 MADISON, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.</p>	Motion passed	<i>Susan McClacherty</i> <i>Citizen Advisory Council Chair</i>