

**Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m., Monday; January 13, 2020**  
**Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan**

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

- I. Welcome
- II. Election of 2020 NIA Officers
- III. 2020 Neighborhood Empowerment Grant, 2021 SORT Grant Applications
- IV. SW 12th Street Proposal Reducing Driving Lanes from Two Lanes to One Lane Update (vote)
- V. Lane Garden Update
- VI. Creating a 501c(3) Federal Nonprofit: Donald Fortin, NIA CAC Member
- VII. Ice House Historic Preservation Update
- VIII. Attending TopArts Grant Workshop on Jan. 25 (vote?)
- IX. SORT Infrastructure Projects Report
- X. Adoption of Agenda (vote)
- XI. Approval of November 4, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes (vote; pgs. 2-4)
- XII. Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports (vote; pg. 5)
- XIII. City Council Report: Karen Hiller
- XIV. Community Policing Report: Ofc. Matthew Wilson
- XV. Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez
- XVI. Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Report: Donald Fortin
- XVII. "Grocery Oasis" Group to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Presents Market Study Showing Viability of Grocery Store
- XVIII. Reports of Officers (pgs. 6 - 10)
- XIX. Old Business:
  - A. International Academy Update: Sandy Lassiter
  - B. Topeka JUMP, Momentum 2022 Updates: Joyce Revely
- XX. New Business:
- XXI. Kudos:
  - A. The Central Topeka Grocery Oasis for its Efforts to Establish a Full-Service Grocery Store in Central Topeka
  - B. Kudos from Attendees
- XXII. Announcements:
  - A. Living the Dream Events (pg. 11)
  - B. Neighborhood Relations Programs: (1) *Emergency Program*: Intended to help homeowners make repairs to immediate health or safety hazards, (2) *Accessibility Program*: Provides modifications to residential homes for owners or tenants with disabilities. For more info. or to apply, please call 785-368-3711.
  - C. TOTO first-time homebuyers' assistance program: The program helps low-income families purchase their first home through HUD funding. The program helps Topeka residents become homeowners by providing education, financing, and home rehabilitation by partnering with Housing and Credit Counseling Inc. For more info., please call 785-234-0217, ext. 317.
  - D. Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., March 9, 2020, Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan
- XXIII. Adjournment

Tennessee Town on the Internet! Website: <http://tenntownia.weebly.com> (all NIA meetings, activities posted) ●  
Nextdoor Tennessee Town: [https://tennesseetown.nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://tennesseetown.nextdoor.com/news_feed/) ● E-Mail: [tenntown@yahoo.com](mailto:tenntown@yahoo.com)

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Minutes of November 4, 2019 General Membership Meeting

Attendees: President Michael Bell, Vice-President Pat DeLapp, Secretary-Treasurer Sandy Lassiter, Christine Allen, Property Maintenance Officer Carlos Hernandez, Leroy Wedeking, City Council Member Karen Hiller, TPD Ofc. Matt Wilson.

Bell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Community Policing Report: TPD Ofc. Matt Wilson gave the report. He said there were three reports of low-level offenses and two reports of domestic battery. Discussion occurred regarding what might happen at 1034 SW Lane as the property owner recently passed away and the fire at 1117 SW Lincoln.

NIA Holiday Party: *Christine Allen moved that the Holiday Party be held from 1-3 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 14, 2019, at Faith Temple Church. Leroy Wedeking seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Fundraising Committee Report: Discussion occurred on the information provided in meeting packets detailing the committee's meetings. DeLapp said he has furniture, appliances, etc. available to use to raise funds. He suggested listing the items on Facebook and have an ongoing fundraiser.

*Pat DeLapp moved posts at Facebook/social media for items used for an on-going fundraiser, yard/parking lot sales, and the sale of food and candy as fundraisers. Christine Allen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Lane Garden, Mid-Block Lighting Update: Karen Hiller discussed the idea of a pollinator garden at Lane Garden and reestablishing contact with the Heeney family. Bell discussed meeting with new Shawnee County Parks and Recreation director Tim Laurent, including Laurent committing to Lane Garden maintenance and working with the NIA on bringing Lane Garden under the county.

Regarding mid-block lighting, Bell said work continued on a proposal involving City Manager Brent Trout.

Vacant Property Registration Proposal: Discussion occurred on information provided in meeting packets. DeLapp spoke on the fines included in the City's proposal. Options to the City's proposal were discussed.

Ice House Historic Preservation: Bell said he had approached Ice House owner Kevin Broxterman about making renovations at the Ice House to restore its historic nature. He said a meeting had been scheduled with Broxterman at 6 p.m. on Nov. 13 at World Cup Coffee to discuss how to move forward.

Withdrawal of Stormont Vail Proposal to Close SW Washburn for New Entrance, Parking Structure: Discussion occurred on information provided in the meeting packets. Stormont-Vail CEO Rob Kenagy withdrew the hospital's request to close SW Washburn from SW 8th south to SW 10th.

SW 12th Street Proposal Reducing Traffic Lanes from Two Lanes to One Lane Update: Discussion occurred on the SW 12th Street redevelopment project. At the Sep. 2019 NIA meeting Hiller spoke on the plan to return SW 12th to a "neighborhood street." through the Complete Streets policy adopted by the city council about 10 years ago. Bell said he had read the Complete Streets policy, which wasn't submitted to the public for approval, and it doesn't require that every project include the closure of traffic lanes. He said he felt betrayed because the expectation was to keep 2 lanes and simply make repairs and/or resurface SW 12th. He also objected to the process in place that led to the lane closure proposal, stating that if the public had been included from day one then the lane closure idea would not have been included in the proposal. Discussion occurred on the traffic counts done by the city, which showed decreased traffic. Many attendees didn't think those counts took into account peak-time traffic or how the bad condition of SW 12th had affected those counts. Hiller said nothing has been adopted and that she had been told that the proposal might come back before the city council later in September.

Bell said the City was holding a meeting on its proposal at 5:30 p.m. on Thu., Nov. 21, 2019, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th.

SORT Infrastructure Projects Update: Discussion occurred on information provided in the meeting packets. Bell said the City's Linda Voss had indicated that all street and sidewalk/curb cut projects would be completed soon.

Adopt of Agenda: *Allen moved adoption of the agenda as amended. DeLapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Approve of September 9, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes: *DeLapp moved adoption of the minutes as presented. Sandy Lassiter seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports: *Allen moved adoption of the treasurer's reports. DeLapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

City Council Report, Aaron Douglas Art Fair Report: Hiller said the Art Fair went well.

Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez gave the report. He distributed information on City programs. He said a "sweep" of Tennessee Town would happen after January 1st. Bell asked that information about the sweep and how to get help to address code issues be provided so that it could be posted at the NIA's website, at Nextdoor.com and emailed to his NIA email list. Hernandez said winter notices on painting allow time for warmer weather to arrive to enable painting.

Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Report: NIA CAC member Don Fortin was not in attendance. Bell said former Historic Old Town NIA President Sarah Douglas had been hired by Neighborhood Relations. Bell also said that the CAC, after initially committing to a NIA recognition ceremony, had decided at its October 2019 meeting to put it off by a year. Bell said he had informed the CAC and Neighborhood Relations that he would plan and stage the recognition ceremony, which is scheduled from 1-3 p.m. on Sun., Nov 24, 2019, at the library. He said the Hi-Crest NIA's Betty Phillips and former City Council Member Betty Dunn would be recognized in addition to the city's NIAs.

Accessing Community Resources Council's "Tier-Two Nonprofit Status: After paying \$100 for the Tier-Two status in 2019 without using it, Bell suggested that the NIA not pursue the designation in 2020.

"Grocery Oasis" Group to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Update: Bell said the Grocery Oasis group had been awarded a Kansas Health Foundation grant for \$12,500 to commission a market study to determine the viability of a grocery store in Central Topeka. He said a check presentation ceremony had occurred on Oct. 7 in front of the GraceMed Health Clinic, the site of the former Huntoon Dillon's.

Reports of Officers: Bell referred attendees to the information in meeting packets on the Central Topeka Grocery Oasis and the meeting with Habitat for Humanity regarding the use of its tool bus at the fall neighborhood cleanup.

Old Business: International Academy Update: Lassiter said things were going well.

Old Business: Topeka JUMP, Momentum 2022 Updates: Joyce Revely was unable to attend the meeting.

New Business: There was no new business.

Kudos: Pat DeLapp and Keep America Beautiful-Topeka/Shawnee County for Disposing of Abandoned Tires; Habitat for Humanity, Shiloh Baptist Church and Working Men of Christ Ministries for Efforts During Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Announcements: Neighborhood Relations programs, TOTO first-time homebuyers' program.

Next Meeting: The next NIA general membership meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Mon., Jan. 13, 2020, at the Buchanan Center.

Adjournment: *Christine Allen moved adjournment. Leroy Wedeking seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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Treasurer's Report for January 13, 2020 General Membership Meeting:  
2019 Operations/Communications Budget

<b>Tennessee Town NIA 2019 Operations and Communications Budget:</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Piece Count</b>	<b>Transaction Type</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1-1-19, 3-11-19	▶	▶	▶	<b>\$1,078.94</b>
6-19-19	302	Printing Newsletters/ Infographics	\$29.00	\$1,049.94
6-19-19	302	Postage Fees	\$74.97	974.97
7-25-19	1	National Night Out: Function Flatables (Bouncy House)	\$250.00	\$724.97
7-25-19	1	National Night Out: Bubbles Clown	\$150.00	\$574.97
7-8-19	1	State of KS Incorporation Fee (State Nonprofit)	\$40.00	\$534.97
10-19-19	1	501c(3) Workshop: Don Fortin	\$40.00	\$494.97
11-22-19	302	Printing Newsletters/ Infographics	\$29.00	\$465.97
11-22-19	302	Postage Fees	\$74.97	\$391.00
12-20-19**	1	CRC Tier Two Membership	\$100.00	\$291.00
12-20-19	1	Faith Temple Church (multipurpose room for Holiday Party)	\$200.00	\$91.00
12-23-19	302	Printing Newsletters/ Infographics	\$29.00	\$62.00
12-23-19	302	Postage Fees	\$74.97	(\$12.97)
<b>TOTALS:</b>	▶	▶	<b>\$1,091.91</b>	<b>(\$12.97)</b>

\*\*Estimated date.

Treasurer's Report for January 13, 2020 General Membership Meeting: Envista Account

<b>Tennessee Town NIA 2016-2019 Envista Account:</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Transaction Type</b>	<b>Deposit/Withdrawal</b>	<b>Balance</b>
11-12-18	Balance Check	None	\$139.47
11-1-18, 12-1-18, 1-1-19, 2-1-19, 3-1-19, 4-1-19, 5-1-19, 6-1-19, 7-1-19, 8-1-19, 9-1-19, 10-1-19, 11-1-19, 12-1-19, 1-1-20	Balance Checks: Dividend of \$0.01 paid each time	Deposit	\$139.62
<b>TOTALS:</b>	▶	▶	<b>\$139.62</b>

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Reports of Officers:

A. Broxterman Meeting Regarding Ice House Historic Renovations:

Bell and DeLapp met with Kevin and Keith Broxterman at 6 p.m. on Nov. 7, 2019, at World Cup Coffee, SW 21st and Washburn. The three discussed changes to the building, including removing about 5 feet of the top story and the support roof. Kevin said he had a set of plans for work to be done.

Discussion occurred on finding grants. DeLapp said grant money would be easier to find if the Broxterman's were a nonprofit. The Pioneer Group's Rick Cready was mentioned as a source for funds.

B. Tennessee Town Historic Survey Meeting:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended a meeting with Tim Paris and City planning department staff at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 13, 2019, at the First Church of the Nazarene. A binder with information on the survey was provided. Discussion included the appearance of houses, how to qualify for the National Historic Register (has a property maintained its character/integrity?), and what qualifies as a historic district (houses less than 50 years old hurt ratings, interiors need to be largely historic, it's up to property owners to initiate the historic designation process).

C. NIA Support Budget Meeting:

Bell and DeLapp met with Neighborhood Relations' Latoya Martinez at 3 p.m. on Nov. 21, 2019, at Neighborhood Relations. Binders detailing the NIA's 2020 Operations/Communications budget and guidelines were distributed.

Discussion occurred on:

- The 2020 Neighborhood Empowerment Grant (which Tennessee Town now qualifies for as its SORT designation ends in 2019)
- When Tennessee Town could qualify to apply again for the SORT grant (Martinez said she would check)
- NIA bylaws (update done in 2019; updates don't have to occur yearly)
- State nonprofit status (\$40 deducted each year; Neighborhood Relations completes the paperwork)
- FEIN (Federal Employer ID Number) provided to NIAs
- Tennessee Town NIA will receive \$983.02 in operations/communications funds for 2020 (down from \$1,078.94 for 2019). Funding based on number of households in each NIA. NIAs now send invoices to Neighborhood Relations' Sarah Douglas, Neighborhood Relations pays them, deducts the fees from op's/comm's accounts and sends NIAs "receipts."
- There will be no spring City-sponsored cleanup in 2020. Residents can put at the curb one large item per week and up to 15 bags of "yard waste."
- A neighborhood inventory list provided by Neighborhood Relations should be completed by Dec. 20, 2019.

D. Grocery Oasis Meetings:

Bell attended meetings on Nov. 22, Dec. 5 and Dec. 30, 2019. Tennessee Town's Joyce Revelly and Pastor Harry Christian also are involved in the group.

Discussions occurred on:

- Nationwide models for addressing food deserts
- How to “sell” the completed market study to potential grocers
- Independent grocers
- Possible grocery store sites
- The group’s expectations of local government
- Possible impact of City’s 12th Street proposal on store sites
- Presenting low- to moderate-income information as an addendum to the completed market study
- Next steps

E. NIA Recognition Ceremony:

Bell and DeLapp attended the ceremony, held at 1 p.m. on Sun., Nov. 24, 2019, at the library. CAC member Don Fortin also attended.

A PowerPoint presentation on the history of Topeka’s NIAs was shown. The Hi-Crest NIA’s Betty Phillips was specifically recognized for her 30 years of service to her NIA and the city of Topeka generally. Former City Council Member Betty Dunn also was recognized. Memories were shared by attendees about NIA service. Certificate PDFs for Phillips, Dunn and each active Topeka NIA will be forwarded at a later date.

F. 12th Street Reality Coalition Press Conference:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the Coalitions press conference, held at 1 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 7, 2019, at Faith Temple Church.

Here is the Topeka Capital-Journal’s Tim Hrenchir’s story:

**Group opposes reducing stretch of S.W. 12th to one lane**

By Tim Hrenchir

Posted Dec 7, 2019 at 5:53 PM. Updated Dec 7, 2019 at 6:55 PM

By planning to rebuild the two-lane S.W. 12th Street as a one-lane street between S.W. Topeka and Gage boulevards, Topeka’s city government is clearly going against the will of most people who would be affected, members of a recently formed grassroots organization said Saturday afternoon.

The 12th Street Reality Coalition revealed at a news conference that among those who responded to a recent unscientific poll conducted on the “Nextdoor” neighborhood social network website, 123 said they opposed that move while only 16 supported it.

“Arrogance and hubris are driving the City’s bulldozer down S.W. 12th and over the wishes of residents and voters,” the coalition said in a news release.

About 20 people, not including reporters, attended that afternoon’s conference at Faith Temple Church of God in Christ.

Michael Bell, who organized the event, said the 12th Street Reality Coalition was working to see that input from residents is respected and included in the city’s final plans for the project.

The city public works department announced last month it intends to rebuild S.W. 12th between Topeka and Gage boulevards — which currently offers two lanes of westbound through traffic — in a manner that provides one lane for through traffic and one lane for parking, bus loading, deliveries, trash, etc.

Those plans might be a done deal, as Topeka’s mayor and city council don’t plan to consider changing them.

City media relations coordinator Molly Hadfield said that body previously approved a Capital Improvement Plan that included the 12th Street project, consequently authorizing the city staff to carry it out in the manner it saw fit.

But Bell, who is president of central Topeka's Tennessee Town Neighborhood Improvement Association, said Saturday that the 12th Street Reality Coalition is working to convince the mayor and council — who oversee city manager Brent Trout — to revisit the issue and change the city's plans.

Coalition members also discussed options Saturday that included filing an injunction or a class action lawsuit.

Saturday's event began as a news conference but operated more like a meeting. The proceedings lasted nearly two hours, with everyone present being given a chance to speak. Thirteen people spoke.

Barbara Scott said she has lived in the same house on S.W. 12th Street since 1948, and hopes that street continues to provide two lanes of through traffic.

Bob Beers, a resident of central Topeka's Elmhurst neighborhood, said Saturday's conference was "about government run amok as it prioritizes its views on our lives over our views on our lives."

The 12th Street Reality Coalition's news release Saturday said, "The City did not invite the public to the table until it had already decided what IT wanted to do (expecting us to just sign off on it) and to this point in the process has been unwilling to seriously entertain the thought of compromise."

But the city made public engagement a "top priority" in carrying out the project, it said in a news release Saturday.

The design team for the project has held 22 group or individual meetings with more than 450 people, that release said.

It said design team members also attended three public meetings, including two hosted by the city and one by churches located in the area of S.W. 12th and Buchanan.

G. NIA Holiday Party:

Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the NIA's annual Holiday Party, held at 1 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 14, 2019, at Faith Temple Church. Chili, soup, cookies, and refreshments were shared by attendees. Bell gave the annual State of the NIA address. Joyce Revely presented on the 140th anniversary of the Tennessee Town neighborhood.

H. Grocery Oasis Presentation of Completed Market Study:

Bell attended the presentation of the completed market study, which was held at 1:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 8, 2020, at the Buchanan Center.

Here's the press release for the presentation:

The Central Topeka Grocery Oasis (CTGO), a group of neighbors organized to reestablish a full-service grocery store in Central Topeka, is proud and excited to reveal the market study commissioned to discover the viability of the grocery store.

**The CTGO will hold a presentation ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, in the first-floor conference room of the Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan.**



**The market study, paid for through a \$12,500 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) and conducted by Dakota Worldwide, shows that a new Central Topeka grocery store is viable.** The CTGO started 20 months ago with this mission: “To resolve the food desert/insecurity that exists in Central Topeka created by the closing of the Dillon’s grocery store.” The CTGO also has worked to establish a new grocery store in Central Topeka because it sees the store not just as economic development but also as community development because of the array of services that can be offered (check cashing, bill payment, money order, postal, and pharmacy services), the array of healthy foods that will make people stronger physically, and the importance a store holds as a place for people to socialize and become better neighbors to one another.

In addition to the completed market study showing that a Central Topeka grocery store is viable, the CTGO has been busy talking with those in the grocery store business about the study. The CTGO has been looking at locations for a grocery store in Central Topeka. The CTGO understands the costs associated with the choice of a site, the costs of construction, and the costs of running a store that meets the needs of our neighbors and Central Topeka visitors.

During the past 20 months the CTGO has met with and engaged area residents, City of Topeka policy and decision makers, the Shawnee County Health Department, local and state nonprofits, and other individuals and entities to achieve its mission. The CTGO will continue to encourage those and other individuals and entities to be involved not only in its efforts in Central Topeka but similar efforts across our city and county as 60 percent of Topeka is a food desert.

KHF supports those groups addressing food deserts/food insecurity. Per KHF’s grant, the CTGO knew early on that there also were economic and financial considerations to addressing those issues with a grocery store. To determine those considerations, the CTGO hired a consultant with KHF funds. Dakota Worldwide is well regarded in its field. The CTGO also consulted with the Small Business Administration of Washburn and Kansas State University and the Greater Topeka Partnership (GTP) to look at the economics of a Central Topeka grocery store.

The GTP, which serves as an umbrella agency for various local efforts that support economic development and quality of life in Topeka and Shawnee County, is serving as the fiscal sponsor of the KHF grant.

Here’s the Topeka Capital-Journal’s India Yarborough’s story on the presentation:

### **Study determines central Topeka could support a full-service grocery store**

By India Yarborough

Posted Jan 8, 2020 at 6:46 PM Updated Jan 8, 2020 at 6:54 PM

After the Dillons food market at 1400 S.W. Huntoon St. closed almost four years ago, residents of central Topeka’s neighborhoods were devastated.

“I knew it was coming, because me and the manager, Bob, talked a lot,” said Emma Ray, who was a resident of central Topeka at the time. “But it was like, ‘Oh my god. What are we going to do now?’ ”

Ray has since moved to another area of the capital city, but the longtime central Topekan makes a point to stay connected with her former neighbors.

She still attends church at Asbury Mount Olive United Methodist on S.W. Buchanan Street. And about twice a month she drives central Topeka families to grocery stores in other parts of town.

“I take them to Dillons on 10th Street,” Ray said, “and then I have to take them to Walmart to get their medicine.”

She said at first it was mostly elderly people who needed rides to stores following the closure of Dillons.

“Now, it’s getting to be anybody that comes over to the church and asks the pastor for my phone number,” Ray said. “I made a vow to do that because that was our store.”

Ray estimates that she drives about 20 families to grocery stores each month. Those who can’t make it to a store, she added, usually end up buying food from a nearby Kwik Shop.

But the tide may soon be turning.

Central Topeka Grocery Oasis, a grassroots group that formed in March 2018, on Wednesday presented the results of a feasibility study it commissioned to determine the viability of bringing a full-service grocery store back to the area. The study was paid for with a \$12,500 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation and conducted by Dakota Worldwide Corporation.

“The feasibility study does tell us that central Topeka can support a grocery store of 7,500 to 10,000 square feet,” said Marge Ahrens, one of eight members of Central Topeka Grocery Oasis.

More than a dozen city officials and Topeka community members met Wednesday afternoon with CTGO at the Buchanan Center to hear about the study and discuss next steps.

According to Marc Galbraith, a member of CTGO, the audience for the study is primarily grocery stores looking to locate in central Topeka. Grocery Oasis members noted, though, that it will take public-private partnerships and commitment from city officials to attract the right store — one that offers banking services, has a pharmacy and serves as a gathering place for area residents.

“This store is vital for more than just what it did as a grocery store,” said Clark Trammell, CTGO member. “It is an event. It is an important structure that moves this community upward and forward.”

Trammell said it is crucial for city officials to buy into the process of bringing a store to central Topeka.

“We need you to step up and do your part,” Trammell said, “so that when the grocery store comes to town and says, ‘I’m interested,’ we know who to go to and that everybody is ready to click.”

Attendees of the meeting included Mayor Michelle De La Isla, city manager Brent Trout, Councilwoman Karen Hiller, Michelle Stubblefield of the Greater Topeka Partnership, and others. De La Isla verbally committed to meet soon with CTGO members who are spearheading the grocery store initiative.

And there is lots of work still to be done.

A specific location for the grocery store hasn’t been determined, and neither has a store name or owner.

“We’re approaching everybody,” said Michael Bell, of CTGO. “Some already have a local footprint, some don’t.”

The study says the group needs to attract an experienced grocer, but CTGO is open to considering for-profit grocers and food cooperatives. They would also like to attract a store with a minimal carbon footprint. But above all, CTGO members argued, the store has to serve the community’s needs.

“What we have learned from today is ... that people are jumping on board to help us get to the next step in this process,” Bell said, “because I think we all understand the importance of having that grocery store back in this part of town.”

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Living the Dream MLK Day Activities:

According to the Topeka Capital-Journal, “The highlight of the week of activities will occur at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, when the annual scholarship and awards banquet in King’s honor will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 S.E. 6th Ave.

“The featured speaker at the program will be Billie Jean Young, an actress, educator, poet and MacArthur Fellow. Graduating high school senior scholarship and community award recipients will be honored.

“Before that, however, a number of activities will have taken place around the Topeka area starting Monday, Jan. 13, which will be “Respect for Elders and Preschoolers Week” in Topeka. Members of the Living the Dream organization and community volunteers will visit various Topeka preschools throughout the week, where they will take part in storytelling about the life and legacy of King. Members of Living the Dream Inc. also will deliver personal care items to Topeka-area senior centers.

“Among other special events:

- 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13 — A performance by area high school drum lines at Highland Park High School, 2424 S.E. California Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a \$2 donation for adults and a \$1 donation for students in grades kindergarten to 12.
- 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14 — The 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. poetry competition for students in grades 5 to 12 at the Antioch Family Life Center, 1921 S.E. Indiana Ave. Refreshments will follow the program.
- 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 — The governor’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. march will convene on the south side of the Statehouse. The ceremonial march will start at noon, followed by a program in the Statehouse rotunda. The speaker will be DeAngela Burns-Wallace, secretary of the Kansas Department of Administration.
- 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, Precious Moore, of the University of Kansas Health System, will speak to students at Capital City School.
- 2:15 p.m. Friday — Billie Jean Young will speak to male and female residents at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex during an assembly.
- 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20 — Student Recognition Awards program at Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, 610 S.E. Lime. The first-, second- and third-place winners of the 2020 art, essay and poetry competitions will be honored. Winning artwork also will be on display.
- 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 — The 27th annual Community Celebration of the Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. will take place at El Shaddai Ministries Church, 920 S.E. Sherman. The speaker will be Shanae Holman, lead organizer of the Topeka Justice Unity Ministry Project. A soup supper will precede the meal at 6:30 p.m., with freewill donations accepted.

“Additionally, participants will volunteer with various community organizations during the week, including Harvesters, The Community Food Network.”