

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday; September 9, 2019
Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

- I. Welcome
- II. Doorstep, Inc. Basement Flooding
- III. Stormont Vail Proposal to Close SW Washburn for New Entrance, Parking Structure: CEO Dr. Robert Kenagy
- IV. SW 12th Street Proposal Reducing Traffic Lanes from Two Lanes to One Lane Update
- V. Lane Garden, Mid-Block Lighting Update
- VI. October 2019 Neighborhood Cleanup, Habitat Tool Bus (vote to schedule dates, locations of two dumpsters)
- VII. Adoption of Agenda (vote)
- VIII. Approval of March 11, 2019 and July 8, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes (vote; pgs. 2-6)
- IX. Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports (vote; pg. 7)
- X. City Council Report, Aaron Douglas Art Fair Update: Karen Hiller
- XI. Community Policing Report
- XII. Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez
- XIII. Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Report: Donald Fortin
- XIV. Accessing Community Resources Council's "Tier-Two Nonprofit Status for 2019
- XV. National Night Out Against Crime/Basketball Tournament Reports
- XVI. "Food Oasis" Group to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Update, Closure of Other Topeka Grocery Stores and City's Growing Problem of Food Deserts
- XVII. 2019 Marks Tennessee Town's 140th Birthday (1879 - 2019): How to Celebrate?
- XVIII. Old Business:
 - A. Fundraising Committee Report (defer to Nov. 11, 2019 NIA meeting)
 - B. International Academy Update: Sandy Lassiter
 - C. Topeka JUMP, Momentum 2022 Updates: Joyce Revely
- XIX. New Business:
- XX. Kudos:
 - A. National Night Out Coordinators Emma Ray (Through 2018) and Shannon Keys (2019), Asbury-Mt. Olive Church (Through 2018) and Faith Temple Church (2019) for Successfully Staging the Event; Faith Temple Church for the 13th annual Tennessee Town Basketball Tournament
 - B. Kudos from Attendees
- XXI. Announcements:
 - A. 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.
 - B. 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.
 - C. Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., Nov. 11, 2019, Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan
- XXII. 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/ • E-Mail: tenntown@yahoo.com

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2019
Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

Minutes of March 11, 2019 General Membership Meeting:

Attendees: President Michael Bell, Vice President Pat DeLapp, Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Lassiter, Don Fortin, Marc Galbraith, Terry Pennay, Ryan Bishop, Pat Dean, Mayor Michelle DeLaIsla, Ali Lew, Albert Sipple, City Council Member Karen Hiller, Will Nalgas, Christine Allen, Leroy Wedeking, Will Nair, City Manager Brent Trout, Property Maintenance Officer Carlos Hernandez, Emma Ray, Nichole Revenaugh, Annel Limmeerman, Marge Ahrens, Daniel Hutchins, Mickey Burrer. Natalie Oyler, Rev. Joseph Clark, Keep America Beautiful's Philicia McKee, Nancy Heeney, Jon Heeney, Ryan Bishop

Bell called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m.

Topeka and Shawnee County Keep America Beautiful: Director Philicia McKee reported on upcoming group activities.

Guests: Topeka Mayor Michelle de la Isla, Topeka City Manager Brent Trout: Mayor de la Isla brought staff members to the meeting and chili/fixings. A wide-ranging discussion occurred:

- Marge Ahrens gave an update on the "Food Oasis" group's efforts to establish another full-service grocery store in Central Topeka. She said she does not feel that convenience store is sufficient and that there are monies in the community to sustain a grocery in a "food desert," possibly a food co-op.
- Mayor de la Isla supported the grocery store concept featuring healthy groceries but mentioned smaller "kiosks" as a possibility. Marc Galbraith and Michael Bell opposed the kiosk idea and hoped the City would partner with the Food Oasis group and its mission.
- Regarding accessing healthy foods, Ahrens said 24% of Central Topekans don't have vehicles and that many residents are low/moderate income. She also voiced concern that many do not have internet access making shopping that way difficult, in addition to delivery charges that might result. She also said those residents often don't have credit cards to pay.
- Concerns also were voiced about making SNAP available at food destinations. Big food companies sometimes do not accept food cards. Concerns were voiced that huge parts of Topeka were not valued.
- Conversation occurred about policing and citizen concerns.
- An auditor is being interviewed to report to the city manager and mayor.
- Bartlett and West did the SW 12th Street design, project to be funded with the 1/2 cent county sales tax and GO bonds.

NIA Executive Committee Meeting with Mayor de la Isla Report: Bell gave the report of the Feb. 28 meeting. The customer service city employees provide to residents, the Food Oasis group's efforts to establish another full-service grocery store in Central Topeka and food deserts generally, housing (including the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, selling houses for a \$1 to promote rehabilitation efforts and tiny houses), economic development in NIAs, and increased citizen involvement in the processes that affect them were discussed.

City Council Report, Lane Garden Update: Karen Hiller gave the reports. She said work involving herself, the family of Lane Garden patron Marge Heeney, and Bell had led to the idea of establishing a pollinator garden at the site. The garden would include native plants in a natural garden. She said Nancy and John Heeney would set up maintenance. A presentation by Nancy Heeney suggested that pollinator gardens help with the ecology and environment. Also, Mother Nature announced Mother's News Fair. Volunteers can help in stages doing things like seed planting.

Community Policing Report: The number of crimes are still low.

Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez gave the report.

Citizens Advisory Council Report: Don Fortin gave the report. He said the group now is meeting on the first Wednesday of each month except January, July, August and December. Fortin said elections had been held resulting in the same chair and vice-chair.

Adoption of Agenda: *Christine Allen moved to adopt the agenda. Pat DeLapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Approval of January 14, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes: *DeLapp moved approval. Christine Allen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports: Emma Ray moved acceptance. Joyce Revelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Pedestrian Mid-Block Lighting Update: Bell said funding may be available through the Kansas Department of Transportation but that applying for those funds would require help from the City of Topeka. He said he'd keep everyone updated.

SORT Streets Projects Meeting, Housing Rehab; Habitat for Humanity Minor Rehab; Brush Up Topeka: Bell, DeLapp and Lassiter attended the meeting, held at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2019, in the multipurpose room of Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln.

City staff from the Public Works, Neighborhood Relations and Planning Departments were in attendance to present on streets projects. Curb, in-fill sidewalks water lines, and storm sewer projects were discussed, as well as how alleys and streets figured in the plans. Regarding SW 11th St., mill and overlay and curb replacement where necessary was discussed. It was agreed that Public Works would meet with Doorstep, Inc. regarding the poor condition of the alley at the south end of its building.

Cornerstone of Topeka's Director Chris Palmer was in attendance and discussed the partnership involving Cornerstone, Stormont-Vail and Habitat for Humanity where Stormont-Vail will donate land it owns in Tennessee Town to Cornerstone for the construction of two duplexes in the first 1100 block of SW Lane and to Habitat for the construction of new single-family houses. Palmer thanked Tennessee Town for contributing \$75,000 of its SORT housing funds to get the project off the ground, which enabled Cornerstone to find other funds for the Tennessee Town project and to commit to an affordable housing project in another neighborhood.

Neighborhood Relations' Director Sasha Haehn also was in attendance and revealed that, after a slow start, all of the SORT housing rehab funds had been accounted for through applications. Bell thanked Haehn for approaching the NIA's SORT Committee with the Cornerstone-Stormont-Vail-Habitat proposal.

Regarding the Habitat Minor Rehab Program, Bell reminded attendees that they could still sign up.

Regarding Brush Up Topeka, Bell referred attendees of the information in the meeting packets.

NIA/National Night Out/Basketball Tournament Fundraising Committee Report: Bell referred attendees to the information in meeting packets.

SPCP (Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships) Council, District One Meeting Report: Bell referred attendees to the information in meeting packets.

"Food Oasis" Group to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Update: Bell referred attendees to the information in meeting packets.

Advanced Notice of Tax-Sale Properties Report: Bell referred attendees to the information in meeting packets.

Colored Women's Club Reopening, Brown v. Board Presentation, Topeka Black Leaders: Lassiter spoke on the reopening and the children at Faith Temple's Brown v. Board presentation. She said there would be a special area at the reopened clubhouse to recognize Topeka's Black leaders.

Doorstep, Inc. South Alley Meeting with Topeka Public Works Department Report: The meeting was set up to address poor alley conditions directly south of Doorstep. Public Works said it would try to identify funds, either excess SORT funds or other funds, to at least patch up the areas of the alley that were hindering customers as they entered and exited the building.

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

Old Business: Topeka JUMP, Heartland Visioning Updates: Joyce Revely shared information that on April 29 JUMP's Nehemiah Action public forum would address affordable housing, transportation, violence and predatory lending, and present on a 3-year study to make those areas better.

Old Business: Momentum 2022: Bell referred attendees to information in the meeting packets.

New Business: There was no new business.

Kudos: Bell thanked the neighborhood churches for their involvement.

Announcements: Brush Up Topeka, Cold Weather Rule, Kansas Gas Service's "Share the Warmth" program, Neighborhood Relations' programs, and the TOTO program were highlighted.

Adjournment: *Ray moved adjournment. Revely seconded the motion, The motion was approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., May 13, 2019, Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2019
Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

Minutes of July 8, 2019 General Membership Meeting:

Attendees: Pres. Michael Bell, Vice Pres. Pat DeLapp, Sec.-Trea. Sandra Lassiter, City Manager Brent Trout, City Council Member Karen Hiller, City Council Member Brandon Jensen, Keith Duncan City Engineering, Emma Ray, Christine Allen, Pastor Harry Christian, Carlos Hernandez Property Maintenance, Joyce Revely, Bobby Freeman, Jeff Lolley-Bartlett West, Linda Voss, Daniel Hutchins, David Bevins, Shelly Bedsaul, Teresa White, Pat Orr, Al Goodman, Leroy Wedeking, Donna Rae Pearson, Anisa Kidd, Donald Fortin, Shannon Keys

Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

SORT Infrastructure Projects Update: Public Works Department's Linda Vogel led the discussion. She said the projects would happen in two phases: sidewalks (which should be completed by Sep. 13, 2019) and water lines, curbs and gutters.

Proposal to Narrow SW 12th Street From Two Lanes to One Lane: Public Works Engineering Department's Keith Duncan led the discussion. A video presentation on the entire 12th Street project was shown, including bike paths, sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements. Duncan spoke about the "Complete Streets" concept, adopted in 2009, as a guide to proposing the reduction of lanes on 12th St. It was pointed out that how the concept is carried out (i.e. lane reduction) is a choice and not a mandate. Duncan cited decreased traffic counts along 12th St. It was pointed out that reduced counts didn't mean there still wasn't congestion at peak times. It was also pointed out that the reduced counts could result from the poor condition of 12th St. Questions were asked about plans for Huntoon (delayed until 2026) and how 12th and Huntoon work as one arterial directing traffic to and from downtown. Some expressed surprise at the lane reduction proposal as they expected a simple mill and overlay of the existing 12th St. Duncan said additional public input would be sought at future meetings.

Fundraising Committee Report: Deferred to Sep. 9, 2019 meeting.

Stormont-Vail Proposal to Close SW Washburn for New Entrance, Parking Structure: Bell said he had received an email from Stormont's Sarah Ahfeldt advising that the hospital was working on plans to construct a new entrance along SW 10th St. that also would involve a new parking structure across SW Washburn. He said the proposal would mean the closure of Washburn from 10th St. north to 8th St. and making Lane Street from 10th to 8th Sts. a 2-way street to compensate for the closure of Washburn. Bell said that Stormont had asked to meet with the NIA about the proposal but he had held off on a meeting to get more information on the proposal from the City's planning department. Bell said he had spoken with Planning Director Bill Fiander, who said his department opposed the closure as currently presented. He said he would keep the NIA informed on all future developments.

Adoption of Agenda: *Christine Allen moved adoption of the agenda. Leroy Wedeking seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Approval of March 11, 2019 General Membership Meeting Minutes: The minutes were not available for approval. They will be presented at the Sep. 9 general membership meeting.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports: *Revely moved acceptance of the operations/communications and Envista treasurer's reports. Allen seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

City Council Report: Karen Hiller gave the report. She said the city council was looking at code issued and the city budget.

Community Policing Report: Community Officer Parrett was called on a special assignment, therefore Officer Mike Burns gave the report. He said 15 crimes had occurred since the March 2019 NIA meeting (4 months). Many of the incidents were domestic in nature. Burns said our community officer will go back to patrol and that we'd then work with the field officer.

Property Maintenance Report: Carlos Hernandez gave the report. He presented a letter to survey issues of sanitation, inoperable vehicles and houses with code violations in Tennessee Town.

Citizens Advisor Council Report: Don Fortin gave the report. He said the group was working on SORT grant recommendations. Fortin congratulated Tennessee Town's past SORT grant successes before the SORT was officially established. He said this is the second SORT for Tennessee Town (2017-2019), in addition to other projects funded through the Consolidated Plan. Bell said he would appear at the next CAC meeting to discuss a recognition ceremony for the city's NIAs.

Lane Garden Update: Bell gave the update. He said there were 3 avenues the NIA was pursuing to settle ownership of the current Lane Garden so improvements can be made. First, he said a proposal had been worked on to present to GraceMed Health Clinic to adopt Lane Garden. Second, Bell said efforts were ongoing to make Shawnee County responsible for its failure to include Lane Garden in the city-county parks and recreation department merger. And third, he said the City of Topeka had been approached about donating Lane Garden to the NIA's state nonprofit. City Manager Brent Trout said he wanted details on a long-range plan to sustain Lane Garden.

Pedestrian Mid-Block Lighting Update: Bell said the City's planning department had been unwilling to help the NIA with completing a KDOT grant to access funding but that he would continue to investigate other avenues.

National Night Out/Basketball Tournament Updates: New NNO Coordinator Shannon Keys has coordinated efforts to have a noon - 2:30 p.m. time on Sat., Aug. 10, for games, a bouncy house, snow cones, cotton candy, and picnic. Police and Fire Department representatives will attend.

Sandra Lassiter said preparations for the 13th annual basketball tournament were going well

Accessing Community Resources Council's "Tier-Two Nonprofit Status" for 2019: Bell asked for grant ideas by July 31.

"Food Oasis" Group to Establish Another Central Topeka Full-Service Grocery Store Update: Clark Trammel updated information on a grant request for a market study. He said the group has not given up on a grocery store in the Central Topeka area and that the group has been meeting for about a year.

Old Business: International Academy Update: Lassiter said the children are on summer break with 3 dates for a bridge session.

Old Business: Topeka JUMP, Heartland Visioning Updates: Revely said JUMP now consisted of 25 churches. She said the recent Nehemiah Action assembled with 1,200 in attendance. Revely said JUMP was supportive of Topeka Metro to get an increase in funding to continue to extend evening hours. She said the group continues to work on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and gun violence.

New Business: There was no new business.

Kudos: Bell thanked Tennessee Town's churches for their neighborhood involvement.

Announcements: Neighborhood Relations' Emergency and Accessibility Programs, as well as the TOTO Program, were highlighted.

Adjournment: *Revely moved adjournment. Emma Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting: 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2019, Buchanan Center.

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting; 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 8, 2019
 Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

Treasurer's Report for July 8, 2019 General Membership Meeting:
2019 Operations/Communications Budget***

Tennessee Town NIA 2019 Operations and Communications Budget:				
Date	Piece Count	Transaction Type	Withdrawal	Balance
1-1-19, 3-11-19	▶	▶	▶	\$1,078.94
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
TOTALS:	▶	▶	\$503.97	\$574.97

***Fees for Community Resources Council's Second Tier Membership and State of Kansas Incorporation Fees (NIA's State Nonprofit) to be reflected on the Nov. 2019 report.

Treasurer's Report for July 8, 2019 General Membership Meeting: Envista Account

Tennessee Town NIA 2016-2019 Envista Account:			
Date	Transaction Type	Deposit/Withdrawal	Balance
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	Dividend of \$0.01 paid each time	Deposit	\$139.58
TOTALS:	▶	▶	\$139.58