

**Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m., Monday; September 13, 2021**  
**Multipurpose Room, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln**

***The wearing of facial masks will be required for this meeting to help to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Seating will be socially distanced.***

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

- I. Welcome, Distribution of Free Smoke Detectors and Batteries, 20th Anniversary of 9/11
- II. Community Policing Report: TPD Ofc. Matthew Wilson
- III. Adoption of Agenda (vote)
- IV. Approval of July 12, 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes (vote; pgs. 2-3 of this meeting packet)
- V. Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports (vote; pg. 4)
- VI. Old Business:
  - A. Grocery Oasis Update (pg. 5)
  - B. Abandoned Tires Update
  - C. Neighborhood Health Map Update
  - D. Fall NIA Neighborhood Cleanup
  - E. 2021 National Night Out, Basketball Tournament Reports
  - F. DREAMS Program, 2021 Goals (vote)
  - G. 2021 CRC Tier-Two Initiative Ideas: King's Court, Other Ideas (vote)
  - H. City Council: Karen Hiller
  - I. Citizen Advisory Council: Don Fortin
  - J. Property Maintenance (Code Compliance)
  - K. International Academy, Topeka JUMP, Momentum 2022 Updates
- VII. New Business:
  - A. Topeka Housing and Racial Equity Planning Group Discussions
- VIII. Kudos:
  - A. NIA Volunteers: The Backbone of and Reason Why We Do What We Do
- IX. 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, (3) *Property Maintenance Repair Program*: Assists with repairs for low-income homeowners who need repairs to bring their homes up to code and make the home safe, livable, and healthy. All eligible households must have an active property maintenance violation and be on the deed of the property. 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. Habitat's Aging in Place Program: Available to individuals living in Shawnee County, age 60 or older, living at or below 60% of the area median income. Must be the home's owner and currently residing in the home. Addresses basic repairs on homes, which reduces the need for critical repairs and enables seniors to live autonomously and with dignity in their homes. Shawnee County Advocacy Council on Aging partnership, business partners and community donors make program possible. To apply, please call Habitat at 785-234-4322.
  - D. Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., September 13, 2021, location to be announced (possibly Buchanan Ctr.)
- X. Adjournment

Tennessee Town on the Internet! Website: <http://tenntownnia.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 July 12, 2021 General Membership Meeting

Attendees: President Michael Bell, City Council Member Karen Hiller, TPD Ofc. Matt Wilson, Property Maintenance Officer Carlos Hernandez, Emma Ray, Leroy Wedeking, Judy Billings, Zachary Scott, and Donald Fortin.

President Bell called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Community Policing Report: Ofc. Wilson gave the report. He said that while crime was up in Topeka, including more shootings and more juveniles committing crimes, there was no crime spree going on in Tennessee Town. Wilson spoke on “Stand Up 4 Life,” a new grassroots nonprofit formed to stop juvenile gun violence formed in the California Ave. area of East Topeka. He said former perpetrators have been asked to be involved.

There was discussion on domestic violence crimes and the need to look for holistic solutions to crime.

Wilson said the legislative and judicial branches are catching up with the need to have mental health professionals available to assess and diffuse situations.

Emma Ray led discussions on excessive fines and how they don't lead to reforms.

There was discussion on diversion programs being successful in other cities to keep people out of the criminal justice system, particularly for those committing crimes for the first time.

Property Maintenance Officer Carlos Hernandez: Hernandez said his department is short on personnel right now. He said Tennessee Town is being toured right now. Discussion occurred on 1032 SW Buchanan and 1142 SW Washburn (the owner of the Washburn address is trying to get rid of the house). Discussion occurred on the garage at 1181 SW Clay, where donating it was suggested.

Adoption of Agenda: *Donald Fortin moved approval of the July 12, 2021 meeting agenda with the change of moving the property maintenance report to the second business item on the agenda. Zachary Scott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Approval of Minutes: *Fortin moved approval of the May 10, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Scott seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Acceptance of Treasurer's Reports: *Fortin moved acceptance of the support budget and Envista reports. Judy Billings seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

Fall Neighborhood Cleanup: *Ray moved to hold the cleanup from Fri., Oct. 22 through Sun., Oct. 24, 2021. Leroy Wedeking seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

*Fortin moved locating a dumpster at 1153 SW Lane and at 1195 SW Clay (SW 12th and Clay Streets). Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved.*

2020 Neighborhood Health Map Update: Bell led the discussions and expressed his concerns about how the data had been collected, including a report in meeting packets. Karen Hiller said she also had concerns about the health maps. Bell said he had voiced his concerns to planning and development staff.

2021 National Night Out Event: Bell said no one had stepped up to coordinate the event this year after the pandemic made SafeStreets cancel it in 2020. He suggested that the NIA do something related to what the event is about during the weekend of the neighborhood cleanup. The 1st Church of the Nazarene was suggested as a possible partner. Fortin said he'd like to see if the NIA could still hold an event on its Aug. 7 date. Bell asked Fortin to follow up with SafeStreets Judy Wilson to see if there was still time to hold an event on Aug. 7.

Old Business: City Council Report: Karen Hiller gave the report. She talked about the upcoming vote on the city budget and how the body was working not to implement a property tax increase. She also said that Neighborhood Initiatives Work Group member Mike Spadafore had expressed concerns that rehab program eligibilities had changed.

Old Business: Citizen Advisory Council: Fortin gave the report. He spoke on Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino's presentation on housing and health and Planning and Development's Dan Warner and his presentation on the neighborhood health maps. He spoke about the Enhancement Program, which he and Bell are working on as CAC members, and the CAC ordinance revisions that had been brought back to the body for clarifications.

Old Business: International Academy, Topeka JUMP, Momentum 2022 Updates: There were no reports.

Kudos: Surviving the pandemic: kudos to us all.

Announcements: Neighborhood Relations Programs, TOTO first-time homebuyers' assistance program, and Habitat's Aging in Place Program.

Next Meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mon., Sep. 13, 2021, location to be announced (probably Faith Temple).

Adjournment: Fortin moved adjournment. Ray seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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Treasurer's Reports for Sep. 13, 2021 General Membership Meeting:

<b>Tennessee Town NIA 2021 Operations and Communications Budget:</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Piece Count</b>	<b>Transaction Type</b>	<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>Balance</b>
1-1-21	▶	▶	▶	<b>\$983.02 (same as 2020)</b>
1-4-21	302	Printing of Meeting Notice Cards	\$28.10	<b>\$954.92</b>
1-4-21	302	Postage for Meeting Notice Cards	\$78.52	<b>\$876.40</b>
2-17-21	302	Printing of Meeting Notice Cards	\$28.10	<b>\$848.30</b>
2-17-21	302	Postage for Meeting Notice Cards	\$78.52	<b>\$769.78</b>
4-19-21	302	Printing of Meeting Notice Cards	\$28.10	<b>\$741.68</b>
4-19-21	302	Postage for Meeting Notice Cards	\$78.52	<b>\$663.16</b>
6-7-21	1	KS Annual Incorporation Fees	\$40.00	<b>\$623.16</b>
6-21-21	302	Printing of Meeting Notice Cards	\$28.10	<b>\$595.06</b>
6-21-21	302	Postage for Meeting Notice Cards	\$78.52	<b>\$516.54</b>
8-23-21	302	Printing of Meeting Notice Cards	\$28.10	<b>\$488.84</b>
8-23-21	302	Postage for Meeting Notice Cards	\$78.52	<b>\$409.92</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	▶	▶	<b>\$573.10</b>	<b>\$409.92</b>

Treasurer's Report for July 12, 2021 General Membership Meeting: Envista Account

<b>Tennessee Town NIA 2016-2021 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
First of the month going through 9-1-21	Balance Checks: Dividend of \$0.01 paid each time	Deposit	\$139.81
1-15-20	Cash Donation: Michael Bell (to keep account open)	Deposit	\$5.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	▶	▶	<b>\$144.81</b>

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Grocery Oasis Update:

The Central Topeka Grocery Oasis (CTGO), a group of neighbors organized more than three years ago to reestablish a full-service grocery store in Central Topeka, is proud and excited to announce that it has welcomed to its board of directors two new members and an intern who will help the group to achieve its goals.

The two new board members are Kathleen Link and Tobias Schlingensiepen. Link is the executive director of Positive Connections, which provides case management services for people living with HIV and AIDS. Link has been at Positive Connections for nine years and works with seven other staff members to serve the community. Link said that many of her group's clients live in Central Topeka and would benefit from the creation of a new grocery store.

Schlingensiepen is the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Central Topeka. He's also involved in Topeka JUMP, the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice and is a Topeka Police Department chaplain and is the state representative for the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

William Evans, Washburn Anthropology/Sociology major and member of the Washburn football team, has come on board as the CTGO's intern. Evans will survey Central Topeka groups and churches to clarify their needs and what they want for a neighborhood store? Evans is working with a professor of his, Jason Miller, on the construction of his work.