

Tennessee Town NIA General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 8, 2014  
Buchanan Center Conference Room, 1195 SW Buchanan

TENTATIVE AGENDA:

- I. Welcome, Housekeeping
- II. Adoption of Agenda
- III. Approval of July 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- IV. Reading and Acceptance of Treasurer's Report
- V. Reports of Officers, Committees
- VI. Community Policing Report: TPD Officer Matthew Blessingame
- VII. Property Maintenance Report: Dennis Boyles
- VIII. Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Report: Donald Fortin
- IX. City Council Report: Karen Hiller
- X. Old Business:
  - A. National Night Out Against Crime Report: Emma Ray
  - B. Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Update
  - C. Tennessee Town Mural Report
  - D. International School in Tennessee Town Report: Sandy Lassiter
  - E. Tennessee Town as a Target Neighborhood for HUD Funds (SORT)
    1. Priorities, Ideas
    2. NIA Directions for Grant Writers
- XI. New Business:
  - A. Open Discussion
- XII. Announcements:
  - A. Silverbackks Providing Free Sack Dinners to Area Youths up to 18 years of age at 5:30 p.m., Mon. - Thu. at two Topeka locations, Central Park Community Center, 1534 SW Clay; and Hillcrest Community Center, 1800 SE 21st. For more information on Silverbackks, please go to the NIA's website (<http://tenntownnia.weebly.com>), click on "City Bulletin Board"; or to <http://silverbackks.org>.
  - B. Information Sessions on Topeka's Update to its Land Use and Growth Management Plan: Planning staff will share growth trends of the city and discuss strategies that will help Topeka grow in an economically sustainable manner in the future. Sessions to be held at 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thu., Sep. 4, Holliday Conference Room, Holliday Office Bldg., 620 SE Madison; 6 to 7:30 p.m., Thu., Sep. 11, Fellowship Bible Church, 6800 SW 10th Ave.; and 2 p.m., Thu., Sep. 18, sponsored by, held at the League of Women Voters' meeting, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. See post at NIA's website.
  - C. Next to New Sale: 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat., Sep. 13, Rice Community Center, 432 SE Norwood. Twice the Price Night, 4-7 p.m., Fri., Sep. 12, same location. For more information, please call 232-7765.
  - D. Next Meeting: Special Meeting on SORT Application, 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2014, Buchanan Center, 1195 SW Buchanan
- XIII. Adjournment

Tennessee Town on the Internet!

Website: <http://tenntownnia.weebly.com> (all NIA meetings, activities posted) ● Nextdoor.com: [https://tennesseetown.nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://tennesseetown.nextdoor.com/news_feed/) ● E-Mail: [tenntown@yahoo.com](mailto:tenntown@yahoo.com) ● Twitter: [@tenntown](https://twitter.com/tenntown)

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Minutes of July 14, 2014 General Membership Meeting:

Attendees: President Michael Bell, Vice-President Pat DeLapp, Secretary-Treasurer Sandy Lassiter, City Council-member Karen Hiller, Shawnee County Register of Deeds Candidate Melissa Crane, TPD Ofc. Matthew Blassingame, Joyce Revely, Ann Gilliland, Barbara Scott, Zachary Scott, Phyllis Phelps, Emma Ray, Donald Fortin, and Ron Lett.

Bell called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He advised attendees of various handouts at the front of the conference room.

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting were presented. A motion was made and seconded for approval as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

TPD Ofc. Blassingame gave community policing report. He said his hours are M-F, 1:30-9:30 p.m. and he can be contacted at 368-9260, ext. 3, or at [mblassingame@topeka.org](mailto:mblassingame@topeka.org).

There was no property maintenance report as Dennis Boyles wasn't in attendance.

Attendees were referred to Reports of Officers in their meeting packets.

Donald Fortin gave the Citizens Advisory Council report. He said the CAC elected officers at its March 5 meeting: Katrina Bayless as chair, Wesley Marshall as vice-chair. He said the CAC's attendance committee reported at its June 4 meeting on unfilled seats. He said Tennessee Town needs to select a CAC alternate. Bell said he would post at NIA's website. Fortin also said there were presentations on the city's planning department's community gardens ordinance (in process) and the recently adopted International Property Maintenance Code.

Karen Hiller gave the City Council report. She said the council is working on the city's Capital Improvement Budget. Bell asked her what her take was on council support for low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. She said she thought the current council supported those neighborhoods.

Tennessee Town National Night Out Against Crime Coordinator Emma Ray gave the report. She said contacts had been made regarding donations, talked about the \$250 stipend from SafeStreets and slated activities. She said there would be a "Stuff the Bus" activity where neighborhoods would win a pizza party for putting the most people in a Topeka Metro Bus. She also said the event needed volunteers. Sandy Lassiter moved to provide \$250 in NIA operations/communications funds for NNO. Joyce Revely seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bell gave the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant update. He said HND's Roseanna Haugen said initially there had been trouble setting up the review committee and setting a meeting date, but that a committee had been set (city staff, neighborhood members) and July 28 had been set as the date to review applications. Tennessee Town submitted an application for new playground equipment matting at King's Court.

Bell led the discussion on submitting an application for SORT funding. He highlighted the major housing improvements made in Tennessee Town as a SORT neighborhood starting more than 10 years ago. He said if the NIA wanted to apply to be one of the two SORT neighborhoods for 2015-2017, it would need to vote to do so, then it would need to vote on how it would put together its application (by appointing a committee or by doing it as a

"committee of the whole," where the general membership would take the lead). Donald Fortin moved to submit a SORT application. Pat DeLapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Fortin also moved to work as a "committee of the whole." DeLapp also seconded that motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Bell and Fortin agreed to write the NIA's SORT application.

The Housing Summit report, results of meeting notice cards and neighborhood goals were provided to attendees as handouts.

Attendees were reminded of the NIA's website (<http://tenntownnia.weebly.com>) and its e-mail address ([tenntown@yahoo.com](mailto:tenntown@yahoo.com)).

Sandy Lassiter gave the Tennessee Town Basketball Tournament update. Joyce Revely moved to provide \$150 in NIA operations/communications funds for a new banner for the tournament. Ron Lett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bell and DeLapp gave the report on the new Cornerstone of Topeka, Inc. house at 1231 SW Clay.

Announcements regarding a retirement event for outgoing TPD Police Chief Ron Miller and Project Elder Cool were made.

Next meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Sep. 8, 2014, at the Buchanan Center.

Phyllis Phelps moved adjournment. Joyce Revely seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Reports of Officers, Committees:

A. Final National Night Out Against Crime Planning Meeting:

Bell attended the final National Night Out planning meeting at 6:30 p.m. on July 15, 2014, at the library. The following topics were discussed:

1. Tennessee Town won one of the three \$50 bonds through CoreFirst Bank to use on NNO.
2. NNO received a \$500 donation for water from Target.
3. There will be about 600 cases of water available. Can pick it up at Safe Streets on Aug. 4.
4. All receipts due to Safe Streets by Aug. 20.
5. When sending out donation solicitation letters, remember to also send out Safe Streets' letter, which includes its FEIN (tax deduction purposes).
6. Rain date is Sun., Aug. 10. Must let Safe Streets know by Aug. 5 if NNO event will be moved to rain date. Judy will send an e-mail on this.
7. NNO kick-off lunch to be announced. Judy will send an e-mail on this.
8. Take up to 10 photos of NNO event, put them on a CD or flash drive, and get them to Safe Streets.
9. Be sure to take the names of TPD, TFD and Sheriff's office personnel who attend NNO event so they can be individually thanked after event.

B. National Night Out Lunch:

Bell, Emma Ray and Tim Dortch attended the lunch at 11:30 a.m. on August 6, 2014, at the Great Overland Station. The lunch was a part of SafeStreets' regular meeting. National Night Out neighborhoods were recognized, as was retiring Topeka Police Chief Ron Miller.

C. Tennessee Town Basketball Tournament, National Night Out:

All three officers attended, which were held on August 9, 2014. The Basketball Tournament started at 9 a.m. and National Night Out was held from 3 - 6 p.m. Both events were well attended and enthusiastically received. Topeka Mural Project artist Jason Needham drove in from Kansas City to attend both events, meet neighborhood people and discuss the mural he'll supervise on the south wall of WCW Property Management, 1238 SW Lane.

D. Meeting with HND's Warren Woodruff Regarding NIA Resident and Demolition of Garage:

Bell and DeLapp met with Warren Woodruff and an NIA resident at 9 a.m. on August 14, 2014, regarding finding assistance for her to tear down her garage at 1031 SW Buchanan. The resident is a senior neighbor on a fixed income and is seeking no-cost ways to satisfy a judge's order. As a first course of action, Bell agreed to identify a local demolition company to donate services to tear down the garage and place its remains in a dumpster that the NIA might be able to get donated from Waste Management or Shawnee County Refuse.

E. Meeting with Jason Needham Regarding Mural:

All three officers, along with NIA residents Karen Hiller, Joyce Revely; met with Mural Artist Jason Needham and Arts Connect's Sarah Fizell and Jamie Colon at 9:30 a.m. on August 16, 2014, at Faith Temple Church. All sat down to discuss the upcoming mural with a focus on Tennessee Town's history, then Sandy Lassiter drove the group on a tour of the neighborhood. Plans right now indicate the mural to begin either this fall or next spring.

- F. Meeting with HND's Warren Woodruff Regarding the International School in Tennessee Town:  
Bell, Lassiter and Dr. Betty Horton met with Warren Woodruff at 1 p.m. on August 26, 2014 at HND regarding the environmental justice piece of the FEMA application for funding the school. Woodruff provided much information to help complete said section of the FEMA application.
  
- G. Meeting with Dr. Betty Horton Regarding International School in Tennessee Town:  
Bell met with Horton at 11 a.m. on August 28, 2014, at the library to work on finding funding for the school. The two agreed to meet again to continue the process.
  
- H. Financial Aid Workshop:  
Bell attended a financial aid workshop at 1 p.m. on August 30, 2014, at Asbury-Mt. Olive Church. College-bound students in attendance were advised as to what they needed to do to prepare for college, as well as understanding and completing scholarship applications, federal student aid and the Clearinghouse application process.
  
- I. Executive Committee Meeting:  
The executive committee met via e-mail the weekend of September 6-7, 2014 to finalize the agenda for the September 8 NIA meeting.