

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in regular session Thursday, January 22, 2015, with ten members present: Vacant Seat, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Maddox, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Joe Connor, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Emerick Cross, Interim Commission Liaison; Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer; Mike Tobin, Interim Director of Public Works; Maureen Mahoney, Assistant to Mayor/Chief of Staff; Ron Stitt, Public Works; Charles Brockman, Economic Development; Debbie Jonscher, Assistant Finance Director; Ken Moore, Deputy Chief Counsel and Major John Cosgrove, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Holland.

INVOCATION was given by Sister Therese Bangert, Our Lady & St. Rose Catholic Church.

THE AGENDA for January 22, 2015, was presented. **Mayor Holland** asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. **Bridgette Cobbins, UG Clerk**, stated there is a clerical error. If you look at the Consent Agenda, Item No. 5, the reappointment of Mary Ann Flunder; dates should reflect January 22, 2015 through May 30, 2015.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

No items

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Holland asked if there were any set-asides on the Consent Agenda.

There were none.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve the Consent Agenda.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 1 – 140416...REQUEST: PURCHASE DEFIBRILLATORS

SYNOPSIS: Request authorization for the Fire Department to purchase 18 new defibrillators, with accessory equipment from Zoll Medical Corporation submitted by Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer. The purchase will require the UG to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement. The expenditure appears in the 2014-2019 CMIP Budget.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-2-15**, “A resolution authorizing the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to enter into a lease purchase transaction, the proceeds of which will be used to pay the costs of acquiring and installing certain equipment and to approve the execution of certain documents in connection therewith.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 2 – 140424...BUDGET REVISION: COMMUNITY AMERICA BALLPARK SCOREBOARD

SYNOPSIS: Budget revision request to replace the scoreboard at Community America Stadium, submitted by Mike Tobin, Interim Public Works Director. The \$250,000 increase is

available from the Dedicated T-Bones Stadium account. On January 5, 2015, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner Walker, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve the budget revision.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 3 – 140420...RESOLUTION: ENTREPRENEURS ENTERPRISES TAX CREDITS

SYNOPSIS: A resolution supporting an application from Entrepreneurs Enterprises LLC for Section 42 Tax Credits for the Armstrong Estates Family Housing Development, submitted by Charles Brockman, Economic Development. The 40 unit, \$6.9M project is located at 74th and Armstrong. The Local Review Committee has reviewed and scored the application and determined it has achieved the minimum points required per UG policy. On January 5, 2015, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner Walker, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-3-15,** “Whereas, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City. Kansas has received an application from Entrepreneurs Enterprises LLC, requesting support for the utilization of Section 42 Tax Credits for the Armstrong Estates Family Housing Development and Whereas, this estimated \$6,941,402 new family development will consist of the purchase of land and construction of 40 new duplex units, a community building, and amenities that enhance the project located at 7401 Armstrong Avenue; and Whereas, this family unit development project meets the minimum points required as set forth in the policy for LIHTC/Section 42 Tax Credit development as approved by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; and Whereas, on January 5, 2015 the Commission of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas set the public hearing

date for January 22, 2015; and Whereas, on January 22, 2015 the Commission of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas approved a Resolution of Support for Entrepreneurs Enterprises LLC, for the use of Section 42 tax credits for the project Armstrong Estates, a new 40 unit family project development.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 4 -140422...RESOLUTION: BUILDERS DEVELOPMENT CORP TAX CREDITS

SYNOPSIS: A resolution supporting an application from Builders Development Corporation for Section 42 Tax Credits for the West Village 55+ senior independent residences housing development, submitted by Charles Brockman, Economic Development. The 82 new unit, \$10.8M project is located at 735 N. 89th St. The Local Review Committee has reviewed and scored the application and determined it has achieved the minimum points required per UG policy. On January 5, 2015, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner Walker, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-4-15,** “Whereas, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas has received an application from Builders Development Corporation, requesting support for the utilization of Section 42 Tax Credits for the West Village 55+ senior independent residences housing development; and whereas, this estimated \$10,852,275 new 55+ senior independent development will consist of the purchase of land and construction of 82 new duplex units, a community building, and other amenities that enhance the project located at 735 N. 89th Street; and whereas, this 55+ senior independent 82 unit development project meets the minimum points required as set forth in the policy for LIHTC/Section 42 Tax Credit development as approved by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; and whereas, on January

05, 2015 the Commission of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas set the public hearing date for January 22, 2015; and whereas on January 22, 2015 the Commission of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas approved a Resolution of Support for Builders Development Corporation, for the use of Section 42 tax credits for the project West Village 55+ senior independent project development.”

Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to adopt the resolution. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 5 – 970013...APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT: BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

SYNOPSIS:

Appointment/Reappointment: Boards and Commissions

Appointment of Delores Elliott to Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Wide Advisory Council on the Aging, 1/22/15-5/30/17, submitted by Commissioner Walters

Reappointment of Mary Ann Flunder to Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Wide Advisory Council on the Aging, 1/22/15-5/30/15, submitted by Commissioner McKiernan

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

ITEM NO. 6 - WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

SYNOPSIS: Weekly business material dated January 8, 2015.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

No items

January 22, 2015

STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA

No items

ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA**ITEM NO. 1 – 150015... PRESENTATION: KANSAS CITY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AWARD**

SYNOPSIS: Presentation of the Kansas City Public Improvement Award – 2014 First Place for State Avenue Corridor Transit Improvements.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said last month at the Kansas Association of City Managers Conference our city was recognized for public improvements for cities over 50,000 in population. The project we were recognized for was the State Avenue Corridor Transit Improvements that were done along in our community. This was a joint project that we did with the Area Transit Association.

It cost about \$13.5M. It was done in part with a TIGER Grant that we received. The engineering on this project was done by BHC Rhodes as well as the construction was done by Meg and Amino Brothers. Many of you are aware of this project. It consisted of shelters, pedestrian improvements, landscaping, streetscaping and other amenities that make the transit experience more pleasant throughout our community. Our State Avenue riders serves about 2,300 riders per day. At this time I would like to recognize Irvin Jackson with our Transit Department to come up and receive the award as well as Wil Anderson with BHC Rhodes to receive this plaque. This is presented by the American Council of Engineering Companies.

I would also like to recognize Emerick Cross who is walking up with the camera but Emerick was very key and oversaw the project while he was serving in Transit during the time we were doing this project.

January 22, 2015

Mayor Holland said I believe that is the second award we've received each of the last two commission meetings. I look forward to what award we'll receive next week.

Action: Presentation of award.

ITEM NO. 2 –150016... RESOLUTION: REVISED CASINO GRANT FUND

GUIDELINES

SYNOPSIS: A resolution adopting the revised Unified Government-Hollywood Casino Grant Fund 2015 Guidelines, submitted by Joe Connor, Interim Assistant County Administrator. This item was presented and discussed at a special session January 8, 2015.

Mayor Holland said I will now recognize Joe Connor of the Administrator's Office to make presentation. I will also note this has not gone through the standing committee process. This has been a subcommittee of the commission and then a special session. We have not had public comment. If there is someone in attendance who would like to speak on this issue, you'll be able to do that following Mr. Connor's presentations.

Joe Connor, Interim County Administrator, said what you have before you tonight is a proposed resolution with an attachment that outlines the 2015 guidelines for the Casino Grant Fund. In part of the description it talks about the funding priorities, the grant requirements and restrictions, eligibility guidelines and the selection process and timetable for this year's process. If everything gets approved and goes through, the grants will be available for applications on Monday, February 9, 2015. I believe this accurately reflects what we've heard through the three person committee of commissioners and through the standing committee process on February 8th. If this is adopted this would enact us again for 2015 and get the process started next month.

Mayor Holland opened the public hearing.

Heidi Holliday, Rosedale Development Association, 1403 SW Blvd., said we have a letter being passed around and I'm going to read that letter on behalf of the organizations that have signed it.

January 22, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned respectfully disagree with the proposal presented at the Special Session to eliminate the review committee for the Unified Government - Hollywood Casino Grant Fund.

We respect the commission's authority to set goals for the fund, including broad geographic reach. However, we believe that an independent review committee maintains a needed high level of ethics and transparency in the process.

One of the challenges facing the commission has been equitable distribution of grant funds throughout the county, and we believe there are creative solutions to this problem.

We are concerned that by passing decision-making power directly to commissioners, the process will lose the transparency that it has enjoyed, creating the possibility and perception of misuse of power and funds.

We recommend that the commission maintain the independent third party review board in 2015, and work with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation or another third party to create a process for 2015 and beyond that appropriates grants according to the fund's goals and maintains the high standard of ethics and transparency for which the Unified Government has become known.

Thank you for your time.

Bethel Neighborhood Center
 BikeWalkKC
 Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
 Crosslines Community Outreach
 Cultivate KC
 El Centro, Inc.
 FreeWheels for Kids
 KC Healthy Kids/Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition
 KCK Farmers Market
 Kansas City Community Gardens
 Rosedale Development Association
 Rosedale Farmers Market
 Revolve KCK
 Shepherd's Center of KCK
 8th Street YMCA

January 22, 2015

Katherine Kelly, 10024 W. 55th St., Merriam, KS, Executive Director and Founder of Cultivate Kansas City, with offices at 4223 Gibbs Rd. and 1979 N. 2nd St., said most of you know us. We're an organization that works to promote local farming and urban food systems. I want to start by expressing my gratitude to the Mayor, to you as commissioners, to the Hollywood Casino and Kansas Entertainment, LLC for making the funds available to local non-profits. This is a pretty extraordinary pool of funds that we have available to our community. It's amazing to have funds that are dedicated to community health improvement through healthy eating and active living.

I want to offer my perspective that this pool of money was set up, focused and is distributed in a way that is pretty extraordinary and that needs to be recognized for its uniqueness. The focuses you all know emerged out of several years of community engagement and policymaker engagement that resulted in the recommendations for a better future. This fund is setup to add umph, to add some power to those recommendations. What it does is those fund enables us as non-profits to go out and to implement the recommendations that came through that extensive process. This is a progressive forward thinking high impact approach to addressing the community health needs that we all know are crippling Wyandotte County. It's a grant fund that every county in this area should be jealous of.

What concerns me about the proposal that is before you is that in seeking to address what may seem to be unequal funding levels across the county, you are going to inadvertently diminish the power of a comprehensive countywide approach. Setting it up as proposed really opens up the potential for the funds to be awarded, not on the basis of impact, but on the basis of geographic location. Health issues are not equal across the county. Some areas are more genuinely challenged. The issues around health, whether it's dietary health, physical health, general environmental health are dealing with issues that are much more intractable and long-term that may in fact require a higher dollar investment than other sections of the community.

Discussing the different health needs of different neighborhoods across the county is a set of discussions that needs to happen and needs to be done from a high level perspective of the whole county. The process as it is set up with right now with an independent review committee supports that kind of discussion and that kind of collective analysis in decision making.

I'm also concerned about the loss of the independent review committee. As it is set up right now, decision making occurs when a group of people come together once a year to look at

the grant applications and discuss them. The process ensures that they're focused on the goals of the fund; it ensures that they are looking at the capacity of the grant applicants to meet to fulfill those goals. It is as much as possible with any group of human beings a depoliticize process. It would be a shame to lose that objective approach. As a community member who has been both a grant maker and a grant applicant, I have tremendous value and respect for the transparency and openness of that process. I think it is really critical to the success of how we use those funds.

I appreciate how much you want that pot of money to be responsive to your individual districts and the needs of your districts. I really respect that. We all care very deeply about the health of Wyandotte County and we know the scale and scope of the issues we're facing down. I want to suggest and request that if you want to change the grant application process that you take some time to do it; that you do a fuller engagement of stakeholders. If you want to make changes, don't implement it for 2015 but look toward 2016. I think that the concerns you're trying to address are very legitimate and real. I am not as a grant applicant and as a community member convinced that that's the best way to achieve your goals. Thank you for taking the time for listening to me. I appreciate the work you all do.

Gil Pintar, 4178 Cambridge, said I attended today's Liveable Neighborhood's meeting and found out that this item was on the agenda. I just looked at the agenda verbiage and so forth during the day. While I salute all of you for getting these grant funds, as a grant fund applier you know I apply for as many grants as I can. After I looked through the document, a couple of things just struck me. I'm concerned with some of the language that says and I quote, "The highest consideration of funding will be given to programs or providers of projects that accomplish the following" and there's a list of items. The very first item says leverage additional funds both private and public.

I'm just getting one piece of that eligibility. When you look at that criteria, I certainly understand that criteria that you want to build a larger project with these funds. You want to do something on a larger scale if there are other funds available. Sometimes you can have a really great project whether it's in Rosedale or wherever out in the west that may not be able to tap into additional funds. All I'm pointing out is the way the verbiage is outlined right now it really focuses those monies. Like I said, I think if you could spend a little time whether it's for this

2015 review or future reviews, really think about the projects that you're keying in on these grant funds because I as president of my homes association may not be able to leverage additional funds.

Also, it seems to me since the adoption of the original resolution when I go on the website this is the third revision of that document. It seems like there has been a revision every year and while certainly when you brainstorm additional revisions and so forth it seems like when we get multiple revisions annually that we really need to be taking a really good look at those revisions and ensuring that there is this transparency for everyone throughout the county. It would seem to me that would be a good goal to achieve. Those are just two little comments that I have on the proposal this evening. Thank you for all you do. I appreciate having the opportunity to speak.

Teresa Clarity, 4042 Coleman Court, said I am standing as a concerned citizen. I too was at the Liveable Neighborhood meeting today and was just concerned that this item has been placed somewhere where there wasn't opportunity for public comment. My concern is just that there be light shined upon the whole thing and allow the community to offer comment as to where the funds will go and that the third party person or persons would be afforded the time to assess the need of the community so that the funds could be utilized in the best manner. I do thank you for all that you do. Keep up the good work. We're all counting on you. We all believe in you so thank you so much.

Ben Alexander, 645 Splitlog, said Free Wheels for Kids is located 1403 Southwest Boulevard. We do work across the county and I'd like to echo what Katherine Kelly and Heidi Holliday have said. We urge you not to change the independent review board process. We've been impressed the last two years with how transparent this grant process has been in comparison to other funding opportunities. I urge you not to change the transparent open and remarkably fair process that has been established in 2013 and 2014.

Commissioner Philbrook said I want to thank those that came forward and spoke because I've heard a lot more than—actually I haven't even really talked to any of you. I've heard more from

other folks that would like for us to retain the present manner in which we're doing it at least for another year to review the possibility of changing it then.

My thing with this is exactly what you said. I don't want to split up and I don't want to figure out what to do with \$45,000 by itself. I wonder if in my Eighth District I determine that I don't know El Centro needs to have the money out of everybody. Well, El Centro deals with people that live in my neighborhood too, but they are not housed there and the same for a lot of these other groups like the one for the kids with bicycles. They deal with kids all over the place and they're looking to expand. There are just so many things that these individual groups touch people throughout the community that I think sometimes we get, I don't know just focused on our own little areas. Don't get me wrong, all of our own little areas need help in a lot of different things.

I'm not ready to move forward to change this myself. There will be a no vote for me just so you know. I do like the third party look over at everything. I do like the fact that there are a lot of guidelines to follow for them. I don't want the commission to have to get together with a minimum of four to five people because anything over that is against the COMA regulations and so oh there are only these five people that are going to create this thing. It creates kind of a faction. I don't want to see that because we have all worked really well together even though right now I don't agree, but that's part of being a commissioner and standing up for what some of your folks say to you.

Commissioner Walters said I want to comment on a couple things I heard and maybe to repeat some of the conversations that happened in the special sessions that maybe some of the people who come in tonight were not able to see or hear. This is something that we've talked about for some time.

The goal of the revisions was not to overhaul the program; it was only to change the ultimate decision makers. The application process is the same; the vetting by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation is the same. Then, instead of an independent citizens committee it will be the Board of Commissioners. There's no reason it shouldn't be any less transparent than it is right now but it will also be accountable because commissioners have to stand for election and the citizen's committee does not.

There are no big criticisms of any of the decisions that the citizens committee made, however as I sat through the deliberations some things came to me that I thought were opportunities for improvement. One, a big one, is that when the committee reviewed applications there wasn't really any significant discussion about the area of the county that the participant practiced or provided those services to. Healthiness is a countywide problem and requires countywide solutions so one of the primary thrust of this modification is to try to make sure that we're addressing the needs of the entire county. Not to say that any commissioner has to try to keep all the money that they have discretion over within their district and I certainly don't expect to do that myself.

One of the comments from staff was that there weren't even any applications from the western half of the county let alone any actual grant recipients. We have suggested trying this as an alternative to the previous process. We haven't changed that the applicants have to be 501C3s so this is not a drastic modification but it is an attempt to try to tackle this problem on a true countywide basis rather than without consideration for location. We've talked about this at the special session. I thought we had a general consensus from all commissioners, perhaps we didn't, but with that I would like to move for approval of this change.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-5-15**, “Whereas, beginning in 2013, Kansas Entertainment, LLC, which operates the Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway has and will disburse a lump sum payment of \$500,000 annually to the Unified Government (“the Funds”); and whereas, under the Development Agreement between the Unified Government and Kansas Entertainment the Funds are to be disbursed at the Unified Government’s sole discretion to fund “Wyandotte County social services and charitable community activities”; and whereas, because there are many worthy organizations, programs, and facilities that could benefit from the Funds, the Unified Government Commission has determined that it must establish criteria and a process for the distribution of the Funds; and whereas, the Unified Government Commission in 2013 in Resolution No. R-7-13 established criteria and a process for distribution of the Funds and in 2014 in Resolution No. R-1-14 modified such process; and whereas, after receiving recommendations from an ad hoc committee of Commissioners Murguia, McKiernan, and Walters,

the Board of Commissioners wishes to further modify the previously adopted process for distribution of the Funds, 1. That the previously adopted Grant Qualification Criteria are hereby repealed. 2. That the attached Unified Government-Hollywood Casino Grant Fund 2015 Guidelines are hereby adopted. 3. That the County Administrator or his designated representative is hereby directed to take all steps and to execute all documents necessary to implement this Resolution. 4. That Resolution No. R-7-13 and Resolution No. R-1-14 are hereby superseded and repealed.” **Commissioner Walters made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Murguia, to approve.**

Commissioner Kane said well I came down here in a pretty good mood tonight and then I received this letter. The process will lose transparency that we enjoyed and creating the possibility of perception of misuse of power and funds. I made no bones about it. I want the fairground to get some of the money and I want the Piper School District to get some of the money. I haven’t hid it from anybody but District Five didn’t get any money before and they thought they did because the church that was on Parallel, Ricky Turner’s church, they said well that’s Kane’s area so he gets something. The people out west probably thought we’re not going to get it anyway.

We want a healthy community across all four corners. District Five pays a boatload of taxes. They are entitled to just as much money as any other district. It’s frustrating for me because the folks out there are going how did they get the money and you didn’t get any money. In fair representation across the board and trans—I’ve been here ten years and there’s no doubt in anybody’s mind on any project I’m ever working on, I’ll tell you exactly what I’m thinking, exactly how I’m going to do this and I’ve told the folks about this. So the transparency is there. If you haven’t seen it you should have. I was disappointed in how it was first done. In my mind we finally came up with a way that we can distribute the money clear across the county.

Commissioner Walker said I would agree with what Commissioner Walters said. I have not made any kind of statement about where I want to see the money go. I don’t represent a district; I represent the county. In all candor it’s clear that out of the blue this has been stirred up. I’m disappointed about the way that I think this was stirred up with the suggestion from people that

have called me today that some type of impropriety or political backslapping is at the root of this.

You know my intention initially was to not support this and I came to the conclusion that I had erred in my perspective because what became clear in talking to some of the—what would you call them, some of the less financially robust 501C3s that exist throughout the county is that they didn't apply last year because the nature of the process convinced them that if you were after a \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 grant, the likelihood you were going to get that was virtually nonexistent. I think if you look at the results of where the money was distributed, a good portion of that money ultimately went into projects, worthy projects, the process, the people were great but I don't intend to give money where the money will be eaten up by administrative costs.

Healthy lifestyles, I'd like to see a group that I don't think through the fault of anybody but themselves last year didn't get money for baseball fields for young kids to play on in the summer. I see the Kansas City Kansas Farmer's Market is on here. They would be a likely beneficiary in my view because of the healthy lifestyle. The idea that only six or seven groups get a big chunk of dough and a portion of that goes to pay the cost of the people who administer it troubled me a great deal.

I agree this is every bit as transparent. The decisions will be made publicly. They will be vetted. I am disappointed that groups have taken a stand on this when in fact we have discussed this process in at least two public meetings that are YouTube and UGTV. This didn't come out of the blue this morning at Liveable Neighborhoods. It came as a gradual process of discussion. At this point I have nobody that I have committed any funds to. I won't commit funds unless there is an application. Am I going to encourage groups to apply? Yeah, you bet. If you need a \$5,000 project in your neighborhood that meets the criteria, then that's more doable for a greater number of beneficiaries than a handful of larger ones doing worthy work but not necessarily to the exclusion of everybody else that is struggling along. The neighborhood groups that maybe want to add a little part of a trail in the Turner area is one that I am aware of, a baseball field renovation. There are worthy projects that don't require \$80,000 or \$100,000.

I will tell you that it is my every intent to look—I am countywide elected. Anywhere in the county for you out here and for those that are watching on television make your application and everybody on this commission will ultimately vote on approval of these projects. You're going to have to take a stand on them. I don't know how we'll end up voting, one by one or in

group or if we want to take one out because I can't support that group because of what they do but there will be a process in which the public will have all the same—you'll have more involvement in this process than you had with the independent review committee who vetted it, worked it and made honorable recommendation. There wasn't a person on that committee that wasn't an upright, honorable individual but I didn't see how they vetted them. I heard what they said but I didn't know what input they did. We're going to have input between ourselves up here for the public to hear as to why we either support or don't support a project.

Commissioner Philbrook said I have an administrative question. So if we end up instead of giving to four or five groups we end up giving to fifteen or twenty how much more time and money is that going to cost us to follow this. **Commissioner Walker** asked are you asking me. **Commissioner Philbrook** said no I'm looking at our administrator. I'm looking right at Doug. **Doug Bach, County Administrator**, said Mr. Connor has worked with Community Foundation on this. I'll have him address that.

Mr. Connor said the first year that we did this there were thirteen grants that were awarded. Last year there were seventeen just to give you some perspective on how many that are coming through. The Community Foundation will be the ones that will take the six month and the annual reports and provide them to us which then I will provide to you. Just like in the past and as a matter of fact we posted the annual reports on our website from the first year. The second years I have received, I'm working on. From that perspective, I mean you used the numbers of fifteen to whatever. That's kind of where we are at now.

My concern at the standing committee is that when you start getting into thirty and forty and if you want oversight, if you want site visits, if you want other things to happen with those reports that come in other than just reviewing them and posting them on the website, that's going to be problematic. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I appreciate that information.

Commissioner Townsend said I wanted to speak on this because at first I was not sure how I was going to vote. I was inclined to go along with the recommendation only to see how this was going to work compared to the one other year passed that I've seen this function. I see benefits on both. I like the fact that there was a third party foundation that oversaw the selection. If the

intent or one of the vocalized intent was to make sure that money was given to entities from all of the districts, I think that tends to maybe polarize. I hope it won't have a polarizing affect that's yet to be seen. On the other side of the coin as Commissioner Walker said it may enable smaller entities throughout our district and throughout the community to be encouraged to apply where under the older system they may not have. I don't know how this is going to work out. With that reservation I will vote for it but that's how I will be evaluating this. What will happen this time that will happen the last time?

The one thing that I thought though was misplaced or the criticism of the last methodology used meaning the third party was that people cannot be considered for funds if they don't apply. We do want people, the beneficiaries of these grants, to use them to be as beneficial to countywide as possible. Certainly there may be some districts and the needs vary who may receive more benefit than another but that shouldn't necessarily be the goal by district. The complaint cannot be said well, like they say in the lottery you got to be in it to win it. If you don't apply regardless of what district it's from, you can't be considered. I think that was maybe the fatal flaw under the previous system. With those reservations I will vote for it this time and keep a critical eye so that I can compare what I think benefited under these two systems by comparison.

Commissioner Murguia said so this morning I also received a number of phone calls from community groups across the county. I have to tell you I was pretty angry, hurt and flat out frustrated that a representative from our Mayor's Office attended a Liveable Neighborhood's meeting and insinuated that this entire commission would be tempted by dirty or corrupt politics. I am finding it incredibly difficult to respond to that in a professional manner this evening. I put my comments in writing to avoid saying anything I'll regret. In addition, as a Democrat in a Democrat county I thought I might use the words of a mutually respected elected official to get my point across tonight. This week we heard the State of the Union Address by our President. We also have had the good fortune of him visiting our wonderful state today. I thought it was fitting to let his words speak for me as my frustration tonight goes well beyond this one hugely disappointing incident or event. I'm hoping these words can repair the damage to this political body. I will modify slightly for a more personal touch. Our President said, "Will we allow ourselves to be sorted into factions and turned against one another or will we recapture the sense

of common purpose that has always propelled America” and Wyandotte County forward. I know how tempting cynicism can be. It plays on the fears of our constituents to imply dirty politics is occurring in Wyandotte County.

I share the President’s question to all of you on the local level. Will you allow this old school politics and tired thinking to drive every decision in this county? I think we must move beyond our sketchy past here in Wyandotte County. It’s a new day. Much progress has been made. You’ve said yourself we have a new form of government. Better politics is one where we appeal to each other’s basic decency instead of our baseless fears. A better politic is one where we debate without demonizing each other.

If we’re going to have arguments, let’s have arguments but let’s make these debates worthy of this body and worthy of this county. We may have different takes on many things but let’s deal with them in a professional, dignified manner. Not with unfounded personal attacks. That’s better politics. That’s how we start rebuilding trust here in Wyandotte County and throughout the rest of our country. That’s how we move our county forward. That’s what the people of Wyandotte County deserve and that’s what they should be entitled to. In the words of President Obama, let’s begin a new chapter tonight and let’s start that work right now. With that I’d like to call for the question.

Mayor Holland said well since my office was brought up I guess I’ll address that Commissioner. I also heard this morning that a member of my staff had been at Liveable Neighborhoods and had raised concern about this process. That was news to me and what I didn’t hear was that anything, any insinuation about corruption or dirty politics being mentioned. Certainly I don’t believe that. I know my staff member doesn’t believe that and if I thought that I would have brought—I’ve been in all of these conversations and I would have brought that up.

I’ve said from the beginning I have reservations about this. I’ve never implied that I thought it was dirty politics and too your point in terms of building bridges, if I had known you were this upset about this I would have asked that you would give me a call at some other time today so we could talk about it before it being a public issue that I had no idea that you were upset about. I’m sorry if there was any insinuation from my office in any way about dirty politics or corruption. I don’t believe that happened but I’d be glad to look into that.

Certainly, I can tell you as honestly as I'm sitting here that that's not been my concern. I will say that my concern, you've heard it twice before each of the times that we've brought this up, I prefer the third party provision. I did say that I heard a consensus among the commission and I wasn't willing to stand in its way and I stand by that today. I've heard people want to try this for a year, see how it works out. We tried the others for two other years and people want to see if this works better. I've said I have reservations about it but I think if that's the consensus of the commission, we do what we do.

I just want to publicly apologize if that insinuation was made and I would ask you if you have a concern about me or my office, please give me a call and give me a heads up ahead of time. I don't think we need to air this out in public unless that's your intent tonight. I'm disappointed that that happened tonight but it is what it is and its water under the bridge and I believe the question has been called.

Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan. Philbrook voted "no".

Commissioner Maddox said I'm a little concerned and I'm also going to do my homework. I know a few people that were at the Liveable Neighborhood meeting and I'm going to reach out to them. I really do hope that there was not a person from the Mayor's administration that was backslapping commissioners and calling them greedy. I do want to say this that in the northeast community for two years straight no 501C3 has received grant money and I would also like to say this, for any grant funding entity in this room I'd like for you to see how many grants have been wrote up on the citizens in the northeast community that have not reached them.

We're lacking services. Grants are always written up and we don't receive the funding. I know what it looks like to be on the other side of the coin where we are not receiving the funding. I really do hope that people are not going behind the backs of elected officials in the rooms with the people that vote for them and bashing them and they represent the Mayor of this city.

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

No items

January 22, 2015

Mayor Holland adjourned the meeting as the Board of Commissioners and reconvened as the Land Bank Board of Trustees.

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 140421... LAND BANK APPLICATIONS

SYNOPSIS: Request approval of the following applications, submitted by Chris Slaughter, Land Bank Manager. The Land Bank Advisory Board has recommended approval.

Applications-yard extension unless noted otherwise
 2104 Brown Ave. – Vincent Cade
 640 Orville Ave. – Adam Wittmer
 1729 Yecker Ave. – Morrislean Huggins
 3101 Waverly Ave. – Van Ervin
 2610 Ann Av. – John Smith
 2813 S. 37th St. – June Guterrez
 333 Haskell Ave. – Nicholas Hunter, property maintenance
 341 Haskell Ave. – Nicholas Hunter, property maintenance
 345 Haskell Ave. – Nicholas Hunter, property maintenance
 3425 N. 63rd St. – Michael Crosier
 1908 N. 5th St. – Jeffrey Hollinshed
 1949 N. Thompson St. – Jeffrey Hollinshed
 2909 N. 27th St. – Kaen Valee
 3516 Silver Ave. – Victor Lopez
 2935 Hutchings St. – Chris Williams
 2939 Hutchings St. – Chris Williams
 338 N. Valley St. – Jimmy Bryant
 1944 N. Thompson St. – Monica Marrufo
 3513 Silver Ave. – Joseph Alejandre

On January 5, 2015, the Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner Walker, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the Land Bank Board of Trustees.

Action: **Commissioner Murguia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve.**

Mayor Holland asked if anyone would like to pull anything off of the Land Bank Consent Agenda. There were none.

Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Murguia, Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan.

MAYOR HOLLAND
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:48 P.M.
January 22, 2015

Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

tpl

January 22, 2015