

# **Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability Issues**

## **Meeting Minutes**

August 6, 2018

5:30 PM

Members Present: Jessie Alvarez, Kendall McReynolds, Kim Dominic, Karen Greenwood, Don Jolley, James Echols, Valorie Wells Fenton, Tom Alonzo

Human Services: Maritza Fernandez

Members Absent: Cindy Crable (excused), Winfred Manning

- I. Call to Order at 5:35 PM by First Vice Chair Jim Echols
- II. Approval of minutes from July meeting – Karen Greenwood moved to approve the minutes; Valorie Wells Fenton seconded; Motion carried
- III. Presentations
  - A. Presentation by Edgar Galicia of Central Avenue Betterment Association (CABA)
    1. Pleased to be able to talk about CABA and the work they are doing. Request that we help them continue in direction they are going and help them bring more value to their work.
    2. CABA has been in community for more than 42 years, formed when Central Avenue business district was at its peak. Went down as the community aged. Neighborhood Betterment & Revitalization (NBR) creation helped fund them to stay afloat. Youth program for job placement remained. Parade also continued. Last year, 3000 participated in parade and surrounding events. 5 Years ago, they decided to do whatever they could to be viable in the community. Work with 7 neighborhood groups. Revised many areas including funding to make whatever they had as good as possible. Parade used to go 18<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. People were exhausted. Now 18<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> with festival at the end. Emphasis on bringing Community Pride. This is a challenge that has not been conquered. They were harder on themselves than outsiders. “If we are not proud of who we are, we cannot get others in to be part of it.” Revised student program – did without the job placement. Business should take responsibility for this and pay. Created a mentoring program for 14-17 year-olds to help them develop vision. Work with leaders to enforce and encourage leadership in a positive way. Give them foundation for making right decisions, creative process, how learning process works, communication, networking, how to find jobs, how to engage with other organizations e.g. chamber of Commerce, UG, Police department. Went from identifying skills and gifts to taking kids to high prestige restaurants to let them know they belong there.
    3. Recreated the whole project. Three members on the board five years ago. First challenge – Rescue Bethany Park. Bethany Park had become drug, prostitution, homeless, and trash infested. Now a viable park with children playing, people reserving space for activities. Scheduled activities – health fairs, futsal courts. Mission: increase the quality of life of community. Vision – Teach them to fish instead of giving them fish. Help people to stand on their own so that the community builds itself. Four areas: 1) Leadership, 2) Entrepreneurship – business incubator (La Plazita Market – every other weekend at Bethany Park) – kitchen/food based, 3) Business Excellence – Visiting in commercial corridor to build trust and help businesses. Check business promotions on FB. Teamed with Ft. Hays University to do business assessments. Now trying to get it through KCKCC (80% of businesses are Latino owned. 70% are debt-free and own their own businesses and buildings – 1<sup>st</sup> generation immigrants invest in equity.) created infomercial program – 3-5 minute videos posted on social media, 4) Healthy living – Bethany Park has new exercise equipment, cleaned and repaired playground, programming activities, Commissioner’s Cup Futsal tournament, Free wheels for kids – partner with bike stores to be a repository for donations of bicycles. 1) Learn to ride – at elementary schools: gliders and pedals competitions; 2) Middle schools: bring good used bikes – teach them how to take apart and put together, then they get to

keep the bike, 3) High schools: trying to create cycling clubs; Walking clubs – trainer at Bethany Park twice a week. Central Avenue has recreated itself by showing success to promote success.

4. Questions:

- a) Video program – is it on Facebook? Yes
- b) How about offering Spanish classes to English speakers? Have been considering this, and they could probably do this for groups.
- c) What has the new program with the KCPD done for CABA? At first it was difficult because of the perception of it being a crime-ridden area, and because the police traps were in front of the businesses. Police presence was desirable but it needed to be without the police traps. Also, the channels of communication needed to be opened up. At the end of things, crime did go down and the sense of security went up. CABA has access to the KCPD data, but if the people in the streets don't feel better, that's worthless. But people do feel better, and there is less need for police involvement in the community. The program has been extended, but more emphasis on community policing. Warnings went up, tickets went down. The program is working.

B. Event reports:

1. Fisher Park Accessible Playground Project - July 7 – Valorie Wells Fenton

- a) Had 6 designer renditions of possible configurations. People who came in were able to use colored dots to select the things they liked and didn't like. They will move into design selection process. Want to include sensory activities as well. There were also ala carte options. Rosedale Development Association (RDA) may have more funding and volunteers for hunting down sidewalks to nowhere. Particular challenge is the playground surface materials. Royals weren't interested in helping. T-00Bones and Sporting KC were suggested as possible donors for surface materials.

2. SOAR – July 15 – Measures report was presented by Kendall McReynolds. Maritza Fernandez said the event was well-attended.0

IV. Old Business

- A. KCKPD - KU Partnership on Youth Violence update - Kendall McReynolds - now called "ThrYve." Have selected a specific area of the city. 120 teenagers including rising 8-10 graders in zip codes 66115, 66102, 66104, and 66105, Schools include: Northwest Middle School, Wyandotte, and Donnelly Gateway Program, 50 organizations have come together to support healthy social, physical, and emotional growth. Don't really see our role in it.
- B. Special Committee on Law Enforcement - Jim Echols – Jim contacted KCPD early last week. Chief Ziegler is out of office. Jim believes we should allow the department to work through the CIU information before we put more on his plate
- C. Pamphlet - Jessie Alvarez – Valorie Wells Fenton moved to approve the pamphlet shared at the meeting with initial printing of 150; Tom Alonzo seconded; motion approved unanimously.
- D. Bio Templates - Maritza Fernandez – Webpage is ready. Maritza will send the link.
- E. Planning for November KC Metro Human Relations Regional Summit – Karen Greenwood – no report
- F. Table banner – Kendall McReynolds and Jessie Alvarez held up the banner. It will be used at the Night Out Against Crime.
- G. Review of Ordinance and recommendations – Karen Greenwood, Don Jolley, Cindy Crable – Don and Karen met before the meeting. They are going to try to get copies of other ordinances to see if they are consistent in leadership, and other aspects.
- H. Conviction Integrity Unit – Kendall McReynolds – Budget passed, but funds are currently being withheld pending State Attorney General response to police department challenge; We heard the DA's side, however, the other side is that only one person could possibly overturn convictions. DA Dupree is setting it up. Guidelines have not been set up. Jessie Alvarez has researched CIU's and typically they have clear-cut policies. They may be headed in the right direction, but it may be too early. Perhaps we should draft a request for more information.

Valorie Wells Fenton offered to develop an initial draft for Jessie Alvarez to review. Kim Dominic moved that we authorize Valorie Wells Fenton and Jessie Alvarez to develop and send an inquiry for more information. Tom Alonzo seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

I. Strategic Planning Graphic – Kim Dominic presented the graphic she created based on Jessie Alvarez’s flip chart from last meeting. This will serve solely as an internal reference document to identify how different projects meet our stated objectives.

V. New business

A. Upcoming events

1. Night Out Against Crime - August 7, 5:00-8:00 at the Armory.
2. Annual IDD Picnic in the Park – August 24, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
3. Central Avenue Betterment Association - September 9
4. I/DD Fall Training Day – September 11, 9 AM – 4 PM
5. Unity Day Event – September 12, 8:30 AM – 4 PM, KCMO
6. WCDDO Medicaid Training – September 21, 9 AM – 12PM
7. KC Metro Human Relations Regional Summit – November 13, 6-8 PM

B. Other New Business

1. We need to put a time limit of 15-20 minutes on speakers so as not to have meetings run too long.

VI. Adjournment – Kim Dominic moved for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM

**NEXT MEETING: September 10, 2018 - 5:30 PM**

**(Postponed one week due to Labor Day Holiday on September 3.)**