

District 4 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

Monday, April 11th, 2022 Zoom Online Meeting

6:00 p.m. Virtually

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jamie Buster, Ronald L. Colbert Sr., Zach Day, Nalini Fraser, Philip Fraser, Deb Gruver, Robert Simon

**County Representatives and Speakers:** Commissioner Lacey Cruse, Brent Clark

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Jamie Buster called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A quorum was present.

**2. Meeting Minutes from March 14th (1 minute)**

Zach Day made a motion to approve the March 14th minutes with corrections. Robert Simon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Valley Center Presentation (61 minutes)**

Valley Center City Administrator Brent Clark gave a presentation on the City of Valley Center. Valley Center Mayor Lou Cicirello attended the presentation.

The City’s population was 7,325 in 2019 and the population is anticipated to grow 35% in the next three to five years. Valley Center ranked 1st in 2021 Safest Cities in Kansas.

Brent Clark explained the economic growth of Valley Center. There was collaboration with Park City for an Amazon facility in Park City. A new coffee shop and building materials supplier will be opened in Valley Center.

A strategic plan was passed in 2021. Goals include Listen and Engage, Economic Diversity, Community Spaces, Efficient Public facilities, and Housing.

Many street improvement projects are planned in Valley Center. Street improvement projects include Ford Street (Flood Control to Broadway Avenue), Meridian Avenue (Main Street to 5th Street), Meridian Avenue (Four Lane Concept), and Seneca Street (Ford Street to 5th Street).

Infrastructure improvements rank as a top priority in community surveys. The City is looking at a water treatment plant that will hopefully be online in 2027.

Brent Clark explained how the Valley Center City Council has decided to explore the option of owning and operating a public power utility. The City would separate from Evergy when the franchise agreement is up and purchase their own power on the open market. Public power can lead to lower electrical rates as local rates are voted on by the Mayor and Council. Public power options provide local benefits including higher reliability, local responses to calls and outages, and local employment opportunities.

Brent Clark explained the public power option will be determined by a public vote. Televised meetings will be recorded and available for viewing.

Chairperson Jamie Buster asked how the public power option came to fruition. Valley Center Mayor Lou Cicirello answered that Brent Clark presented the idea.

Nalini Fraser asked what the downsides of public power may be. Brent Clark explained downsides include hiring during a workforce shortage, opposition from Evergy, and the length of time it may take to enact this option.

Brent Clark explained a 1 % sales tax passed during the pandemic. The sales tax increase will pay for a new $10.5 million aquatic and recreation facility.

Brent Clark explained the residential development of Valley Center. Cedar Ridge Estates, Hidden Valley, and a residential TIF district are examples of this development.

Mayor Lou Cicirello mentioned Valley Center has been named a Main Street Community by the Governor. This will allow for more funds to improve their downtown.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse explained flooding issues along Cow Skin Creek. Brent Clark explained this issue has been going on for 30 years.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse said how incredible Valley Center’s growth is. Valley Center has set a high bar for what other cities should strive for.

Philip Fraser asked what the racial and ethnic makeup of Valley Center is. Commissioner Lacey Cruse responded that it is about 94% white.

Philip Fraser asked if the city has any initiatives to increase racial and ethnic diversity. Brent Clark responded that Valley Center did not have many housing options but is developing more residential opportunities.

Deb Gruver explained what non owner-occupied properties should be referred to as. Commissioner Lacey Cruse responded that this ties into a larger discussion on how government describes certain things and a shift to inclusive language. Brent Clark thanked Deb Gruver for bringing this topic up as it is important to communicate properly.

Brent Clark displayed 3D renderings of Valley Center’s new water tower. The water tower was voted on by the public and the Brick Mob will design its artwork.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse asked what Valley center does as a city for public art. Brent Clark responded that there is a grant program for art that business owners can apply for. There are multiple murals in downtown Valley Center.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse explained her idea to have budget discussions partnered with municipalities. These budget discussions will coincide with District Four CAB meetings. There will be high level explanations of the budget and interactive discussion.

**4. Joint CAB Discussion (7 minutes)**

Chairperson Jamie Buster opened discussion between the District Four CAB members.

Commissioner Lacey Cruse explained how she has found “You Matter” signs. She encouraged CAB members to grab a sign and surprise somebody with one.

**5. Other Business (2 Minutes)**

Philip Fraser asked about the location of May’s budget discussion. Commissioner Lacey Cruse answered it will be in the Park City Chambers.

Deb Gruver made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Philip Fraser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

Monday May 9th, 2022 - Will be held in the Park City City Hall at 6:00 pm.