



District 1 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, Jan. 27, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.
Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., Bel Aire, KS

Board Members in Attendance: Daniel Bateman, Steven Burt, Judah Craig, Joseph Dozier, Diane Gjerstad, Kathryn Herzog, Jim Reid

County Representatives: Sedgwick County Commissioner, Pete Meitzner

1. Call to Order

1. Judah Craig began the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. A motion was made by Daniel Bateman to approve the minutes. Kathy Herzog seconded this motion. **The CAB approved the motion with a vote of 4-0.**

3. Public Agenda

1. There was no one from the public in attendance.

4. New Business

1. Commissioner Meitzner began his update on Amtrak.
 - i. Judah Craig asked, is there any opposition?
 1. Pete Meitzner responded, I would say mainly money. There are competing projects. Some citizens or communities, might think that if we're going to spend money on train, why not a highway transportation project?
 - ii. Steven Burt asked, who rides these trains and why?
 1. Pete Meitzner responded, so there's long distance service, and then there's like state to state service. It's a real mix of people that write it, college students, business people ride it if they aren't in a hurry as it's incredibly convenient to work.
 - iii. Steven Burt asked, what do they do when they get to the other end, Uber wherever they need to go?
 1. Daniel Bateman responded, well if you're in Chicago that drops you in the middle of downtown and then you have multiple options of where you want to go.
 2. Pete Meitzner responded, right, in Fort Worth has a an inner city rail downtown that will take you for \$5 maybe it's \$10 now, but for \$5 it would take you to Dallas.
 - iv. Judah Craig asked, are they comfortable?
 1. Daniel Bateman responded, very comfortable.
 - v. Kathy Herzog asked, it was a problem when we lived in Delaware, our daughter went to school in Virginia, and she would take the train back to visit us. It's great, but it shared the lines with freight trains, and freight trains had priority, so there were times that her train was hours late because they waited for the freight train. Is there some plan to deal with priority and making sure that the trains will run on time?
 1. Pete Meitzner responded, I don't know the name of the law that's now being enforced but it is part of the Amtrak federal deregulation, FAA regulation. This is that they would have their schedule as priority over freight. That hasn't worked out, like you said, it's been traditional, but more recently, for the last couple years, there's been too many cases where Amtrak got pushed aside from for freight, and now it's the other way around.

- vi. Tex Dozier asked, are you saying, at least from your perspective and your input, if this is moving forward, it has to include Wichita as a stop?
 - 1. Pete Meitzner responded, yes. The Wichita route stop is for sure.
- vii. Tex Dozier asked, what are ways that citizens like us, that serve on CAB stuff can advocate as far as time frames and things that I know you would probably want to see. How can we be additional voices to speed up that process?
 - 1. Pete Meitzner responded, any comments to KDOT state legislators in support of this are helpful. Like I said, the legislators this year, this session, for sure, are focused on their handful items of which, this is not one, but that's okay, this year because of the work on the engineering side that has to happen between the dots. But any of those comments of support are registered and valid at the KDOT level, and, for sure, at the legislative area.
- viii. D1 CAB began a discussion on our zoning case process going forward.
 - 1. We discussed putting zoning cases as a Consent Agenda item.
 - 2. We discussed the process of how the CAB would receive information on the cases before the next meetings.
 - 3. We discussed how we would determine if we want to hear certain zoning cases or not.
 - 4. We discussed the pros and cons of hearing zoning cases.
 - 5. Commissioner Meitzner informed us of the usual processes after a zoning case is heard and what our effect is.
 - 6. We discussed if anyone would available from the planning department to represent us at BoCC meetings and if for our own meetings they could be available via phone or zoom.
 - 7. We discussed what happens when they receive all the information beforehand and if they have no concerns, what happens next.
 - 8. We discussed public involvement/comments.
 - 9. We decided to leave it as a regular agenda item and not make cases consent items, with the idea to streamline the process as much as we can.
 - 10. We decided to not include staff from the planning department unless there were comments or questions.
 - 11. If no one has comments, questions or concern, we will not hear the case.
- ix. D1 CAB closed the discussion on our zoning case process.
- x. Jim Reid asked, Commissioner Meitzner, back to your Jan. 22 commissioners meeting, Commissioner Howell was talking about the mental health hospital regarding beds and juvenile beds, and how we don't have enough space for these kids. And then there was another area where he was talking about sales tax versus property tax. We keep sales tax because we don't want to dip in the property tax, do you remember that discussion and if so is there something there that you can kind of clarify what he was going after?
 - 1. Pete Meitzner responded, well, on the juvenile side, I think he was referring to state funding for the juvenile world. These juveniles that are not in the jail system, he's always had a passion about that. He's always felt it was bad that Lake Afton Boys Ranch was closed. Lake Afton Boys Ranch was supposed to be funded by the state. It kept being less and less funded, so the county was picking up all of that.
 - 2. Jim Reid asked, is he trying to do something with the new legislation?
 - 3. Pete Meitzner responded, yes.
- xi. Jim Reid asked, is that not part of the equation for the mental health center that's supposed to come?
 - 1. Pete Meitzner responded, no.
- xii. Jim Reid asked, so then that business about taxes and property taxes?
 - 1. Pete Meitzner responded, So there's a mood that says, we want property tax revenue to just fund core services like the jail, 911, ambulance, core services, things outside of core services that are state mandated. We are just an arm of

state government. So things that aren't core services like quality of life, the zoo, exploration place. It could be very simple. It just says we will always spend property tax money on core services and then we also have a revenue source of sales tax that comes into the county part are part of the 1% sales tax. And half of that's going to be immediately reduced the mill levy, property tax on your bill that's been going on since '87 then the other half is for roads and bridges, and that is where the blurred area gets. Commissioner Howell wanted to say, we will only use property tax for this. There's two other referendums that talked about that voters voted on one in '66 that created the zoo, no expiration on it, that the county would build and operate the zoo. We have to carve out that to say, well, because of that, one of our obligations on our budget is to discuss a lot of that. It'd be great if we just said the property tax just goes to core services. Everything else needs to be under the sales tax portion of sales tax, which is a good statement.

Commissioner Updates/Housekeeping Items

1. We discussed touring the new State Mental Health Hospital in 2026 if able to do so.
2. We discussed touring the MAC center as well if able.

Adjournment

1. The District 1 Citizen's Advisory Board ended at 6:50 p.m.

*The next Citizens Advisory Board Meeting will be **Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, 5:30 p.m.**
at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave.*