

MINUTES
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
TUESDAY, April 12, 2016 - 4:00 P.M.
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 125 E AVENUE B

I. **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order with the following members present: Jeff Roberson, Kari Mailloux, Doug Rice, Jon Richardson, Joe Keck, Mitch Hixson and Amanda Gonzalez. Betty Taylor was absent. City staff members present were Jana McCarron, Director of Planning & Development; Amy Denker, Housing Program Coordinator; and Stephanie Stewart, Planning Technician. Elizabeth Grilliot, Director of Neighborhood Development with the Hutchinson Recreation Commission was also in attendance.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

AMENDED MINUTES: Top 20 talked was changed to Talk 20 Hutch event, arrainging was changed to arranging and Indian was changed to Indiana.

The minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting were approved upon the above changes on a motion by Richardson seconded by Keck, passed unanimously.

III. **Announcements**

- a. McCarron stated that there are no updates on the new planner recruitment.

IV. **Reports**

a. **Neighborhoods Update**

Grilliot updated the Commission about the events occurring in the two feature neighborhoods:

Graber: On Saturday, April 16th they will be hosting their first event, Donuts on the Driveway. They have sent out a postcard requesting neighborhood name suggestions. Neighbors can submit their suggestions at the Donuts on the Driveway event or at specified locations throughout the neighborhood. They will follow up by taking the top choices and sending out a ballet postcard. Most of the suggestions include a midtown or college theme. This neighborhood consists of an estimated 600 homes. Hixson said that the postcards were done really well. Grilliot stated that a Graber neighborhood resident designed them.

Avenue A: Hutch Rec has started activities in the Avenue A neighborhood. The first was a zumba class where approximately 15 residents participated. Currently Hutch Rec is hosting a basketball clinic and next will host a soccer clinic. This neighborhood consists of an estimated 300 homes. Hutch Rec has been in contact with a park design consultant called Verio. The consultant would like to hold a neighborhood engagement meeting to collect input for a potential redesign of Ashmeade Park and the recent Land Bank addition. A neighborhood committee is still considering names for this neighborhood. They are having trouble agreeing on name choices, one thought was to name their neighborhood after Ashmeade Park.

Roberson said that with all the neighborhood talk, his wife is now pursuing a sense of community within their neighborhood and wants to plan a neighborhood garage sale event. Richardson said the name is important to help market the neighborhood and asked about possible signage in the neighborhoods. Grilliot said that including signage with the names is the goal to help identify each neighborhood.

b. Project Coordinator Report

Denker had spoken with Jeff Thomson and said that he was unable to attend the meeting due to the arrival of a new AmeriCorps group. She said he is progressively seeking out new projects and that he has two possible applicants for Brush Up Hutch!. He has already begun projects in the Avenue A neighborhood by repairing a sidewalk.

c. Spring Clean-Up

Spring Clean-Up will be held Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1. McCarron said that fliers have been distributed in English and Spanish. Roberson is scheduled to promote the event on KWBW on April 22, 2016 at 7:45 a.m. Rice had concerns about the dumpster in the Sports Arena parking. He felt that people could confuse the construction dumpsters with the Spring Clean-Up dumpster. McCarron said she would let the Parks Department know to make signs visible to better indicate which dumpster is for the Spring Clean-Up.

d. Code Enforcement Update

McCarron went over the code enforcement report for the month of March, stating that property maintenance violations were down, possibly due to the rental inspection program. Richardson asked for an update on the rental inspection program. McCarron said that a little over 5,400 units have been registered and that it is higher than staff projected. Late fees have been issued. Fred Salisbury, Rental Housing Inspector, has started doing his inspections and they are going well. Passing units with five or less violations will now go from a three year cycle to a six year cycle for inspections. The most common violation is smoke detectors.

V. New Business

a. HHNI Neighborhood Engagement Plan

Denker and Grilliot have developed a Neighborhood Engagement Plan for the first year of the Healthy Neighborhood Initiative. Grilliot stated a disclaimer that the Avenue A and Graber neighborhoods did not follow this plan. They will use these steps for the next feature neighborhoods. Keck asked how they plan on defining the neighborhoods or place boundaries. Grilliot said the first step would be to define the boundary by asking the homeowners on what they see as their neighborhood. Other places have main streets and environmental markers to help determine boundaries. Mailloux questioned what happens after the first year and if there are plans to track the home sales and value after the first year. She added maybe having a survey after

the neighborhood is named and established to new-home buyers in the area and how they perceive it. Richardson said this is a great plan and hopes to see Hutchinson have established neighborhoods to give homeowners a sense of community and safety which are other benefits. The members all agreed that this proposal will help residents with a sense of identity and make the neighborhood more attractive. Denker said they will work on the plan and add in year two and year three.

VI. Old Business

a. Commission Realignment

McCarron said she had been working with the City Manager on how to consolidate the amount of duties for staff and the number of overlapping roles of the City's commissions. The decision was to dissolve the Neighborhood Steering Committee and the Community Improvement Commission and pass along the duties to the Housing Commission. She stated that staff does not want to lose the commission member's involvement and she hopes to use them in various steering committees and/or when vacancies come up in other commissions. She went on to say even though the CIC has accomplished many projects over the years, recently with the vacant planner position, there has not been much action or meaningful work being done by this Commission, rather more reporting of other commissions' projects.

VII. Other

Keck spoke on how the K-61 beautification from the north looks great but the south and the 4th Street corridors are eyesores.

Mailloux stated she knew of a few people who would be interested in working on branding and way finding signage to help with the beautification. McCarron said those would be great projects for a resident steering committee, and that community voices would go a long way versus government voices.

Roberson asked about the abandoned property bill. McCarron said the abandoned properties bill had been sent to the Governor. Staff will provide an update at the next meeting.

Mailloux also added that the Public Health Law Center was looking into ways to help fix sidewalks.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016