

North Salina Community Development, Inc. Meeting
Salvation Army Community Center
December 15, 2011

Minutes

Vice – Chairperson Carol Schaeffer called the meeting to order about 7:00 p.m. Other officers present were treasurer Barb Young and secretary Mike Wilson; chairman Mike Weis was absent.

Attendance

There were 17 persons attending including Kay Crawford, City Commissioner; Gary Hobbie, Director of Community and Development Services for the City of Salina; and Abner Perney, member of the City of Salina Planning Commission.

Agenda

The agenda was amended to permit Dennis Lauver, President and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce to speak. His comments included the following.

Mike Weis is now a member of that organization's Board of Directors.

Lodging tax receipts increased 8% from the last calendar year to this calendar year. More people are staying at motels, both leisure travelers and those here for sporting events. More of the latter are planned for later in 2012.

The Econo Lodge at Ninth St. and I – 70 will be demolished and a much better facility built.

City staff are negotiating with private organizations to manage the Bicentennial Center.

One of the biggest challenges to recruiting industries to the area is the need for large acreage with railroad access.

Work is continuing on a trans load facility at which goods will be unloaded from trains and reloaded onto trucks for transport to area businesses and industries. There is room for about 150 railroad cars in north Salina.

A procedure taking about 1 ½ years will bring a manufacturing company to north Salina with 40 – 45 jobs paying \$37,500 to \$58,000 each.

There is interest in a housing development, which will cost about \$14 million.

Efforts are being made to attract retail businesses to north Salina but there are not enough people, their income is too low and the density is too low.

A community improvement district was considered in which businesses located there would charge an extra sales tax. This was thought to not be a good idea.

It would cost tens of millions of dollars to flood proof areas in north Salina.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 17th meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Income in November: the NSCD float won \$25 for placing third in the Other category in the Parade of Lights.

Expenses: \$93.69 to rent a generator for the float and other items.

The balance in the account is \$359.03

The report was approved.

Environmental Sustainability for the Salina Community

A presentation by Barb Johnson, Pollution Prevention Institute, Kansas State University.

The talk included a discussion of Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) an EPA technical assistance and grant program that offers an innovative way for communities to organize and take action to reduce risks from local environmental health issues.

Several years ago a two year CARE Level I grant was awarded to assist Salinans in determining their priority environmental health issues and recently a CARE Level II grant was obtained.

Barb's talk was an abridged version of a presentation at the League of Women Voters Lunch and Learn meeting on November 8th. There are four steps to the CARE process: 1. build a partnership, 2. Identify problems and solutions, 3. take action and 4. sustainability. The complete presentation is available at the Access Television of Salina website in the Video on Demand section.

A Green Fair is scheduled for April 21 in Lakewood Park.

Combined Radon Measurement and Mitigation Course

Shawn Esterl, Salina - Saline County Health Department, discussed a workshop entitled Combined Radon Measurement and Mitigation Course and Exams that will be offered January 9 – 14, 2012 at the Salina Area Technical College as part of the CARE project. Enrollment is limited to 24 persons and those completing it can be certified to mitigate radon problems in homes.

For information access <http://www.kansasradonprogram.org/courses> and click on Course Flyer, which is in red font

Shawn also works with the Healthy Homes project, which deals with asthmatic conditions in children. Since they are indoors much of the time conditions in the home can affect them more than in previous decades when children were outside more.

Healthy Homes personnel can assess conditions in a home that might cause problems, such as improper storage of chemicals, etc. An assessment takes about 4 hours with all rooms being inspected.

Parade of Lights Float

The NSCD float won third place in the Other category and was awarded \$25.00 and a ribbon.

Flywheels Yesteryear Museum

Members of the NSCD placed lights on the iron bridge at that Museum.

Nominations of Officers

At a recent Steering Committee meeting it was suggested that the term for officers be one year.

Chairman: Mike Weis has resigned this position and Barb Young, the treasurer, was nominated.

Vice chairperson: Carol Schaeffer has served about one year in this position and she was nominated for a second term.

Treasurer: Kathy White, a CPA, was nominated.

Secretary: Mike Wilson has not served for one year and will continue in this office.

Additional nominations and elections will take place at the January 19th meeting.

Open Forum

Jon Blanchard stated that an open house for the new Hawthorne apartments will be held and suggested that the NSCD have a representative present. Carol will investigate this matter. Jon also made available copies of his "land use comparisons" document.

Gary Hobbie reported that the third unit of the Hawthorne apartments will be completed in the spring, yielding a total maximum capacity of 48 units.

Ted Zerger reported that a Habitat for Humanity house, located in the 1200 block of N Seventh St., will be dedicated at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 17th.

Other persons discussed the North Salina corridor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting

Thursday January 19th the third Thursday of the month, Salvation Army Community Center, 7:00 p.m.