



# City of Arkansas City

## PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

---

Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 5:30 PM – 400 W Madison Ave, Arkansas City, KS

---

### Call to Order

### Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Andy Paton, Mary Benton, Charles Jennings, Paisley Howerton, Ian Kuhn, Lloyd Colston, Cody Richardson, Joni Curl

ABSENT: Karla Gallegos

Staff present at roll call was Principal Planner Josh White and Public Information Officer Andrew Lawson.

Also present at roll call either in person or via GoToMeeting was Harrison Taylor representing the Beautification Advisory Board; Pastor Jack Dickson representing the Arkansas City Ministerial Alliance; Tom Langer representing the City-Cowley County Health Department; Kerri Falletti representing Cowley First and RISE Cowley; Dr. Ron Ballard, Lindsay Wilke and Braden Smith representing USD 470; Landon West representing Arkansas City Recreation Commission; Candace Stephens representing RISE Cowley and First Presbyterian Church; Sarah Johnson representing William Newton Hospital; and Shayla McDonald representing SCK Health.

### Public Comments

*Persons who wish to address the Planning Commission regarding items not on the agenda. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for information purposes only. No action will be taken.*

There were no comments from the public regarding items not on the agenda.

### Consent Agenda

1. Meeting Minutes, **July 13, 2021 meeting.**  
Motion made by Jennings, Seconded by Colston to approve the meeting minutes as written.  
Voting Yea: Chair Paton, Benton, Jennings, Howerton, Kuhn, Colston, Richardson, Curl

### Comprehensive Plan

#### 2. Comprehensive Plan discussion on Community Health

White introduced the topic of Community Health. He discussed the content of Chapter 7 from the 2013 Comprehensive Plan including the goals. He invited guests to speak about their respective agencies and how they were working to improve community health in the Arkansas City area. Tom Langer spoke of an ongoing Community Health Needs Assessment which is done every three years. He emphasized that the Health Department's main duty was to promote health in the county. He challenged Planning Commissioners to look at public health in all planning decisions. He volunteered to assist with creating goals and setting metrics to look at. He also noted that the pandemic had the positive that it created new partnerships in the county. Kerri Falletti noted the goals of the organization were active living, healthy eating and tobacco cessation. She spoke about the initiatives the organization is focusing on. Jack Dickson wanted to point out the spiritual component of public health. Churches and religious organizations can sometimes be the first agency somebody in a crisis goes to. These organizations can help with the physical issues including financial needs but can also

help by building better mental health as well. Braden Smith spoke of the partnerships that the school district has developed which have helped greatly in all manner of health situations. He also noted that we are still struggling in our community with child care as well the fact that we don't have enough pediatricians in the area. A major topic of concern for the school district was dealing with teen suicide as well as drug use by students. Landon West noted that the Recreation Commission had been working to get youth active but realized they needed to do more with adult programs. Colston noted that it was important for seniors to stay active and applauded the Silver Sneakers program and the Golden Tigers programs. Jennings stated it was important to celebrate successes something that was lacking in the current plan. Sarah Johnson spoke of their priorities and coordination of care with other healthcare agencies in the county. She also mentioned the Resource Directory that is being created for the county that will help direct people to the resources available all in one place. Candace Stephens spoke of the issues she is seeing in the youth of the community. She spoke of her involvement in RISE Cowley, RESIST, SADD and her work with the Student Resource Officers in the schools and the importance of all of these programs. White thanked all of the guests that spoke for all of their valuable input and the Planning Commissioners echoed that. The notes from this discussion will be compiled and used to start a draft of the new community health chapter. More discussion from some of the absent entities may be discussed at a future meeting including Arkansas City Police and Fire-EMS as well as SCK Health.

### **Other Items**

Lawson asked Planning Commissioners what topics should be the focus of the remaining FlashVote surveys. Planning Commissioners felt that will the ongoing Health Assessment that a Community Health survey would be a waste. They suggested that the next survey should be on Parks and Recreation. Lawson noted that the pool and Wilson Park would probably be separated out but everything else could be a part of that survey. Housing was another topic discussed but it was determined that the Housing Assessment Tool did a pretty good job of gathering community input on housing already. Other potential topics include transportation, infrastructure, economic development and land use and with the exception of economic development, these topics haven't been discussed by the Planning Commission yet.

### **Adjournment**

Motion made by Jennings, Seconded by Colston to adjourn the meeting.

Voting Yea: Chair Paton, Benton, Jennings, Howerton, Kuhn, Colston, Richardson, Curl

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.