

*Community Facilities Advisory Board Minutes  
City Hall, Commission Chambers  
Thursday, November 1, 2012*

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*City Commission Chambers  
5:30 p.m.*

**WELCOME:** Jim Lembright

**ROLL CALL:** Jim Lembright, Ed Elam, Rick Sowers, Inga Vasquez, Terry Williams, Tom Stanley, Ken Strobel, City Manager and Melissa McCoy, Project Development Coordinator were present.

**ABSENT:** Dr. Mladen Perak and Justin Banning

**GUESTS:** Carlos Estrada, Jim Johnson, Nanette Pogue and Paul Lewis

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Tom Stanley moved to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2012 meeting, Inga Vasquez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**DRAG STRIP REPORT:** Carlos Estrada of Dodge City presented a proposal for a drag strip on the South Side of the Western State Bank Expo Center. Estrada shared that the drag strip would run East and West and could enhance the existing activities at the Dodge City Raceway Park by providing a variety of events on the weekend including Friday night competitions and races. Carlos added that the drag strip has potential to add additional security for area youth who are currently racing on the streets. He went on to explain that there could be one ticket for admission to events at both facilities.

Tom Stanley asked what entity would run the drag strip and Carlos said that he was willing to volunteer to run the drag strip or an organization could manage it. Either way the strip would need someone dedicated to it. Carlos added that the drag strip would establish something similar in Dodge City to the Heartland Race Track in Topeka.

Jim Lembright asked if there was a cost estimate for the drag strip. Ed Elam said the price could be estimated close to 7 million because it is similar to a three lane road. Ed asked if Carlos had looked at the cost of a 1/8 mile strip. Carlos said he had not investigated that yet.

Carlos shared that he did a survey to see if people would rather watch races on a circular track or a drag strip. He said that the numbers were more favorable for a watching drag strip races. Rick Sowers asked if Carlos could quantify how many people. He said that he could not say exactly how many people favored the drag strip and that he needed to do additional studies.

Tom Stanley commented that lots of volunteers would be needed on race day. Carlos said that he figured that they would need 5 people to work but that he was confident that he could get lots of volunteers. He went on to say that the event would last four to five hours.

Inga Vasquez added that a cleanup crew would be necessary. She also asked how much tickets would sell for at the event. Carlos said that the park at Topeka charges \$43 for an entire day.

Rick Sowers reminded everyone that seating would also be a factor. Ed Elam recommended portable seating.

Ken asked how the strip would impact the Expo Center or a potential AG facility. He asked if other locations were considered. Carlos said that they had only looked at the area next to the Racetrack because it seemed to be the best location.

Jim Lembright thanked Carlos for his time and asked him to return in the future with answers to the questions proposed by CFAB.

**DODGE CITY 300:** Jim Johnson reported on the Dodge City 300 and explained the significance of Motorcycle racing in Dodge City. Jim shared with the group that on July 4th, 1914 Dodge City hosted what may have been one of the most significant motorcycle races in history, the Dodge City 300. A 2 mile oval track was laid out just northeast of Dodge City with sanctioning by the FAM (Federation of American Motorcyclists - forerunner of today's American Motorcyclists Association AMA).

After explaining the significant history of the Dodge City 300, Jim shared that 2014 will mark the centennial of the Dodge City 300. In celebration of this important event in motorcycle racing and Dodge City, the Dodge City 300, Inc., has been formed and is in the planning stages of a grand event to celebrate the Centennial over the 4th of July weekend in 2014. There will be AMA Grand National, racing, bike shows, antique racing, antique and classic bike shows and vendors. Jim shared that he and Melissa had a recent meeting with Raceway Park Promoter Tommy Estes to begin making arrangements for the AMA Race. He mentioned that he is working with the Western State Bank Expo Center and Danielle Crouch The group also has created a website [www.dodgecity300.org](http://www.dodgecity300.org). Here interested parties can review the history of the race and information about activities at the Centennial Celebration. Jim distributed a draft budget and schedule of activities for the event.

Jim Johnson commented that he doesn't think that the 300 group will need to approach CFAB about funding. However, if the Centennial celebration is successful the group may approach them about funding in the future.

Rick Sowers asked who were the members of the Dodge 300 group. Jim shared that the members of the 300 group included Roger Burnett, Mark Mahieu, Oliver Bland, Jim Johnson, Dale Pruett, Mark McAlister, Mot McAlister, Matt Gerard, Mike Burkhart, Ed Elam and Lane Bartholomew among others

Melissa McCoy and Kent Stehlik with the Tourism Task Force also attend the meetings. Jim concluded by saying that the Dodge City 300 could have a huge impact on the community and sales tax revenues.

**ARTIFICIAL TURF:** Paul Lewis stated that he wanted to bring the CFAB members up to date on a recent discussion with USD 443 and the City about soccer needs in Dodge City. Paul went on to say that the entities were evaluating the possibility of changing at least two of the grass fields at the Sheridan Complex to artificial turf. In addition, they looked at fencing to control play on some of the fields. This would help with maintenance issues related on the fields as well as provide much needed field space for the school district. It would also enable Dodge City to bid on State championship play. Life span of the turf is 8 to 10 years and Paul commented that you can play on it anytime even after a rain storm.

Paul Lewis shared that some preliminary investigation had been done and found that the first phase would cost two to three million dollars. The concept would be to use the fields just for soccer and that 443 would like the area to serve as their soccer complex. Paul went on to say that 443 is willing to be a financial partner in the project. Jim Lembright commented that he liked the idea of being able to partner with the school district.

Paul asked CFAB if this project was something that interested them. Rick Sowers expressed concerns about losing existing grass fields and irrigation. He asked if it would be possible to build the artificial turf fields north of the walking path to avoid tearing up the existing field. Paul said that they could explore this.

Ken Strobel asked if the CFAB members would like to continue to build on this “Why Not Dodge” project. It was the consensus that Paul should explore the idea of the artificial turf further with 443 and evaluate the costs.

**2013 SALES TAX BUDGET:** Director of Finance/City Clerk, Nannette Pogue presented the 2012 Sales Tax Project Budget. The City’s portion of the projected 2013 ½ cent sales tax is \$4,500,000.00 and the County’s portion is \$1,100,000.00.

Nanette explained that there is a plan in place to transfer the Civic Center to USD 443 around the first of the year which would decrease costs by \$50,000. Also concessions at Legends Park will be modified somewhat because the YMCA will take over part of it.

Questions were raised about how to draw the line between the depreciation and regular maintenance projects. Nanette stated that the depreciation fund should be utilized for specific issues with long term depreciation. Ken suggested that the CFAB members review the depreciation and replacement fund at the next meeting.

Nanette shared that sales tax was up 9% year to date over 2011.

Tom Stanley moved to accept the proposed Budget. Inga Vasquez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

**CFAB ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDING PROGRESS REPORTS:** Melissa McCoy reviewed the progress reports from the attractions that received CFAB Organizational for 2013. She explained whether or not the organizations had utilized funding and whether or not all the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement were met.

Jim Lembright thanked Melissa for compiling the report and added that he was helpful to know the status of the funding of the funding and whether or not priorities had been met.

**2013 CFAB ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDING APPLICATION:** Melissa McCoy stated that the only modifications to the 2013 CFAB Organizational Funding Application over the application approved by CFAB for 2012 were date changes. Application will be due on December 3. Melissa shared that if the application is approved, she would send out the application forms on November 2 which would give the attractions just over a month to complete the applications.

Melissa added that the application states that the Joint Commissions will meet prior to March 1 to approve applications. Therefore, CFAB could meet in January to make recommendations on the applications. Melissa shared that she would compile the information on the applications and send to the CFAB members for their review in December.

Inga Vasquez made a motion to approve the 2013 CFAB Organizational Funding Application. Jim Lembright seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER:** Jim Lembright asked the CFAB members to think about “Why Not Dodge” projects and if they have a special project in mind. He suggested that members analyze the top three projects as a priority and this would be a topic of discussion for the next CFAB meeting which will be held in January of 2013.

Since the next meeting will be held in January, the November 1 meeting was the last meeting for Terry Williams. Jim Lembright and the other CFAB members thanked Terry for his service and dedication to the CFAB board as well as to Dodge City and Ford County.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Since there was no further business to discuss, Chair Lembright made a motion to adjourn and Tom Stanley seconded.