

The Heartland Healthy Neighborhood Coalition

“Actively promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas and resources.”

2/09/2009

Present: Bob Hedberg, Shawnee County Health Dept.; Bobbe Mansfield, Baker University; DeAnn Escalante, Brewster Place; Gary Caruthers, Shawnee County Medical Society; Jack Gray, YMCA; Jim Ogle, WIBW-TV, Joe Hodgson, YMCA, Karen Peterson, SRS; Lisa Martin, KSU Extension; Marcie Eckhart-Charay, Children’s Mercy Family Health; Marilyn Page, Marian Clinic; Melissa Thompson, Topeka Community Foundation, Shelly Buhler, Shawnee County Commission; Tom Vlach, Shawnee County Public Works; Vatyna Kennebrew, AFLC Family Services; Octavia Smith, AFLC Health Service Coordination; Lisa Stubbs, Security Benefit/YMCA Board; Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager; Beth Ott, Brewster Place and Nancy Johnson, Community Resources Council

Announcements:

Gary Carthers handed out information on the Clean Air ordinance which is being prepared for the Topeka City Council consideration. The packet included a sheet for individual and agency support. More information is forth coming.

1st Annual Health Symposium – Atioch Family Life Center, Inc. 1921 SE Indiana Ave. Feb 20 – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Feb. 21 – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For additional information call 232-1937

Tom Vlach – Invited interested participants to Topeka Tri-athletes

For further information: topekatriathletes.com

Grant

The Coalition has applied for a Robert Wood Johnson grant. The initial proposal was submitted last week. The Coalition should hear if a formal proposal is requested by mid to late March. Bob Hedberg, Shawnee County Health Department, Jim Glass, USD 501, Joe Hodgson, YMCA, Lisa Martin, KSU Extension, Shelly Buhler, County Commission, the City of Topeka and Nancy Johnson, CRC all worked on the proposal. The focus of this grant is not on bricks and building but on policy and practice.

The Coalition will consider writing a proposal for the Topeka Community Foundation. The focus of the grant is on prevention and education.

Complete Streets:

Jim Ogle gave an overview of complete streets ([see completestreets.org](http://completestreets.org)) and discussed the importance of every street having a sidewalk, every sidewalk having a curb cut. The adoption of such a policy would make healthy decisions of walking and biking easy for the community.

Tom Vlach, Shawnee County Public Works, discussed the county’s policy.

Randy Speaker, Topeka Deputy City Manager, discussed the city’s policy.

Both indicated that the Metropolitan Policy Organization (MPO) which is made up of city, county, transit and state representatives had discussed such a policy.

A number of points were made:

- Bike Trail is for exercise
- Bike routes is a bike rider having the same rights as an automobile driver
- Bike trails and trails need to be linked
- A key player missing at the coalition is utility company(s)
- Housing built after WW II has garages; before most had detached garages and alleys
- 10th Street needs sidewalks
- Sidewalks need to be wider
- Developers want to connect to things
- Dawn Wright, Kansas Association of Homebuilders, needs to be contacted
- Two types of policies needed:
 - Stop bleeding
 - Going back
- Coalition needs to remember cost when insisting that all new developments have sidewalks.
- Policy on lighting needed
- Safety & education are key issues
- We need both an environmental and a social change
- A policy needs to be in place which lays out the neighborhood

The coalition will work with the city and the county to present a sample Complete Street policy proposal at the next meeting.

Meetings are the second Monday of the month, 11:45 a.m. at the SW YMCA

3-9-09

4-13-09

5-11-09

6-8-09

7-13-09

8-10-09

9-14-09

10-12-09

11-9-09

12-14-09