



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

**Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 201 West Gray, Norman, OK 73069
Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00 PM**

MINUTES

A virtual Meeting of the City Council Business and Community Affairs Committee was hosted at the Municipal Building Council Chambers, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma on the 1st day of April, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. and notice of the agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Petrone called the meeting to order.

PRESENT:

Councilmember Ward 3 Alison Petrone (Chair)

Councilmember Ward 5 Michael Nash

Councilmember Ward 8 Matthew Peacock

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Breea Clark

Councilmember Ward 4 Lee Hall

Councilmember Ward 6 Elizabeth Foreman

Ms. Kathryn Walker, City Attorney

Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Tim Powers, Director of Information Technology

Ms. Ellen Usry, Deputy City Clerk

Ms. Lisa Krieg, Community Development Block Grant Manager

Ms. Georgie Rasco, Executive Director, Neighborhood Alliance

Ms. Ana Herrera Dange, Southside Community Organizer, Neighborhood Alliance

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE.

Ms. Georgie Rasco, Neighborhood Alliance, introduced the mission and history of Neighborhood Alliance (NA), a nonprofit with nearly 45 years of experience assisting neighborhoods in Oklahoma City. The organization originally began as a tool lending library and evolved into a capacity-building nonprofit that helps both voluntary and mandatory Homeowner Associations.

Key Services & Highlights:

- Leadership training and neighborhood organization support.
- Act as a liaison between citizens and city departments.
- Assist HOAs with governance, meetings, bylaws, and legal compliance.
- Provide workshops for both voluntary associations and HOAs.
- Partnership with the OKC Police Department to support community safety, including Crime Watch and Crime Patrol programs.
- Host community-building events like “Neighbors Night Out.”

Ms. Anna Herrera, Neighborhood Alliance, discussed the neighborhood steering committee process and their community engagement strategies. She emphasized the importance of creating social, connected neighborhoods as a tool for crime prevention.

A brief video titled 'We Believe' was shown, highlighting NA's philosophy of community empowerment.

Mayor Clark and Councilmember Hall expressed strong support for bringing Neighborhood Alliance to Norman, highlighting the long-standing need for neighborhood support, particularly in areas without HOAs. Discussion included:

- Benefits to customer service and workload reduction for City departments like the Action Center.
- Proposed funding of \$100,000 in the upcoming City budget for implementation.
- Preference for hiring a Norman-based staff person under NA's 501(c)(3) nonprofit structure.
- Office logistics (staff member may begin working remotely, with community meeting space provided through local partnerships).
- Establishment of a Norman Community Advisory Board to provide local input and guidance.

Ms. Lisa Kreig, Community Development Block Grant Manager, emphasized the benefit to City departments and alignment with previous neighborhood planning initiatives.

Additional Notes:

- Norman Police Department already coordinates Neighbors Night Out.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds could be used for neighborhood projects in eligible areas.
- Examples were given of tactical urbanism and leveraging partnerships with schools and nonprofits.

Item 1, continued:

- Discussion of pass-through funding mechanisms via NA's 501(c)(3) to support neighborhood projects.

Next Steps: Mayor Clark will move the proposal forward to the full council for consideration and budget inclusion. A staff hiring process will begin upon approval, followed by outreach and coordination with departments and neighborhood leaders.

2. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS.

There were no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:09pm

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor