

Minutes - Citizens Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

**Call to Order**

Liz York called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

**Members present:**

Liz York, Chair  
Jeff Anselmi, Vice Chair  
Ken Cecil, Secretary  
Sandra Kenny  
Greg Thomas  
LaVerne Jenkins  
Clyne Namuo

**Other people present:**

Mary Jacobs, Assistant City Manager  
Pam Weir, City of Sierra Vista Staff Liaison  
David Felix, Finance Manager  
Randy Redmond, Fire Chief  
Ron York, Deputy Fire Chief  
Judy Hector, Marketing and Public Affairs Manager

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cecil moved to approve the 2/3/15 CAC meeting minutes. Mr. Namuo seconded the motion. Ms. York recommended three revisions to the meeting minutes. The 2/3/15 meeting minutes were approved with the recommended changes 7-0.

**Fire Department Staff Presentation**

Chief Redmond and Deputy Chief York presented an overview of the current state of affairs and challenges facing the Fire Department (attached). Topics included EMS services, prevention and education, special operations, emergency management, necessary data collection improvements, staffing levels, call volume, integration with the Fry Fire District, automatic aid agreements, competitive salaries, hiring requirements, employee turnover, accreditation, the new CARE program, and vehicles and equipment replacement.

**Presentation of Draft Citizen Engagement Strategy**

Ms. Hector presented an overview of citizen engagement principles and shared the City's proposal for a CAC citizen engagement strategy (attached). The community engagement plan includes several components: questions posted to citizens on SpeakUpSierraVista and Facebook; press releases to local media; notices in the City eNewsletter and City Page; emails to Board and Commission members, advertising through community organizations with the help of CAC members; a radio show; and two public meetings. The strategy will be implemented from March 30-April 4. Staff will collect all of the information gathered and submit a report to the CAC by close of business on April 6.

The CAC reached consensus that they support the strategy proposed by staff. During the March 30 CAC meeting, members will finalize the specific questions they would like City staff to present to the public.

### **Questions and Discussion of Presentations**

CAC members discussed the unique nature of the City of Sierra Vista Fire Department's integration with the Fry Fire District. Mr. Anselmi discussed his concern that if the City does raise salaries of public safety officers, other cities may increase their salaries to remain more competitive for possible recruits. Mr. Namuo shared his personal experience of interacting with Fire Department personnel during an emergency call. He then asked about the availability of funding sources for the Fire Department outside of the City's general fund. The Chiefs explained that across the nation grants for fire departments have been cut by more than half, and a city the size of Sierra Vista sometimes struggles to compete with much larger cities for that money.

CAC members discussed the very tight timeframe they are working against and requested that staff come up with a time for an additional meeting at the end of March to allow more opportunity for discussion. Staff agreed to follow up with recommended times. Ms York encouraged CAC members to trust the process; that throughout the meetings there will be some trends that emerge to inform possible recommendations.

### **Call to the Public**

Andre Newcomb commented that as the demographics of the community change, spending habits and residents' needs will change.

Gwen Calhoun recommended that the CAC distribute a "save the date" for the community engagement meetings.

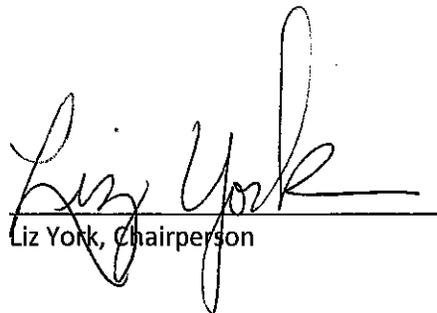
### **Next Meeting**

Scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, at 1:00 pm in the City Manager's Conference Room. Topics will include presentations by the Community Development Department and the Economic Development and Marketing/Tourism Divisions.

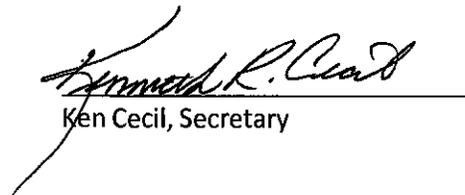
### **Meeting Adjourned**

Ms. Kenny moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. The CAC voted to adjourn the meeting 7-0.

Ms. York adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm



Liz York, Chairperson



Ken Cecil, Secretary