Minutes of the March 13, 2026
Joplin Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire

CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of March 13, 2026, Citizen's Committee: Proposition Police & Fire was called to order by Chair CB Eastman at 7:30 am.

Roll Call: Committee Members Present: CB Eastman, Dottie Murphy, Kim Cox, Payton Layne, Bob Loudermilk, Fred Palmer, Dan Pekarek, and Terry Wachter.

Absent: Jhan Hurn, Drew Kimble, Anthony Monteleone, Ryan Stanley, Chris Stockton, and Greg Wilkerson.

City Employees Present: Nick Edwards, Leslie Haase, Felicia Urban, Charles Copple, Josh Bard, Ryan Jackson, Brian Lewis, and Mark Cox.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Dottie Murphy motioned to approve minutes as is, Josh Bard second the motion. All in favor to pass minutes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of Citizen's Committee: An update was given on recent community presentations, noting that approximately ten meetings have been completed, with additional meetings scheduled. Discussion focused on public response to messaging. It was observed that audiences respond more positively to messages framed around progress, success, and community benefits, rather than messaging focused solely on challenges or negative impacts.

Consensus emerged that messaging should acknowledge existing staffing shortages while emphasizing accomplishments despite those challenges. Examples discussed included improvements in public safety metrics and increased delivery service despite limited resources. The group agreed that emphasizing success, resilience, and opportunity would strengthen public support.

Feedback from recent meetings was largely positive, with strong support expressed and questions addressed successfully. Several upcoming engagements were noted, including meetings with civic and community organizations. Scheduling remains fluid, requiring flexibility due to last-minute changes by host organizations.

Door-to-door outreach efforts were reviewed, including organized group canvassing and individual volunteer efforts. Progress has been made in contacting a significant portion of targeted representatives, with continued outreach planned.

A signage update was provided. Approximately 200 signs are currently deployed and visible throughout the community, with an additional 100 signs expected to arrive shortly. Areas identified as needing greater sign presence were noted, and follow-up placement was discussed.

Large-format signage ("large cow" signs) was discussed, including potential locations and property permissions. Several possible sites were identified, with follow-up actions assigned to

confirm ownership and authorization. Printing options, costs, and timelines were reviewed, including local printing opportunities. It was reiterated that all signage must comply with distance requirements from polling place entrances.

Updates were provided on digital advertising and social media outreach. Streaming and digital platforms have generated significant impressions and website engagement to date, with performance considered strong for the current phase. Plans were outlined for transitioning from education-focused messaging to voter turnout messaging in April.

Letters to the editor efforts were discussed, with several already submitted and additional contributions encouraged.

A financial update was provided. Recent fundraising efforts resulted in new contributions and commitments, bringing the current balance to approximately $2,200–$2,300. Additional fundraising outreach is planned, including follow-up with business and community partners. It was emphasized that expenditure will align with available funds.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 am.

Submitted,

Felicia Urban, Secretary