



Newsworthy

Urban Agriculture Allowed in HOTC

Considering that vacant lots are the second largest land use in the Heart of The City, the City Council's recent vote for Ordinance 100299 which is designed to promote urban agriculture and locally grown fruits and vegetables could have a tremendous impact on the plan area. The ordinance would permit growers to sell their produce at their residence between May 15th and October 15th. Types of plants and how they may be grown is outlined in the ordinance. The passing of the legislation puts Kansas City on par with other cities faced with the blighting affects of vacant lots and a dearth of fresh food options in the urban core.



What's Happening

Draft Plan

Staff is preparing the plan document now, and will release a draft for public review soon. The draft plan will combine the draft recommendations presented this spring with all of the community input and analysis performed to date. Relevant policies from previous planning efforts will also be integrated (*FOCUS Plan, Ivanhoe Neighborhood Plan, Prospect Corridor Plan* and others). There is still time for your input. This is just a draft and we still need feedback from the community.

Upcoming Public Meeting

The next public meeting is planned for August, 2010, time and date to be determined. Once a date and time is secured, the plan website will be updated accordingly. At the next meeting you will hear a presentation on the draft plan, give us your feedback and help us prioritize projects. Moreover there will be opportunities to learn about our ongoing analysis (Employer Survey and Retail Demand Analysis) and vote on your priorities for implementation. Please visit the project web site to review our draft recommendations and other project information.



Please call Gerald Williams (513-2897) or Randy Dunn (513-2805) anytime with questions or comments.



Find HOTC on the Internet

Please visit our project web site or "friend us" on Facebook. This provides you with another venue to provide feedback and for our staff to gather information. By becoming a fan of the HOTC Area Plan on Facebook, you can post your ideas and comments as well as receive updates and view documents related to the plan. To become a fan, go to www.facebook.com and search for *Heart of The City Area Plan*, click "become fan", and you're set!

Employer Survey Underway, Results Expected in July

The City is currently administering a survey to area employers in the HOTC and the Green Impact Zone. ETC, a local WBE firm, will survey all 600 businesses via mail and phone. Results from the survey are anticipated in late July and will provide information regarding the needs of employers on issues such as workforce, public infrastructure and facilities, and access to capital.

Walkability Planning: Linwood Blvd. at Prospect Ave. and Van Brunt Blvd.

The Prospect Ave and Linwood Blvd area is identified in the Walkability Plan as one of 10 "Pedestrian Zones" citywide, and a number of improvements are recommended to raise the area to pedestrian zone standards. The draft HOTC Area Plan recommends that the Linwood Blvd./Van Brunt Blvd. area be added as a new pedestrian zone. City Planning staff has developed a set of pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of the Van Brunt Blvd./Linwood Blvd./31st Street intersection ranging from filling sidewalk gaps, improving street crossings and updating pedestrian signals. The recommended improvements were developed to raise the pedestrian infrastructure in the area to pedestrian zone standards, as per draft HOTC recommendations. The recommended improvements will also complement planned improvements by the KCATA around bus stops in the area. The improvements have been submitted for consideration by the Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC).



Community Spotlight

Palestine Commons Breaks Ground

Construction has begun on the \$10.7M Palestine Commons located in the 3400 block of Prospect Avenue. Palestine Village Economic Development Corporation, a local not for profit community development corporation, is the developer of the 69 unit senior housing project. This development will complement the neighboring Palestine Estates senior development and the Palestine Senior Citizens Activity Center, which were developed by Palestine Missionary Baptist Church of Jesus Christ.

To finance the project a layering of incentives was utilized including \$8.6M from the Missouri Housing Development Commission's Tax Credit Assistance and Tax Credit Replacement programs in addition to a \$1M earmark and \$750,000 in Missouri HOME dollars allocated through the City of Kansas City, Mo. Palestine Commons which will consist of one and two bedroom units is being constructed by locally owned Straub Construction Company. Amenities will include a multi-purpose room, physical therapy area, meal service, home health service, housekeeping, in-suite kitchens, laundry service and many more.

