

Minutes for Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council on 3/9/2004

KCNAC members in attendance: Lynda Callon, Dennis Carroll, Jay Stock, Cynthia Canady, Steve Eklund, Forestine Beasley (late). Rodney Sampson, Bruce Pennington, and Greg Hugeback were not present. City staff in attendance: Renea Nash, David Reynolds.

Meeting called to order at 3:55pm.

First order of business was bylaws. There are two working copies; one is a simplified set of bylaws provided by Legal as an example, the other is the existing bylaws, commented on by Legal and including the last changes made by KCNAC in January 2004. It also includes questions from CCS staff. **Because of the time and length of material, they tabled bylaws for now.** Jay motioned, Steve seconded, the motion passed.

Waste Management Subcommittee had nothing revolutionary to report: RecycleFIRST has been kicked off and seems to be going well. Jay's neighborhood is one of the first to participate and he is impressed with participation. He does have a little problem with how to define and notify with regards to bulky items, but EM has been pretty cooperative on working with them. **Lynda mentioned that they are missing a lot of trash because the trucks are coming earlier; when she called they said to hold the trash until next week** (her neighborhood isn't in R1 yet). Today she learned that five of their drivers were a no-show, so that may be related. A question for the future for EM would be if there were issues here that KCNAC can help with? Five drivers is a lot to be missing. Cynthia said they came back to her neighborhood when they missed her trash. Jay mentioned that when you call Environmental Management it is impossible to get a hold of a real person; they're just too busy. People will have to be a little patient. Steve brought up the issue of 49/63 being accidentally divided into A Week and B Week, and it took more than a month to get it cleared up on the website. **If the City is going to use the Website for information then it can't take a month for corrections to be propagated out there;** the Star and even Defenbaugh Recycling had the wrong Week information for 49/63, probably because it was pulled from the website.

David asked Jay if he wanted his number published with the Recycling Incentives insert in this month's Community Clipnotes calendar, but Jay recommended that **CCS staff still field those calls and forward on to him those calls which specifically need to be addressed by the Waste Management Chair.** City staff has ways of getting calls forwarded and handled in a more efficient manner than a private citizen would.

Renea asked Jay about Clean Sweep; Constance Tate has said it's not going to be the same. Lynda said it was going to be available to any group but on a first-come, first-serve basis. It may also not be involving as many difference City departments. It will be more like a large neighborhood cleanup. Dennis said that if it is changing, they need to inform people so they will know what to expect and what is different from years past. From his experience last year, it took 6 weeks to get dumpsters from Constance's office; he isn't even sure how much lead-time they'll need for Clean Sweeps. Lynda believes she does not have the experience and training to handle the jobs she has been given. Jay suggested giving them a little bit of run-in time to adjust to all the massive changes they're dealing with right now; real problems can be sent to them but perhaps it will benefit to let them handle things themselves for a while. Dennis brought up that a lot of people in his neighborhood are just now starting to complain, when the meetings and conversations have been going on for months already. If people have never recycled before

it can look like a monumental task, but **Bridging the Gap will come out and do presentations and trainings. Jay also offered to come out and do a presentation to help Dennis' group.** Jay believes the hardest part will be dealing with the storage space issues for people without garages or yards, but Dennis says it is doable. Lynda feels that if Constance needs help then she should get it. **Jay also brought up a project that is in the works to allow people to take bulky items out to the Deramus site without waiting for their pickup date.**

Property Maintenance Advisory Committee will be meeting on March 18th. Rodney was not present.

Liquor Ordinance Review Committee is Dennis' purview; he wanted to report on it. Jay asked if there was anyone from the Northland on that committee; Dennis didn't think so. **They have finally gotten a draft out of Regulated Industries,** and they have been reviewing it. Jeff Williams with Legal Aid has been helping out with these issues over the years and they are working with this process as well, due to two neighborhood areas that have concerns about liquor stores. That would give some legal help to the neighborhood side of the committee, to help go up against the high-powered attorneys who represent the industry side of things. One thing that is changing is the Liquor Appeals Board, traditionally chaired by Curtis Woods, has not always been very receptive to community concerns about liquor establishments. With this revision, that whole review board is gone and replaced with a hearing officer from NCSO. Jay will be interested to know what the job description for that person will be. Steve commented that the Appeals Board was stacked with industry-favoring representatives anyway, so it may not be an entirely bad thing. Dennis said that the review committee made recommendations for things like term limits to reduce that sort of weighty influence, but **the ordinance as currently proposed does away with the entire Appeals Board process.** Jay's concern is with the specific definition of that person's role, and how their responsibility and oversight will be handled. Currently the Appeals Board's decisions are final; it appears this will be the case with the Hearing Officer as well. **They meet next on March 23rd at 6:30 PM** at Regulated Industries. Also, **currently the neighborhood associations get notification when new businesses are coming in; they don't necessarily get standing or a vote, but they can make their opinion heard. That process is also gone.** No one was happy with that set of circumstances. **The Nuisance Business Task Force is a program that the review committee would like to see not only reactivated, but written into the Code** so that it does not ebb and flow with the agendas of RI. It is a powerful tool to talk about these issues and has been inactive for some time now. The neighborhood people on the committee are working on having strategic meetings to plan their method of dealing with this situation; Dennis feels sure that the players on the industry side are doing the same thing from their perspective. Jay asked about the process; Dennis said that when the committee gets done with it, it would go to Les and then to the Council. **Jay suggested that KCNAC get a chance to look at it;** Dennis said they could use the help. He is somewhat reluctant to open their strategic meeting among the committee members to the public, because they have already had three public hearings on the ordinance. Steve brought up the new issue of removing notification of neighborhoods; it's not fair to have public hearings and then bring up a bunch of new issues afterward. **Dennis did say he would pass on the draft document to other members of the KCNAC.** He relayed the story he has heard about the last time the liquor ordinance was revised, and Council changed things that neither the industry nor the neighborhood side had brought to the table themselves. **Jay has a concern that it will be put forward as an Emergency Ordinance and there will be no chance to comment on it before Council before it is passed.** He will make his notes in the margins so people can see their observations as well. Steve mentioned that if it weren't for neighborhood notification, 49/63 would be "the single-unit sales capital of the universe". Dennis is concerned that the downtown revitalization is being tied too closely to the liquor industry; Jay brought up Westport as a good example of what can happen when too many bars are concentrated in a small area. Westport gets more police manpower hours on the weekend than the entire Northland does all the rest of the week, according to Jay. Cynthia asked about the neighborhood

attorneys; apparently their funding was changed in such a way last year that they could no longer help out with certain issues, like liquor control. These circumstances may be changing this year though.

Community Policing Steering Committee was put on the agenda because it was an example committee when KCNAC was set-up; if they have any issues or input, they should make that known. Jay brought up that they should appoint someone to be responsible for a Subcommittee to deal with such things. **Steve said he was willing to be that person, since he already goes to those meetings.** Lynda complained about the “Sectors as Teams” program taking away the CAN officers, and made it into “community policing by drive-by”. Lynda may have the only actual ‘CAN’ officers left of any of the centers. It leads to the larger question of whether the KCPD follows the community policing philosophy; several others reiterated this same concern. The GKCCF and the Chamber of Commerce created the CPSC originally without help or input from KCPD and they have held it against the committee ever since. The CAN centers as originally envisioned were expected to grow in number, but without buy-in from the Police, they have shrunk in number from nine to seven, and it has been a battle ever since to keep them involved in the community policing process. **Some people see the KCPD as using “Sectors as Teams” to conduct business-as-usual under a community-policing appearance.** Jay brought up that the CPSC does not have the discretion to cut 20% off of the PD’s budget; the Council does. He suggested getting a resolution that necessitates the Police Department working with the CPSC and the community to enact community-policing policies. There are about 19 people who usually attend; the group includes Jim Rice, Renea, Les when he’s able, LISC, Deb Hermann, etc. Jay said he would speak to Deb Hermann and Jim Rice about getting a resolution to place some structure behind community policing in the KCPD, so that every time a captain or sergeant changes, you don’t have to wonder if they’ll be supportive of it. The CPSC has all of the talent and membership it needs, but no teeth. All of the national data seems to show that community policing works when it is done right, but it is not currently ‘done right’ in Kansas City. **There are other problems in the works, like dealing with the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic character of the crime problem in the City.** Jay brought up that 5% of the City’s budget goes to the Police Department by choice; 20% is mandated by the State, but **they could make a point of fighting any of those discretionary issues when they come before the Council.** That would account for about 1/5 of the police budget. **He gave the example of what KCNAC was able to do for NCSO in the budget cycle; they kept funding at present levels for the most part and everyone else got sliced.** They made their case coherently and got everything they asked for. Dennis made the point that even if they do get a resolution or ordinance mandating PD’s participation in community policing, **the individual officers, sergeants, and commanders will still put their own spin and priorities on it,** making it vary from division to division. Lynda brought up that even after ten years, the Police Department cannot give you a definition of community policing. Jay reiterated the point that having the Council require them to at least come to the table will help empower this already existing organization (CPSC). **Lynda suggested a resolution for the Council; she thinks she can have a conversation with Deputy Chief Corwin,** who she considers the highest-ranking community policing officer in the Department. Jay said he thought Chief Easley was supportive; several others disagreed and say it is lip service at best. Dennis said that Sectors as Teams is apparently faltering as a program currently. Steve suggested drafting a straw-man resolution and let people pick it apart. Renea suggested introducing it during National Police Week (May 9th – May 15th). **Steve was chosen as a mentioned as a possible chair for a Community Policing Subcommittee; he will work in a draft resolution.** The Metropolitan Crime Commission handles the ACCENT workers, but their advisory board has no power and the staff are “running amok” according to Steve; Renee Neades got selected as a chairperson for one of their committees, so Steve may want her on that subcommittee.

New Business: David brought forward information about the new Legislative Tracking System that the City is going to be implementing. They are talking with people who draft ordinances right now, and

KCNAC/PMAC/Liquor Control has an opportunity to get involved in one of those meetings. Tuesday afternoon for next week seemed to work best for people. **David will send out an email confirming that meeting.** Jay wanted to know if the new system would be able to identify how many ordinances were being passed with an emergency designation. David also brought a printout of the proposed website for KCNAC; **people made corrections to their entries on that page.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.