Minutes for Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council on 4/13/2004

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

City staff in attendance: Renea Nash, David Reynolds.

Meeting called to order at 3:45pm.

Waste Management Subcommittee reported very favorable results so far from RecycleFIRST; neighborhoods are having good reactions, and they are getting very high participation. Also, the Bulky Item Pickup was conducted very professionally and they did a good job of cleaning up after themselves. David Brought up someone who called in about being on vacation during Leaf and Brush pickup; the announcement for that went out the Sunday before it started. Renea mentioned that they may have thought that it had been posted on EM's website for 6-7 months and they may have thought it had been well communicated. The group again reiterated that the website/electronic communication issue needs to be expanded to include people who do not have the time to peruse every website out there, or are **not online in the first place.** This lady's concern was actually that she called EM to find out if the crews had been by yet, and the lady she spoke to at EM said they had no way of telling whether a crew had been to a particular neighborhood yet or not. Lynda said they have you put it out on Monday and they will collect it sometime that week. Jay asked for her number, but she had been unwilling to leave her information so there is no way to follow up. She did call on Monday so it may get taken care of later in the week. Lynda said it was still important to make sure these communication issues get addressed. Steve brought up that even the website is not always reliable, and that can propagate further problems for other methods of communication if people come to rely on the website for that information. "They're asking us to rely on something that is unreliable." Renea said she spoke to someone at 45th & Forest who is seeing the trash crews slap warning stickers on the extra bags (over two) and not picking them up; meanwhile the renters in the house don't come out and pick it up either, so it jut sits there. Lynda thought that EM said that they would pick up the extra bags and send the house a letter/bill; several other people said they learned it differently. The problem becomes, who picks up the trash if the tenant won't follow the rules of the new program, and Environmental Management won't pick up the extra bags? If the City waits to write them a ticket, then the dogs get into it, and everyone gets into a standoff because of "principles". Jay pointed out that if the City or the neighborhood leaders continue to pick up the trash for the problem residents, then they will be picking it up until they're 75. The ticketing cycle is probably too long anyway; two weeks under good circumstances, up to two months at other times (according to Steve). An entire generation of dogs could run through the trash in that time; the basic underlying problem as Jay outlined it is that there is a good chance we can't identify the property owner. Lynda mentioned that sometimes the neighborhood leaders are 80 years old or more, and can't be picking up other people's trash. Rodney mentioned his neighbor, who is supposed to be a neighborhood leader and leaves leaves-and-brush out for pickup three weeks ahead of time when he goes on vacation.

Jay asked what the solution is to this problem of enforcement versus identification? With such a problem identifying the offender in housing court, how will they do it with bags of trash by the side of the road? Steve brought up that if you identify it by where the trash is located, you would develop a dumping problem where people are dumping their extra bags in their neighbors' property. Steve brought up the idea of stickering every bag; this goes back to the original problem of losing stickers, which was discarded under the revised RecycleFIRST program. David brought up what Illegal Dumping does, which

is find three personally identifying items in the trash and then they can prosecute. Jay said that this might be a way to enforce the RecycleFIRST provisions under the Illegal Dumping program; it will only kick in where there is a persistent problem. Cynthia said she has done this route before with an illegal dumping problem in her area and nothing was done; that seems to be a different issue of making sure the existing programs are enforced. KCNAC's position, then, should be that if three pieces of trash are found in that bag identifying a particular person, they should be prosecuted under the Illegal Dumping Ordinance. Rodney made a point that it needs to be publicized that this will be the case, creating the educational component that will give RecycleFIRST the teeth it needs. There is still a problem with people who aren't educated about RecycleFIRST as it stands. Lynda brought up some problem families in her neighborhood who are a perennial problem; they put out their trash right after the truck goes by, or they put out their bulky items two days after the pickup date. They just feel that the rules don't apply to them. The question was raised of whether you are going to try to prosecute every person who leaves an extra bag out. Lynda made the point that this could get cost prohibitive; Jay made the analogy of not ticketing every speeder on I-435, just enough to keep people from going much over the limit. Lynda said her neighborhood is going to go block-by-block once the weather warms up and educate everyone individually, but this is very time and labor-intensive. Cynthia may be able to do that in her neighborhood, but in Palestine or Oak Park, most of the residents are widows over the age of 70; they don't have the time or stamina to conduct that sort of action. Steve brought up 23rd & Cypress, where they're more worried about getting shot than putting the right amount of trash out.

Greg asked what the stickers say; he feels that the problem may be partly involved in the "initial rollout" period where they have been picking up the extra bags as a courtesy. This may have gotten people into the habit of thinking they will pick up the extra trash anyway. He suggested picking up the bags during that two-week roll-out period, but putting the sticker on their door instead of the extra bags, educating them that they will begin fining people who do not comply with the two-bag limit. Lynda thought they had mentioned door hangers as a step; Renea remembered that as well and Jay will make that another one of the questions he asks Environmental Management. Lynda said a lot of people would refuse to read flyers unless you make them do so; Jay mentioned that real estate law says a door posted counts as a residency notified. Steve said that Bridging the Gap is currently saying they will stop picking up those extra bags "really soon now"; this seems to be sending conflicting messages and getting people into bad habits. Greg brought up the problem of identifying which bags at your curb were illegally dumped or over the limit; Jay made the point that if the trash doesn't match up to the address, it's pretty sure to be illegal dumping. Actually anything you put on the public right-of-way that doesn't belong there is illegal dumping. They still want to get a specific definition of illegal dumping and how to make sure those extra bags will fall under the existing ordinance. Steve brought up the Bulky Item Pickup, where items have been dumped right after the two-month cycle goes by. How do they get rid of it, much less prosecute it (as illegal dumping?). He says he was told by a call-taker from EM that if they cut it into 40lb. pieces and sticker them, they would be taken care of. Renea said that the items had to be in a bag; Steve was told differently by EM's call-taker, that it just needs to be under 40 pounds and able to be thrown onto a truck. Jay said that he has had things picked up that were reasonably packaged by the side of the curb; the letter of the law may require bags but they seem to be accommodating that need voluntarily. Jay is also still working on the idea of taking those Bulky Items to the Deramus site; he will get the group an update. Greg asked for some sort of sticker or door hanger that the neighborhood people can put out themselves; Jay said that this could be something to bring up to the City Manager, whereby neighborhood people can put door hangers out that So-and-so is wanted in Housing Court for a bench warrant. Steve also wants to know who the actual point-person is within Environmental Management for definitive, accurate answers?

Property Maintenance Advisory Committee reported that they met on March 18th. They decided rather than to have an unwieldy panel discussion with the Land Trust, the VA, the Housing Authority, etc, they will try to set up a meeting with Ed Loundes from the Housing Authority for PMAC, those members of KCNAC who wish to be there, and Deb Hermann. Jay suggested that the City Manager could be invited as well. Steve will get with Ed Loundes and find out a date that works best for him.

Other salient points (minutes incomplete at this point):

- 1. Community Calendar of the Center for Community Solutions was introduced via email to those members with Internet access. Feedback was largely favorable, and some suggestions were made for types of meetings to include. All members are encouraged to start using it as they see fit; it will be presented to the Council soon.
- 2. Hollywood Florida has a Homeowner's Guide that all new residents get. This could be something useful for Kansas City to mimic, especially with all of the changes in services lately.
- 3. Dennis reported back on the Liquor Ordinance Review process. He said he is familiar enough with it to quote it verbatim. As of this writing there is still no Advisory Board, and no neighborhood notifications. Businesses can expand 25% without getting a new permit; however it was not entirely clear if that meant 25% before they have to get a new permit, or 25% per year.
- 4. KCPD is rumored to be getting rid of Community Policing. They are rumored to be going back to STATS (originated in the 1960's) as a pilot program. Some neighborhood people have brought up the potential for this to be used for racial profiling, or cheating by the officers who it is designed to catch. Also, a lot of the federal grants that support community policing are going away, and KCPD still has not bought into the program fully. The example was made of the Gracemor-Randolph CAN officers, which were the first to go/be removed from their CAN center. Now all of the centers have had their officers pulled for other purposes except Westside, who yells the loudest.

Next meeting will be on 5/11/04.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.