

Minutes for Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council on 06/08/2004

KCNAC members in attendance: Lynda Callon, Jay R. Stock, Rodney Sampson, Steve Eklund, Dennis Carroll, Cynthia Canady, and Forestine Beasley.

Absent members: Greg Hugeback, Bruce Pennington.

City staff in attendance: Les Washington, Renea Nash, and David Reynolds.

Meeting called to order at 3:50 p.m.

Old Business:

Subcommittees

Waste Management-

- ◆ In a previous discussion, it has been suggested that the drop-off site be opened on Sundays to accommodate those persons who are unable to make it on Monday through Saturday. As of yet this has not happened.
- ◆ Lynda stated that she has received phone calls from unhappy residents about DEM programs. An email was sent out soliciting inputs from citizens about the Recycle FIRST, Leaf & Brush drop-off (being open on Saturday only), and Bulky items pick up. Renea, David & KC Roundtable assisted in getting this email out to the neighborhoods. However, this information has not been complied at this time.
- ◆ Complaints from the neighborhoods: (1) Those persons living in older neighborhoods with smaller homes do not have adequate storage space for the bins. (2) The extra bags are not picked because the bags are not paid for (no tags). Which leads to another issue, the dogs tear into the trash.
- ◆ The bins are too heavy for the seniors as stated by Lynda. Steve stated that efforts were made to add wheels to the bins. However, after discussing this matter with some of the hardware stores, the stores decided not to carry the parts.
- ◆ Jay distributed the handouts on DEM issues that have been previously discussed. He asked the group if there are others to add them to the list. He plans to have a meeting with John Stubblebean about these questions.
- ◆ Lynda requested a week extension to gather more response from the neighborhoods. Rockhill Garden sent a newsletter to show that they are getting the word out in their neighborhood. A number of neighborhoods are finding out that neighbors are putting grass clippings down the storm sewer. A COMBAT tour down *Oldham* Road was entirely filled with trash bags, brush waist high all the way to Swope Park. It is becoming an illegal dumpsite because people do not know what to do with the leaf & brush. Only fifteen neighborhoods have responded. The desire is to get more responses. A rewritten email by Lynda will be sent out requesting the importance of the response from neighborhoods about the DEM programs. Renea will forward it on. Upon receiving the responses, then a meeting will be set up with John Stubblebean of the findings. Jay does not want to further delay because the agreement was to give feedback after the first phase. Lynda informed the group of her conversation with John in which he

asks about the neighborhoods dialogue, which has been positive. Jay stated that the budget might dictate what could be done; however some of the items on the list can be resolved.

- ◆ The more comfortable, educated & wealthier neighborhoods are usually the ones without the complaints, because they can hire someone to perform these services. Unfortunately, poorer neighborhoods cannot afford these services as declared by Lynda. Steve added that it is difficult to get someone to come into their neighborhood to do perform the services, even if they are paying.
- ◆ Bulky items: The issue is that those neighborhoods on alternate months will have items at the curb for two months. A suggestion was made to keep the bulky items down to 24 hours as the regular trash. However, the resources may not be available.
- ◆ Drop-off hours: The offset hours are needed for those persons who work off set hours in order to accommodate this group.
- ◆ Jay would like to invite someone from legal to attend the meeting because some of the questions on the handout are legal.
- ◆ Lynda asked Cynthia whether it was difficult in her neighborhood for people to get their leaf & brush to the drop-off site on Saturdays. Cynthia stated that their neighborhoods are having community cleanups in which they are transporting the leaf & brush between associations. Lynda question to Cynthia was, “what happens when there are no more cleanups”? Her reply was, “it would be wintertime. A neighbor has a ’95 truck that picks up items and takes it to the dumpster”. Cynthia’ neighborhood will phase in December, which is a concern. It is one of the poorest neighborhoods, which will lead to problems with the Recycle FIRST. A lot of renters who leaves bags out or dumps them wherever. Although, the area remains on the monthly bulky item pick up. If items sit on the curb to long, then it can be reported to illegal dumping.
- ◆ Illegal dumping & Landlords: Jay wants to enforce illegal dumping. For example, even though the landlord evicts the tenants, it cannot dispose of the tenant’s personal property. The landlords have no rights to the tenant’s property, even if the tenant is jailed. The only way the items are removed is when someone steals or takes the items from the location. Jay suggests that legal write something to handle this situation.
- ◆ Another issue is with the LLC landlords, because it is hard to find out who is actually the landlord. The City of Kansas City has the authority to require those in this city who accept services can go to court and be fined. However, the city does not enforce it. Legislation (referring to all landlords) to this effect has been passed in 2000 by the State of Missouri, but it is on administrative hold. It is an issue to bring to the city manager’s attention. The decision must be made on what administrative agency will take over this matter and uphold it. Les will phone Wayne Cauthen to discuss the landlord issue with him for the committee. Abatement may be the real solution. A strategy to take to Wayne is to have DEM as an allied. Because neither DEM nor the neighborhoods can do anything about the debris setting on the curb. Several members agree that this will be a major issue when Recycling FIRST comes to the urban core.
- ◆ Renea asked whether there has been any research on how other cities are dealing with landlords and debris at the curbside. The research was done a while ago. Jay suggested that those who travel to other cities go into the residential neighborhoods for several hours and record what you see. Then write back to that city for a response on that matter. Renea stated that one of the benefits of attending the NUSA Conference was that she has

real phone numbers of grassroots persons in other cities. These persons can be contacted as resources concerning landlords and debris. Renea will phone several people in other comparable cities on their approach.

- ◆ The final two actions are:
 - (1) The week extension to gather more responses from the neighborhoods is granted. Afterward a meeting will be set up with John to provide him with the neighborhoods feedback on the first round.
 - (2) Les will set up a meeting with Wayne Cauthen to talk about the making HB-1238-2000 a tool for DEM and Codes. However, the meeting with John will be prior to the meeting with the city manager.

Property Maintenance-

- ◆ The meeting was good with the housing authority however; it was not what was expected.
- ◆ Rodney concern is about why the fire insurance companies are not notified when properties are abandoned. He cited a state law exist that a 25 to 30% fire insurance escrow can be request to be put in for the demolition cost of the property. Les understands it as being held when there is a fire, upon demolition or rehab and not on vacant properties. This amount is supposed to be paid up front and place in an interesting bearing account.
- ◆ A request was made for minutes on the FHA properties. It was stated that Pearline has those minutes. Rodney will distribute an email to committee members from Ed Loundes, Housing Authority, of the responses on the properties.
- ◆ In order to handle this problem, a legislative change is needed. This can be done through an administrative hearing process outside of the judicial process in which the administrative hearing officer-Judge Cagel-can apply a civil penalty. This is not replacing housing court but another tool to capture the properties. The issue is to deal with ownership and resale. Land trust may hinder this process.
- ◆ Les will submit something to the committee in the next meeting about this issue. Several questions must be answered: Who will sponsor? Who can/will draft the changes? It may be best to modify the existing legislation, which could be done by the definition of the city size and specifics to our city.

Liquor Control-

- ◆ No action is taken on the Liquor Control Ordinance Review Committee as stated by Dennis. Dennis and Steve are working on the Nuisance Business Task Force. The first meeting was about three weeks ago, which is the group to give birth to it at Move-Up.
- ◆ Dennis envisions through the prosecutor's office that the Nuisance Business Task Force will be separate from the large number of people seen at the Move Up GATE meeting, which meets every third Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Move-Up. GATE was created by Regulated Industries, in which Judy Haley attends. Dennis & Steve approach is getting back to the original goal and Les declared his appreciation to them.
- ◆ Public Nuisance arrest in 2003 was 117, but in 2004 the number is seven.

- ◆ The attention is tightening up ordinances where judges will not touch, such as Disorderly House Ordinance and those businesses that do not obtain a license. These businesses know that the police cannot enter a business that does not have a license. Once the tools are in order then the goal will be to work on specific locations and details.
- ◆ Several years ago, the participating parties at the table were (a) Kansas City Police Department, (b) Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit, (c) VICE unit, (d) Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, (e) John Williams, Municipal Courts, (f) City Staff, Regulated Industries, and (g) Community Leaders. Everyone came together with problems and solutions.

Community Policing-

- ◆ The STATS Program has not been addressed which accounts for the police officers minute-by-minute duties. Rozalyn Allen (S.P.D. Commander) spoke on STATS. The Steering Committee creates another task force to address community policing. The Community Policing Sub-Task Force Chair and sub-chair are police officers. Lynda and Renea Neades asked many "pointed questions" about community policing. Jim Rice is talking to Deputy Chief Ortega.
- ◆ The police department has not passed their Strategic Plan. They are entering into their third year (actually 2 ½ years) and the plan has not been given to the board for approval. In the last Police Board of Commissioners' meeting, the Board Commissioner requested a date for the plan. If the board can pass the plan, then the police department can be held accountable.
- ◆ KCNAC Committee is urge to push the Strategic Plan by writing or emailing the police department or speaking with officers.
- ◆ Councilwoman Deb Hermann is supportive of community policing.
- ◆ The ideal is that the people gives the police permission to police them, however this not so. The relationship between the citizens and the police is very poor. This is apparent with some groups of citizen more so than others. The goal is to bring the Kansas City Police Department up to the 21st Century.
- ◆ Cynthia stated that the relationship with police is very poor in her area. Community policing does not exist there. The response time can be as long as four hours because the calls are not considered urgent such as loud music.
- ◆ Lynda suggested to Cynthia and other members to take a few pictures of officers that are parked at various location that appears to be doing nothing. Write on back of the pictures the date, time, & place. Then write what you would like the police to do in an ideal situation. Pass this information on to Lynda by writing or calling her.
- ◆ Renea asked whether this is a common definition of community policing. Lynda said, "No". The police will not give a clear definition of community policing. Jay suggested that whenever the police do a 'right' thing when called to a situation, then forward those 'good' remarks on the department. By what we praise will bring back community policing.
- ◆ Lynda stated that the Strategic Plan has the definition of Community Policing. Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council is an example how community policing works within a community, because the council does their part and let the police do the police work.

Next Meeting-

Criteria for new members

New Business:

Review ordinances need to be expanded or revised.

Amendment of By-laws

Comments on Community Policing

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.