

Minutes for Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC) on Tuesday, August 9, 2005

KCNAC members in attendance: Lynda Callon, Jay R. Stock, Rodney Sampson, Cynthia Canady, and Greg Hugeback

City staff in attendance: David Reynolds and Les Washington

Guests: None

Absent Members: Forestine Beasley and Bruce Pennington

Meeting called to order at 4:01 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.

Old Business:

- 1.) Review last meeting's minutes postponed.

- 2.) By-laws final revision and approval: David

Update: A subcommittee met on Saturday, August 6, 2005, to discuss the KCNAC election process, which affects Article V in the bylaws.

Discussion—

Article II Membership

Section 1: Linda Callon verbally agreed to the use of “the Board” or “Board members” in referring the Board of Directors in the Bylaws.

Section 2 Read as “*Neighborhood and homeowner associations registered with the City of Kansas City, Missouri will constitute the constituency of KCNAC, with each such group having one vote for the purpose of electing Board members. Any member of these groups, or of the public at large, may attend KCNAC meeting to make their opinions known, and Board members will meet no less than twice a year with their constituent groups in some public forum reasonably accessible to all.*”

David stated that the City Clerk office would be assisting and managing the election tallies. The 2nd sentence encourages the public to attend the meetings.

Lynda suggested relocating the 2nd sentence to another place in the Bylaws.

David stated that it could be place in Article IV.

Jay suggested that the 2nd sentence end at “...*twice a year.*” He asked whether the board had to meet with their represented groups. And would 'all' have the ability to access meeting places.

Lynda stated that if Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance (KCNA) has a meeting, then ‘all’ could attend without much of a hardship.

David stated that it might be a problem for the regional meetings.

Rodney stated that ‘all’ should attend all the meetings, anyway.

Jay stated suggested holding standard meetings at KCNA, Northland Neighborhoods Inc (NNI), and Robert J Mohart Multipurpose Center, which gives the At-large candidates an opportunity to meet with everyone.

David asked whether it should read, “*meet regularly*”.

Lynda suggested that it read, “*board members will meet twice a year with its constituent in a public forum.*” She continued to state that ‘all’ could attend meetings to be current. It would be better for the representative to have its own area meeting or have everyone go to the twice a year meeting.

Cynthia added that twice a year is enough due to the multiple meetings attended by people today.

David suggested the 2nd sentence read as “*board members will meet no less than twice a year with their constituent group in a public forum and be available for comments.*”

Lynda suggested deleting “*and be available for comments*”.

Greg asked whether the meetings were to cover North and South of the River and all six regions every year.

Lynda commented that this is what they are trying to eliminate.
Jay stated that it must be a big deal in order to get a large representation.

Article IV Meetings

Section 4: David suggested adding the word “active” instead of “voting”.

Article V Board of Directors

Section 1: Members suggested deleting the 1st sentence, which reads, as *“The Board is responsible for overall policy and direction of the KCNAC.”* The revised section 1 read as *“The Board will be comprised of 15 members. The Board receives no compensation other than pre-approved reimbursement for reasonable expenses.”*

David stated that the Bylaws do not discuss the approval process for reimbursement or payments. He suggested it should read, as *“The Board receives no compensation.”*

Lynda stated that the latter of section 1 could be added later if funds come in or expenses occur.

Jay stated that he does not want to leave out the latter part of the 2nd sentence. “What if a board member had to attend a conference? Currently, KCNAC does not have funding, but must make a legal transfer of funds from another source. The Bylaws should address this situation” as stated by Jay.

David suggested the section read as *“The Board will be comprised of 15 members and the Board receives no compensation.”*

Jay stated that it now leaves an allowance to incorporate a budget.

Section 2: The 3rd sentence reads as *“Board members will be elected by majority vote of the constituency for their region, or by the entire constituency of running for an At Large position through use of a prepared mail-in ballot and with the assistance of City staff functioning as an Independent Election Administrator.”*

Jay suggested deleting the word ‘an’ which now read *“...running for At Large position...”*

Jay asked, “How does a candidate submit his/her request when seeking a position on the board?”

David referenced the “Qualifications” section of the election booklet.

Jay suggested that one of the met qualifications should be that the candidate is not delinquent on federal, state or local taxes.

Both **Jay** and **Greg** agreed that the candidate must be a registered voter in the state of Missouri.

David commented that the applications would be included in the booklet and available on-line and at various sites. He asked whether the current board members preferred to continue their service without standing for election. Upon their decision to stay as current board members, the decision would be written in the election booklet.

Jay commented that the qualifications listed do not evaluate the candidates.

David commented that the applications would be proof of their experiences.

Jay asked, “Who approves the applications?”

David stated the legal qualifying would be performed by the City Clerk office whereas other qualifying measures could be performed by the board or a committee.

Jay stated his concerns in regards to the having ‘checks and balances’ in the ‘qualifying’ or ‘democratic’ process.

Greg added, “it is what makes the group function.” He asked, “When did the process of seeking new members go from board voting to campaign (election voting)?” Under the new process, candidates would have to write campaigns, which he opposed.

David stated that a ‘campaign’ was the best because it eliminates concerns. He added that the current members who chose to remain would not have their position open in the election.

Jay stated that KCNAC has become highly respected with the City Council and others. The KCNAC must maintain the earned respect from city government and the community.

David stated that a city-wide forum would be held at the Robert J Mohart Multipurpose Center on October 1, 2005. This forum would be an opportunity for KCNAC to address this concern.

Lynda stated that the process must be democratic which equates to electing board members rather than soliciting them in the position.

Jay asked whether a nominating committee would be formed. He asked, “How are candidates nominated?”

Lynda stated that a candidate would not be nominated for a position.

David stated that the application would address the candidate willingness to devote time, attend meetings, think beyond his/her own neighborhood and the reason for serving on the board.

Lynda added, "What is your demonstrative avenue?"

Jay asked about the mechanics of election. "How does a person get to be a candidate?"

Lynda stated that a person says, "I want to be a candidate."

David stated that all applications are returned to the City Clerk office. Candidates can be picked up applications at designated sites.

Cynthia commented that people do not want to attend meeting after meeting.

Jay requested a qualifying board, because he does not like the election process without reviewing the candidates.

Rodney added that the board would review the applicants.

Les stated that the election process allows the people to speak. The process lets them know that we trust their decision. A screening process could be appropriate.

Jay agreed with the screening process and recommended it because the board must maintain its reputation. The process would be a way to rule out a character that would not be good for the city. The nominating committee would propose candidates.

David opposed and recommended the election process.

Greg expressed his concerns for 'conflict of interest'.

Rodney added that the registration and selection goes through the City Clerk office, but KCNAC could valid or review the selected or opposed candidates.

David asked, "What are the objective criteria?"

Jay stated that a current organization asks for recommendations, then nominations and votes.

Greg asked whether a recommendation could be made for those individuals who are not in your district.

Jay stated that an election does not prove the candidate unless you know the candidate.

Rodney stated that the current members could recommend or endorse certain candidates after reviewing the application.

David stated that anyone could run but a 'check mark' could be next to the name endorsed by the board.

Greg asked whether the 'check mark' means that the candidate met the board's qualifications.

Section 7: **David** stated that this could be entered after the legal qualifications.

Greg stated that it would be better not to endorse a candidate and use the application as a guide.

Lynda stated that the focus should be on the bigger picture, which is to train people to be civilly active.

Rodney stated that the verbiage for qualifications should follow the booklet. He suggested a video interview.

David suggested having an area on the application that indicated whether the board recommended the candidate. **Jay** opposed.

Greg stated that 'endorsing' says to the voters elect this endorsed candidate.

Revisited section 2: **Jay** suggested the sentence read "*prepared mail-in ballot showing the recommendations of KCNAC nominating committee.*"

David asked whether the nominating committee would be a standing committee.

Lynda clarified the committee to be an 'ad hoc' committee.

Greg asked whether recommending candidates equates to being blacklisted.

Jay stated that candidates would not be blacklisted. The application asks for any pertinent information...KCNAC needs proof of the candidate's involvements and activities. The board should not have to believe without proof.

Greg suggested asking legal whether 'check marks' can be on the ballots.

David stated that candidates should not be voting on their own recommendations.

Jay stated that a person can 'legally' nominate and vote for his/herself. He asked whether the mail-out ballots were the official notice.

David stated that ballots are mailed to neighborhood and homes associations. The ballot must be signed by one of the officers.

Cynthia asked whether positions would still be open when a list of candidates has been presented to KCNAC.

David stated that the list would be based on the region.

Greg asked whether the current members would be listed.

Jay stated that listing the current members would result in an election hearing. He asked, “How could the At Large members be included?” He commented that he prefer having the problem of too many people seeking the position versus having a bad board.

David stated that it would be a good balance.

Lynda added, “...want diversity.”

Greg asked, “How many neighborhood associations are in the Central West region?” “What happens to neighborhoods when they crossover into another region?”

David stated that about forty associations are in the Central West region. Those crossover neighborhoods would get two votes. The latter part of section 7 would be moved to section 2.

Jay asked whether unorganized neighborhood groups would be allowed to vote.

David stated that unorganized groups are given until to September 30th to re-organize.

Lynda stated that this would be a way to encourage neighborhoods to organize or re-organize.

Section 4: David stated that the active board members are the only ones who can vote.

Section 4c: Jay asked, “Who determines the termination?” David replied, “the majority vote”. The Bylaws were approved with the revisions and signed by the members.

Subcommittee reports:

- Waste Management-Jay:
No Report
- Property Maintenance-Rodney:
No Report
- Liquor Control:
No Report
- Community Policing:
No Report

New Business:

- 1.) Charter Review Changes

Lynda suggested that KCNAC sponsor a neighborhood forum on the Charter Review changes before it goes to the council. The changes eliminate NCSD.

Discussion—

Les stated that there should be a way to engrain neighborhoods into the Charter... “Kansas City is known for its strong neighborhoods” as stated by Les.

Lynda suggested having a daytime and evening meeting in mid-September or at the beginning of October.

Jay asked for a meeting up north.

Cynthia commented that afternoon meetings would be better for her.

Les stated that the Charter changes would be on the spring ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.