



Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC)

“To be a unified community voice promoting a better quality of life for all Kansas City neighborhoods.”

Tuesday, November 8, 2005 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:45 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.

Introductions:

Attending KCNAC Members: Lynda Callon, Jay R. Stock, Rodney Sampson, Cynthia Canady, Forestine Beasley, Bruce Pennington, Jason Waldron, and Greg Hugeback

Absent KCNAC Members: Robert Taylor

City staff: David Reynolds, Renea Nash, and Daisy Dixon

Guest: MarQuita Henry

Review Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion made to approve October 11, 2005 minutes. Motion seconded. Called for discussion—no discussion. Called for vote—minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
- ‘Hot Issues’ topics will be provided to the council at least 5 days after the meeting. This will enhance the technical support provided to KCNAC.

Agenda Approval

President called for amendments to the agenda. No amendments made to the agenda.

Old Business

--Expansion of KCNAC/ KCNAC New Members

- This topic will be discussed in a future meeting.

--Trash Forum sponsored by KCNAC

- KCNAC is sponsoring a three (3) trash forums in which it allows citizens to ask questions about trash collection/problems. The forums are scheduled for November 1, 6pm; November 10, 2:30pm; November 12, 10am. All three forums will be at the Robert J Mohart Multipurpose Center, 3200 Wayne, in the Auditorium. Flyers were mailed out to neighborhood leaders announcing the forums.
- At the Tuesday, November 1 forum, the attendance was approximately 30 people including city staff. Even though good questions were asked, the next two forums would be done in a different format in answering questions to save time.
- A suggestion was made to notify the attendees at the beginning of the forum that following the trash discussion other related topics (illegal dumping) would be discussed at the end.
- At present, recycling is not a cost saving method. However, it will become a cost saving method in the long term as the city recycle more
- Some neighborhoods are plagued by trash produced by absentee landlords. A possible solution would be to recognize who is accountable—the landlord, the tenant or both. Until the residents or owners start caring about their properties or neighborhoods, trash will continue to be a problem.

- When an area is maintained, it decreases the likelihood of being ‘trashed’. For instance, a lady planted flowers on a property that was once plagued by trash and debris. After she planted and maintained the property, the property is no longer a problem for dumping.
- For the upcoming budget allocations, neighborhoods should inform their city councilpersons of neighborhood programs that are important to them. \$20 million is spent on trash, an extra \$5 million when volunteers are included, but many are unhappy about the trash system. Reduce trash cost and make people happy to spend money on other items should be the goal of KCNAC. Accountability is the key.
- KCNAC is asking residents to complete a survey that indicates their top concerns as it relates to trash. Excessive amounts of money spent on trash will reduce programs and resources (workforce). For instance, this would continue affect the number of code enforcement officers, liquor control inspectors, food inspectors, animal control inspectors available.
- An explanation of the city budget from a citizen view: The city receives a lot of its money from the federal government, which has restrictions on how the money is to be spent. The city can only spend the money on what it requested the money for which leaves the general fund. General fund is what funds a lot of the programs that citizens receive. The general fund is funded by taxes—sales, personal property, earning—collected from citizens. The problem occurs when the expected amount or needed amount is not being collected to place in the general fund account due to economical issues, etc. The biggest part of the general fund goes to pay for salaries, retirements, health benefits. Paying retirement benefits has the largest impact on the general fund, but the city is obligated to pay retirement due to its agreement. By now, the fund has decreased to a small percentage to pay for programs and administrative costs. If citizens want more inspectors, then the amount the city spend on trash must decrease significantly.
- A short term plan is in place to address those situations where a property has been cited for violations. In those cases where residents put out more than two bags of trash each week, the solid waste division is working on a solution—penalties, court appearance, working with codes, etc.
- A concern is how the city possibility can deduct \$2.5 million from the general fund to pay for the trash cart program. A closer look at the budget should be a concern of each resident.
- Kansas City is only one of the few cities that do not charge for solid waste per household.
- Some of the trash problems can be attributed to persons living in another city. Ordinance 62 addresses those violators living outside of the city.
- The Legislative and Ethnic Committee is the committee to lobby for issues such as trash collection/legislative.
- KCNAC will request to receive available notifications by email from the Legislative and Ethic Committee.
- As civic engagement, it is important to develop a relationship with elected officials—local, regional, district, state. Citizens have the responsibility to inform their elected officials about those issues of concern.

New Business

--Outcomes and Accomplishments

- A suggestion was made to place a link on the KCNAC’s webpage that shows the accomplishments of the council. So that the public will see that the council is about getting things done. PMAC should be included as a part of the council’s accomplishments to show history.

- Accomplishments consists of: *the Demolition Lien Wavier, graffiti abatement, sponsored 4 to 5 bills in 2000, introduced/revamped various ordinances—liquor, property maintenance, assisted in streamlining the Housing Court violations, increased participation in landlord control, a strong advocate for neighborhood programs, advocate for property warrants, provided insight in the recycling program and waste management issues.*

Subcommittee Reports

--Waste Management: No report.

--Property Maintenance:

- The subcommittee did not meet in October. For November, the subcommittee is preparing for their 'Door Hanger Project.' The new contact with the police department is Officer Rosalind Allen. A suggestion was made to request the minutes of past PMAC meetings from the Neighborhood Preservation Division's manager.

--Liquor Control:

- At the last Roundtable meeting, Regulated Industries' manager and the director of Neighborhood and Community Services Department, and a legal aide were on hand to discuss the legal parts of the enforcement. Currently, the city is down to at least 3 inspectors. The inspector's workloads are overwhelming. A possible solution is to include neighborhood people to be a part of a review panel—Alcoholic Beverage Advisory (ABA) Committee. Proper staffing and equipment will enable a better job of enforcement.

--Community Policing:

- The Steering committee is undergoing changes. It is merging with Safe Cities. This merger was announced at the All C.A.N. (Community Action Network) meeting a few weeks earlier. If the merger works, then minutes will be available because Safe Cities Initiative will have paid staff to draft the minutes.

General Discussion

- Street closure: Bar establishments are blocking off streets without permits. Report the matter to the police, because if the person does not have a permit to block off the street then the person can be arrested. To find out whether the establishment has a permit to block the street(s), call the Public Works Department. Establishments must inform the residents of the street closure. Another option is to report the matter to the Nuisance Business Taskforce; the committee is chaired by Jim Ready, Regulated Industries, Century Tower.
- Bylaws: Consider reviewing the Bylaws in obtaining new members through a new procedure—election. The election process will be printed in a booklet.
- Landlord licensing: A plan is in the works.
- Neighborhood Capacity Building: The City has contracts with Old Northeast, Northland Neighborhoods, Inc, and Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance that require them to hold two regional meeting sponsored by KCNAC. KCNAC should begin thinking about how they will collaborate with these agencies. A KCNAC representative working with these agencies should inform them of KCNAC agenda in holding meetings. Neighborhood Capacity Building concept was previously under the C.D.B.G. fund.
- **Next meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2006.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.