



Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC)

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

Tuesday, March 7, 2006 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:55 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.

Introductions:

Attending KCNAC Members: Lynda Callon, Jay R. Stock, Rodney Sampson, Forestine Beasley, Jason Waldron, and Robert Taylor

Absent KCNAC Members: Bruce Pennington, Greg Hugeback, and Cynthia Canady

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

Guests: Carol Puckett and Jessica Sloan—Eastwood Hills Neighborhood Assn. and David Writz—Valley View Neighborhood Assn.

Review Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion made to approve February 7, 2006 minutes. Motion seconded. Called for discussion—no discussion. Called for vote—minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.

Action Items:

1. Bring more visibility to KCNAC’s accomplishments to attract more applicants
2. Sponsor an appreciation day for the employees of the Solid Waste, Public Works Department
3. Send monthly ‘thank you’ letters to KCNAC supporters
4. Testify in ‘for’ or ‘against’ whether it is the ‘right’ time to purchase the trash carts
5. Research whether penalties apply for earlier trash set out
6. Request the list of recommendations made by the Landlord Committee
7. Invite a Parks and Recreation Department representative to discuss the mowing cycle

Old Business:

--Bylaws changes

The board amended the bylaws to reflect the procedure to add new members between elections. **ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (proposed changes will become Section 4)**

*Section 4: Vacancies. When a vacancy on the Board exists, the Board may accept applications from the general public. Nominations must be received **10** business days in advance of a regular Board meeting, to be sent out with the regular meeting announcement. New members should be added based on the 6 regions whenever possible. All vacancies will be filled by a majority vote of the members of the Board at the next Board meeting. Those appointed in this manner will serve until the next election.*

- A motion made to accept the bylaws changes listed in Article V, Board of Directors, Section 4 as written. Motion seconded. Discussion: It was suggested inserting wording about the need for a quorum in the next to the last sentence of section 4. It was decided that there was no need to insert wording relating to quorum because the requirement for a quorum is stated elsewhere in the bylaws that business cannot be conducted without a quorum. The motion was approved by voice vote.

--KCNAC applications

- The council has received two (2) applications—David Writz and Carol Puckett. Robert Anderson and Glenda Russell withdrew their applications because they would not be able to fulfill the time commitment.
- Since opening remains on the council, the council is open for additional applications. It was suggested that the council always be open for applications from interested citizens. One of the problems for filling the council positions is that many of the residents are unable to fulfill the time commitment.
- Another suggestion was to bring more visibility of the KCNAC accomplishments in order to attract more applicants to apply for the open KCNAC positions. The accomplishments are posted on the city's website at <http://www.kcmo.org/neighborhoodservices/web/kcnac?opendocument>.

New Business:

--Appreciation for hard work and support

- The council suggested sponsoring a "Trash Person" Appreciation Day for the employees of the Solid Waste, Public Works Department. In the past, the council expressed appreciation for code inspectors, which was a very successful reception. Neighborhood leaders and residents, city council, and city officials expressed their appreciation to their area code inspectors. Those employees who pick up neighborhood trash every week need to know that they are appreciated for their work in the neighborhoods.
- The council suggested sending a monthly "Thank You" letter to supporters—city council members and city department directors and staff—of the KCNAC efforts.

Subcommittee Reports:

--Waste Management

- Semi-automated trash collection was previously presented by the city as a 'done deal'. The program would provide trash carts for KCMO residents, which would be picked by a trash truck with an automated arm. KCNAC hosted several trash forums to give citizens the opportunity to ask questions and to allow city staff to provide answers. In some neighborhoods, the program may not be workable. The price tag to purchase the carts would more than likely lead to the reduction or elimination of neighborhood services. Many positive reasons were given for the use of the carts but at what cost to the neighborhoods.
- Is this the right time to purchase carts? If it snowed tomorrow, there is no money to plow the streets. There are always other causes or needs.
- The city has allocated \$400,000 for a pilot "semi-automated trash collection" program to determine, if the program would work. The amount would include the costs of the 'arm attachments' for the trucks, carts...the pilot area has not been selected.
- Some neighborhoods are 'in favor' of purchasing trash carts.
- Citizens can present testimonies before the council or submit a testimony by email to the council. The city budget is not finalized until March 31. The Budget and Finance committee meets tomorrow at 10:30 am, City Council Chambers.
- It was suggested implementing a pilot program to determine whether the program would work in the various terrain of Kansas City, MO.
- Another suggestion was to not spend the money, but drive through the neighborhoods and complete a statistical analysis of what will and will not work.
- An alternative to spending the money on the trash carts is to put more money in other programs/divisions. Extra money in the Animal Control's budget would reduce the amount

trash destroyed by animals. Money is needed in other programs such as like illegal dumping, rat program, forestry, hiring more code inspectors...

- The origin of the decision to purchase the carts is an internal [city] decision.
- Instead of the city paying for the pilot program, the trash cart company should pay for the expense as a way to prove the program.
- The Public Works Department must handle the exceptions that will arise from implementing the trash cart program. For instance in the summertime, the carts will be on the street smelling like a trash truck for those residents that do not clean the carts.
- Deffenbaugh is doing a great day in collecting the trash each week.

--Property Maintenance

- The NPD Statistical Report showed an increase in the number of inspections per month compared to last year, due to the Neighborhood Preservation Code Inspectors and the Action Center taking over the trash complaints such as the non collection of resident trash.
- It has been suggested to the NPD manager to provide the number of property maintenance and number of nuisance violations separately.
- The Action Center's Tiger Team does follow-up on incoming calls/complaints.
- For non collection of trash, the solid waste division manager proposed possibility deducting from Deffenbaugh's contract to reduce the number of calls.
- It was suggested that CCS include an educational article about trash—set out time, two-bag limit—and bulky items.
- PMAC has not had a regular meeting in several months.
- There is some difficulty in receiving information or updates about summons. Summons has not been delivered in over a year. The exact number is unknown, the court administrator no longer allow accessibility to this information.
- Pending projects: Door hanger project; Summons delivery

--Liquor Control

- KCNAC plans to have a member on the Liquor Control Board for neighborhood representation.

--Community Policing

- No report

General Discussion

- Cuts: Effective March 6, 2006, the city forestry position in Parks & Recreation Department was eliminated. The position was a necessity. There is no money to replant or prune the trees. The city has spent \$20 million dollars on the new street lighting system, but with no one to trim the trees, the trees will grow and block the light. The reason for the new lighting system was to improve street lighting. Trees are needed to assist in accomplishing the right amount of air quality so that the city can continue receiving federal funds.
- Research whether penalties apply for earlier trash set out.
- House Bill 1242 will address many of the problems associated with absentee and slum landlords.
- Landlord registration was passed in 2000, but no action has been taken to create such a list.
- Neighborhood representation was not on the Landlord Committee. KCNAC will request a copy of the committee's recommendations that has been submitted to the City Council.
- Find out the property maintenance guidelines for commercial properties.

- What is the final number for the number of mowing cycles? It was suggested inviting a Parks and Recreation Department representative to a future KCNAC meeting. The invite should come from the desk of the NCSD director.
- Future issue: Closure of swimming pools in the Urban Core area

The next KCNAC meeting is **Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 3:30 pm, Mohart Board Room.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President.