

Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council (KCNAC)

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

Tuesday, December 5th, 2006 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 3:40 PM by Lynda Callon, KCNAC President, at the Ivanhoe Community Center.

Introductions:

Attending KCNAC Members: Lynda Callon, Rodney Sampson, Forestine Beasley, Carol Puckett, Tammy Gay, Jay Stock, Jason Waldron, Robert Taylor, John Shields, Cynthia Canady, and Carol Winterowd.

Absent KCNAC Members: Dale Palmer, Bruce Pennington, and Greg Hugeback.

City Staff: David Reynolds, Renea Nash, Les Washington.

Guests:

New Business:

- Les' neighborhood package was presented to the group. There was some question on whether these represented new funds or the sum total of allocated funds for that program. When he arrived, he clarified that these were additional funds being requested for the coming fiscal year.
- There was a concern about the Animal Control expansion being related to paying KCPD to fill in on evenings/weekends. The other question is will the increase in funds go to licensing enforcement, or responding to calls for service? Jay had a serious objection to using enforcement agencies as a revenue stream. The Sweep Teams that were doing license enforcement were reassigned to street enforcement due to increased need from the Pit Bull problems, etc.
- Are systematic inspections for Neighborhood Preservation being added to neighborhoods across the city, or only in NIP neighborhoods? They are also supposed to write up any cases they see on their way to responding to complaint-driven cases, but there seems to be little incentive to do so when their caseloads are already so high. Les clarified that they are reintroducing systematic inspections as part of NIP, but it is also available to other neighborhoods upon request.
- There were ongoing concerns about NIP activities pulling away resources from the other group of neighborhoods which are not part of that program.
- According to someone Lynda talked to in the Forestry program, the tree trimming budget “should” be closer to \$1.5M to deal with the backlog for our aging urban forest, but funding is not available for full ongoing maintenance at this point. Right now much of the culling of dead trees comes from ice storms.
- John Shields proposed to start with finding out how much money is needed to solve a problem, and then break it out over the years necessary; 3, 5, however many it takes to make it feasible.
- Jay pointed out that it was nearly impossible to rehab a house in an economical fashion in low-income neighborhoods; it ends up creating \$90k houses in \$40k neighborhoods that cannot sell and are targets for vandalism and theft. There are already at least 38 houses in the city as an example of that. Robert wanted to find out about incentives for these houses. Rodney mentioned a program from 1985 that used creative financing on rehabbed houses, and those houses are still populated today. Jay pointed out that a roof can cost \$1000 for someone who does it themselves, and it costs \$5400 to do it with City-licensed, bonded contractors.
- Les mentioned that Deb Hermann has a housing task force which has looked at not just building houses, but building neighborhoods around them to prevent these isolated in-fill houses that get neglected/rejected.
- Carol and others mentioned that predatory lending and unmanageable mortgages create a cycle of ownership changes, rental conversions, and foreclosures.

- Les would like to add \$1M to the Minor Home Repair funds so that they can do some newer cases as well as continue to work on the backlog. Current funding rate is about \$1.2M/year.
- Lynda asked about NIP coordination funds; Les said that is for the coordination plans; Lynda objected based on the original proposal saying that it would not take any additional funds or take any resources away from the other neighborhoods. Les said that was inaccurate.
- Les would like to add funding increases into the CAN centers, to bring them up to \$10k/year. He's also looking at adding some new centers in areas that have a need based on crime statistics. Jay asked if they are organized enough to justify the installation of the center. There was also some confusion on the difference between what the police department calls an "operational center" and an actual CAN center. The PD wants to have areas where they can drop problem-solving teams in where they are needed; Les is looking at making some more permanent centers, such as 23rd Street PAC possibly. Jay mentioned that NNI functions much in the same way, without being an official "CAN center", due to the close partnership with the police department.
- Lynda pointed out that the leaf-and-brush drop-off program being Saturday-only is still not working well. Jay asked why NCSD is responsible for adding these funds when they belong to Parks & Recreation or other departments. Lynda pointed out that Parks & Recreation does not have a good track record of reliability and responsibility. Les clarified that not all of the itemized areas on the summary sheet actually will give funds to NCSD, but they all affect neighborhoods directly.
- Set a date firmly for the budget forum in January; the date will be 1/6/07 after lunch if possible, time to be determined more precisely once the Health Department confirms the availability of the Biery Auditorium. Les also asked that some sort of survey be done at the forum would helpful to show neighborhood support for certain programs. They agreed to meet on 1/9/07 instead of 1/2/07 to be able to review the results of the forum.
- Les brought a concern before the group that Deb Hermann would like to introduce a resolution recognizing the fully staffed KCNAC. Renea will follow up with her on that.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 PM.