Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2009
City Hall, 4th Floor, West Conference Room

Attendance: Carol Puckett, Carol Winterowd, Mark Harris, Evaline Taylor, Dona Stephenson, Greg Hugeback, Carol Edwards, Rodney Sampson Jay Stock, Jason Waldron Vanessa Wates, David Park, Trish Martin, Sherita Herring, Rebecca Fleming

Absent: Matthew Staub, Rob Willard

Guests: Tonya Davis (KCMO Solid Waste), Carol Edwards also brought a guest

Item	Issue	Action by
1	Meeting called to order at 4:07 PM	
2	Tonya Davis gave an overview of recent developments at the Solid Waste Services Department. On April 1, 2009, Chapter 62 of the KCMO Code of Ordinances was changed to allow enforcement of regular curb trash violations through a $25 fine plus court costs – totally $63.50. Violations will be run through Circuit Court, like parking tickets. 275 violations were ticketed in April. There are a total of 4 code enforcement officers dedicated to this effort and they cover the entire City. Ticket is written to occupant (not necessarily the property owner). The officers are "pro-active" and will arrange for pick-ups of illegal set-outs, trash dumped at vacant buildings and boarded-up LLC's, etc.	
3	David Park said that the decision was made internally to issue violation tickets in lieu of warnings because the code didn't change, just the way in which it is being enforced/prioritized. David will look into methods of informing and education residents of the change through: Water bill inserts; NCSD newsletter; website bulletin.	David Park
4	Michael Shaw (Solid Waste Services) is working on developing a proposal to get a "material recovery center" for Kansas City MO that will process trash, recyclables, take old tires, etc.	
5	Tonya Davis: There are no plans to expand the trash cart program at this time.	
6	There was a brief discussion about how to continue or expand the City's education program to residents about the recycling program. There are still many parts of the City, particularly in the urban core, where participation is very low. There was no consensus about how to educate toward increasing participation, however it is an issue which deserves additional consideration.	
7	Carol Winterowd: The new commercial signage ordinance has been reviewed by Committee and has been sent out. Maggie Merrand (City Attorney) is considering changes to accommodate Downtown signage requirements. At this time, the Wizards appear to be content with the proposed ordinance (for new Wizards stadium complex proposed for old Bannister Mall site).	
8	Carol Winterowd: New commercial sign ordinance does not allow new pole signs. It appears the biggest issue still centers around digital signage. The current proposed ordinance limits the number of image changes on digital signs to 1 per hour.	
9	Carol Winterowd: New commercial sign ordinance requires digital signs to be a minimum of 250' away from a residential neighborhood. Digital signs must be located on a major commercial street and must be monument-style.	
10	Carol Winterowd: New commercial sign ordinance number is: 88-445-07.	
11	Motion made to approve April meeting minutes by Rodney Sampson, seconded by Carol Edwards and approved unanimously by board.	

12	Tonya Davis: Weekly curbside recycling program will continue throughout the City for now (there was talk of reducing frequency of pick-ups in portions of the City with low participation, or throughout the entire City).	
13	David Park: Neighbor Arbitration Service has been eliminated. Possible alternatives for citizens needing this type of assistance include: Legal Aid of Western Missouri; Community Mediation Center; Heartland Medication Association; KC Metropolitan Bar Association	
14	Tonya Davis: Contact Constance Tate for information about new policies affecting neighborhood clean-up programs.	
15	*This information was in meeting minutes, but meaning is unclear:* Lois Adams – Public Works – Neighborhood Assistance. Can anyone recall to what this might pertain?	
16	Tonya Davis: Bulky Item pick-up HAS officially been changed to an appointment-based system. There are no longer set dates for neighborhood-wide pick-ups of bulky items. Tonya - please find out how Solid Waste Services is coordinating with Bulky Item pick-up. Will they report set-outs of bulky items that they witness while picking up regular trash?	Tonya Davis
17	Trish Martin: She has used new dumpster program – cost is now $55 per dumpster and you must contact the department (Constance Tate?) at least 3 weeks prior to event to schedule. You must have a check in-hand, ready to give to City to reserve dumpsters.	
18	Carol Edwards: She is still seeing many problems with illegal dumping in Central – East region.	
19	David Park: Contract crews should be mowing vacant lots and mowing/cleaning unresolved nuisance violations by the end of the week (5/8/2009). David reviewed the new mowing & cleaning policies and bidding process for these services, which he has covered in previous meetings.	
20	Sherita Herring: Sherita has experience with grant writing – she suggested that we (or City staff) look into grant money for non-profits to help the City mow and clean vacant and problem properties and find sources for in-kind community services. Sherita suggested going to www.kifoundation.org and clicking on "free grant info" on the left side of the screen.	
21	NNI (Northland Neighborhoods Inc.) is coordinating a drop-off event for oil, anti-freeze, paint, tires and batteries at the Antioch Shopping Center. Call (816) 454-2000 for more information.	
22	There is also a KCMO Hazardous Waste drop-off event schedule for 6/16/2009 at the Linwood Shopping Center at 31st & Prospect.	
23	Vanessa Wates will put together an updated directory for KCNAC members that will include contact information	Vanessa Wates
24	Jay Stock: Jay expressed concern about the future of Antioch Shopping Center and Metro North Shopping Center, both of which are largely vacant. Failing/aging retail centers are a problem nationwide. Antioch Shopping Center began going downhill in the 90's. RED Development, which has redevelopment rights at Antioch Shopping Center is stalled and doing nothing currently on the site. Larry Hammil in Legal Aid is looking into the possibility of filing a lawsuit against RED. Jay says the current condition of the site gives a clear message of "distressed neighborhood". Jay advises neighborhoods to be cautious when dealing with developers. The migration of retail to newer centers has another negative impact: the older locations contributed 100% of local taxes due. New developments are able to divert some of those taxes into site development costs, costing the City money with no expansion of business – retailers simply close old stores and relocate in newer, TIF-related developments.	
25	LeRon Ford with Neighborhood Preservation should be able to provide KCNAC with information about Property Code Violation warrants.	

26	Jay Stock: Jay wants information from Housing Court (Judge Wayne Cagel) about how much money Housing Court is currently collecting in violation penalty fees and court cost recovery. The number $214K was thrown out for the preceding year. That money went to the Municipal Court Fund.	
27	Dona Stephenson: Census Bureau presentations are available for interested neighborhood groups – Dona to send out contact information to KCNAC members. There are perks for neighborhood groups (with 501c3 status) to participate in counting residents. Encourage residents to participate in the Census – funding for critical programs is often based on Census information – not being counted hurts neighborhoods.	Dona Stephenson
28	Mayor has started "New Tools" program which involves four independent Community Organizers assisting residents in generating ideas for economic development in the urban core. Upcoming symposium dates and information can be found at: http://www.kcmo.org/finance.nsf/web/ntsymp This is a movement to get people engaged in improving the economic vitality of their neighborhoods.	
29	Greg Hugeback makes a motion to adjourn meeting at 5:42 PM, Trish Martin seconds the motion and it is unanimously approved by board members present.	

End of Meeting Minutes