

# **NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. WHY DID UMKC DECIDE TO ALTER THE METHOD OF INTERACTING WITH NEIGHBORHOODS?**

Much has changed since the Volker Neighborhood Council was launched in 2002. These changes include:

- A. “Best Practices” for engagement identified by other university/neighborhood interactions;
- B. the specific staff, administration and neighbors involved in dialogue;
- C. technology for communicating more effectively;
- D. incorporated consensus priorities for Rockhill Crest/UMKC Homes property maintenance, landscape and parking, in compliance with the KCMO Property Maintenance Code;
- E. City Council members and KCMO staff that provide counsel and support to the University and the neighborhoods;
- F. the legal environment;
- G. the University’s expanded commitment to inclusion, diversity and transparency.

Given these and other changes, UMKC believed it was time to pause and take an in-depth look at our neighborhood interaction procedures. Following many conversations, research, careful consideration of the findings and outside involvement, we have decided to implement the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC). Guiding documents for the organization, including this FAQ, can be found on the NAC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/UMKCs-Neighborhood-Advisory-Council-1715209815360872/?ref=hl>

We recognize change is often difficult. We also believe there are many benefits to the new method of interaction with our neighbors.

### **2. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CREATING THE NEW NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL?**

Benefits include:

- A. One-year term limit for involvement, giving more voices an opportunity to be heard;
- B. Increased meeting frequency (from quarterly to monthly);
- C. Shorter meeting length (from unlimited to one-hour);
- D. Outside party will facilitate the meetings during first year;
- E. Neighborhoods that have current issues will be able to convey their concerns in an open dialogue;
- F. Increased opportunity for individuals who have never participated in UMKC/ neighborhood involvement to serve;
- G. Both neighborhood and UMKC participants will be required to apply and will need to satisfy stated requirements to serve;
- H. All applicants who apply must commit to respectful, appropriate behavior in the meetings and any behavior not honoring this commitment will not be allowed;
- I. Improved meeting efficiency by covering a lot of ground in a shorter timeframe.

### **3. WHAT ARE THE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS TO SERVE?**

Every member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council must satisfy the following criteria:

- A. Complete and timely submission of the NAC Application;
- B. History of respectful and collegial interaction in previous committee, task force or council involvement as experienced and / or verified by references from UMKC, current or prior committee, task force, council members or community leaders;
- C. Desire to serve, as evidenced on the NAC Application, through written commentary under, "Service Intention Statement;"
- D. Provision of at least two (2) references who can speak from personal experience about your work with groups. It is preferred, but not required, that one (1) of the references come from participation in current neighborhood advocacy;
- E. Commitment to a minimum of one-year of regular attendance at meetings with no more than two unexcused absences for the entire year, as evidenced by dated signature on the NAC Application;
- F. Written agreement to abide by the NAC Ground Rules, as evidenced by dated signature on the Ground Rule document;
- G. Willingness to actively engage in neighborhood dialogue and regular two-way communication regarding common UMKC / neighborhood issues, as evidenced by dated signature on the NAC Application;
- H. Recommendation from at least three (3) of the five NAC Membership Review Committee members and approval by the Chancellor.

### **4. HOW WILL THIS METHOD OF INTERACTION IMPROVE OVER THE FORMER METHOD OF INTERACTION VIA THE VOLKER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL?**

While the previous Volker Neighborhood Council (VNC) was very active and helpful in its time, its format and membership needed to evolve as the neighborhoods, the university, available technology and issues of concern have evolved and will continue to evolve over time. This new approach with the NAC allows fresh perspectives and new ideas to be heard and shared optimally. The change to the NAC also allows the use of new technological tools, adoption of best practices in university-neighborhood interaction and a broader base of direct neighborhood involvement.

### **5. WHAT WILL THE UNIVERSITY DO DIFFERENTLY AS A RESULT OF THIS NEW APPROACH?**

Since we are making this change, the burden is on us to make this as successful as possible. UMKC commits the following to the community-at-large (more information about these commitments can be found on the NAC Invitation at our NAC Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/UMKCs-Neighborhood-Advisory-Council-1715209815360872/?ref=hl>)

- A. Create a NAC Membership Review Committee consisting of five individuals interested in and qualified to assess / recommend candidates according to criteria;
- B. Appoint NAC members in strict adherence to stated Membership Criteria;
- C. When possible, schedule monthly meetings on the same day, at the same time and place each month. Changes to the published calendar can only be made when a simple majority of NAC members agree.

- D. Changes will be posted on the Facebook page and communicated to neighborhoods and NAC members via email with a minimum of five days' notice before the next scheduled meeting.
- E. Provide a one-year calendar of scheduled meeting day/time/place simultaneously with the invitation to serve;
- F. Identify and retain an outside facilitator to conduct the meetings;
- G. Distribute every NAC meeting agenda no less than five days prior to the next scheduled meeting;
- H. Request/act on feedback from NAC members at the close of each meeting;
- I. Publish Meeting Minutes no more than five business days following each meeting;
- J. Distribute the Strategic Plan and other neighborhood-relevant documents within 30-days of publication;
- K. Commit to an evolving process based on an annual review of NAC proceedings by both neighborhood and university participants;
- L. Share UMKC and vendor plans in advance of publication so that NAC members and the neighborhoods can have input before they are implemented;
- M. Report UMKC revised plans and/or implementation to NAC as soon as possible; and
- N. Encourage involvement, respect recommendations and incorporate suggestions made by the Neighborhood Advisory Council whenever possible.

## **6. CAN I STILL ATTEND A NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING EVEN IF I AM NOT A MEMBER?**

Absolutely! Additionally, there may be future opportunities to get involved on a task force or for a special event. Any neighborhood member is invited to attend NAC meetings **as an observer** under the following conditions:

- A. Only NAC members and university liaisons will be seated at the front tables. Additional "open seating" will be made available for other attendees;
- B. Non-NAC members must be recognized by the facilitator before they can speak at NAC meetings;
- C. Facilitator-recognized non-NAC speakers are subject to the same guidelines imposed on NAC speakers (e.g., time restriction, etc.);
- D. Non-NAC members will be expected to comply with NAC Ground Rules or be subject to removal from the meeting; and
- E. No recordings will be allowed at NAC meetings.

## **7. WHEN WILL NAC MEETINGS TAKE PLACE?**

- A. NAC meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of every month from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m., *\*unless noted below*. Meetings will take place at the UMKC Administrative Center, 5115 Oak Street – 2nd floor, Kansas City, MO 64112.
- B. Parking is available in metered parking on the fifth level of the Oak Street Parking Garage. Dates of the monthly meetings follow.

**NAC MEETING SCHEDULE: March 2016-February 2017**

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• <i>March 9 (*2nd Wednesday)</i>	• <i>September 7</i>
• <i>April 6</i>	• <i>October 5</i>
• <i>May 4</i>	• <i>November 2</i>
• <i>June 1</i>	• <i>December 7</i>
• <i>July 6</i>	• <i>January 11, 2017 (*2nd Wednesday)</i>
• <i>August 3</i>	• <i>February 1, 2017</i>

**8. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL OR GETTING INVOLVED?**

We are happy to employ Kimberly Johnson who not only knows how to find the right people and the right answers, she is a UMKC student as well as a Rockhill Crest neighborhood resident. Feel free to contact Kimberly here:

**Kimberly Johnson**  
**Executive Assistant to the Chancellor**  
**University of Missouri - Kansas City**  
**301 Administrative Center, 5115 Oak Street**  
**Kansas City, MO 64112**  
[umkc-nac@umkc.edu](mailto:umkc-nac@umkc.edu)  
telephone - (816) 235-1027, fax - (816) 235-5588

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AS WE RENEW OUR  
COMMITMENT TO NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT**