



External Relations & Constituent Engagement

Neighborhood Advisory Council

UMKC Administrative Center (5115 Oak Street), Plaza Room
Wednesday, June 14
6:00-7:30 PM

NOTES:

Present: Nate Addington (UMKC), Troy Lillebo (UMKC), Sean Reeder (UMKC), Bill Haverly (UMKC), Andre Logan (UMKC), Michael Bongartz (UMKC), Ken Spare (Guest), Taylor Rippe (Guest), Kate Marshall (Guest), David Westbrook (Guest), Landon Collis (Guest), Martha Hogerty (NAC), Jason Pryor (NAC), Chase Johnson (NAC), Pat Gallagher (NAC), Jan Bentley (NAC), Jim Wanser (NAC), Eddie James (NAC), Laura Burkhalter (NAC), Kate Smith (NAC), Doug Ghertner (NAC), Alicia Douglass (NAC)

Welcome

Guest Speakers

- Plaza Area Council
 - David Westbrook, a member for the Plaza Area Council Board and Kate Marshall, Executive Director joined us to share about the work of the Council. They are a nonprofit whose work is to advocate on behalf of the Plaza and the neighborhoods that surround its footprint. David explained that the area has a “Magic Equity” and they work to protect and advance that “Sense of Place”. They hope to eventually compose a strategic plan.
 - On June 21 they will be hosting a Block Party in Millcreek Park from 6:00-8:00 PM. There will be lots of live music. People are encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy the fun. UMKC will be tabling there with popsicles, soliciting subscriptions for the neighborhoods news and the Oak Street RFP Listening Session
 - Find out more information plazakc.org
 - Kate Marshall kate@plazakc.org.
- Taylor Rippe Transportation Policy Strategist, Burns & McDonnell / KC Streetcar
 - A double crossover is being moved from the rail storage yard by MLK to Westport. It is a significant piece of metal that will close the street. To accommodate traffic that will be done at 3:00 AM
 - Track installment and overhead electric just hit 50%, there is some work being done by the Trolley Trail related to water tie-ins and basic construction.
 - The Next Main Street Meet-Up is at Ragazza on June 28th

Community Engagement Updates

- Feedback on UMKC Neighborhood News,

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- Nate shared that he has received initial positive feedback from the new Neighborhood Newsletter. They have used the listserv for two bi-monthly newsletters and multiple neighborhood specific updates related to the Oak Street RFP. 60% open rates are one of the highest for external pieces at UMKC. A new issue of the Neighborhood News is schedule to go out this week. Please continue to share and push registration. Nate and Troy will be at the Plaza Area Council Block Party next week to encourage sign ups.
- UMKC Engagement Month Save the Date
 - October will be the fourth annual UMKC Engagement Month. This year's theme is All Things Youth. There will be a full listing of events sent out in Mid October.
- UMKC Insider Academy
 - Kate Smith shared some notes about her experience at the UMKC Insider Academy. Nates Hopes to move all NAC Members through the initiative at some point. At the moment it is offered once in the spring and once in the fall. The program is designed to give a behind the scenes look into UMKC to Neighborhood, Civic, Business, and Government Leaders.

University Updates

- Oak Street RFP/Listening Session
 - On May 15th, UMKC Announced that is would be accepting proposals to explore the development of just over 5 acres of land along Oak Street in anticipation of the arrival of the street car. We wanted to make sure our local neighborhoods were as informed as possible, so in addition to the general press release we did personal contact to leadership and residents of the South Plaza Neighborhood, the subscribers to our Neighborhood Newsletters, all of the surrounding businesses, and of course to the NAC Members and the Neighborhood Presidents we have contact information for. We've also scheduled 2 community listening sessions on internal for our faculty, staff and students, and one for the community so that we can gathering input on what people would like to see in the space. Our plan is to compile the feedback we gather and present it to the chosen developer. If you haven't read the RFP yet, one thing that Nate is really excited about is that in the list of items interested developers are required to submit is their own plan for how they plan to engage the community. We've got a long way to go in the process, but we're excited about what this could mean for the campus and community and could use all the help we can get pushing information out about the listening session over the next week (Tuesday is the registration deadline).
 - We're still nailing down the logistics for the listening session, but we'll likely do some overview presentations and then break into small groups to go over some discussion questions before doing a large group debrief.

- Concerns raised by NAC members included concerns on the height of the building, the future of the colonial shops and their tenants, that NAC members felt out of the loop, and that construction will still be underway when the streetcar extension is finished. Nate clarified that removing the Colonial Shops is on the table, but that we don't know what the developers will propose.
- Facilities Updates
 - Bill shared that the historic quad will have new outdoor furniture installed in the coming weeks and encouraged use of it.

Standard Reports *Housing and Police Reports provided in separate documents
 Chief Shared that they have four new officers that have completed the Police Academy and will be starting at UMKC over the coming Weeks.
 Ken raised Concern that the numbers in the housing report seemed off. Sean Clarified that it appeared that Voepel did not include houses currently offline and not listed for rent were not included. He would work to ensure better reporting for the future.

Neighborhood Announcements/Public Comments

- Jim Shared that Rockhill Homes installed 20 trees among the median on Rockhill Road. They hope to install more in the future.
- Laura shared that Southmoreland is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year and an event will be shared. In the meantime, they are working on adding 4526 Warwick to the national register of historic places. There is a public meeting on Wednesday the 21st at 5:30 that the community is encouraged to attend. She also encourages everyone to attend Shakespeare in the park in the coming weeks.
- Alicia shared that Rockhurst is in the process of selling several homes to the north of campus and is working with a local realtor. They recently sold some houses to the south of campus and worked with a local nonprofit to ensure first time home buyers had an opportunity for the spaces.

Adjourn

Looking Ahead:

- September 13, 2023- Quarterly NAC Meeting All future meeting will be moved to 5:30-7:00.
- December 12, 2023- Quarterly NAC Meeting