



## External Relations & Constituent Engagement

### UMKC NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 | 5:30-7:00 PM | Plaza Room- UMKC Admin Center

### NOTES

In Attendance: Nate Addington (UMKC Staff), Troy Lillebo (UMKC Staff), Sean Reeder, (UMKC Staff), Michael Bongartz (UMKC Staff), Celina Genta (UMKC Staff), Katie Meyer (Guest- KC Streetcar), Eddie James (NAC), Chase Johnson (NAC), Jan Bentley (NAC), Pat Gallagher (NAC), Ken Spare (Guest), Martha Hogerty (NAC), Jim Wanser (NAC), Alicia Douglass (NAC), Sean Ackerson- Guest, (Southtown Council), Laura Burkhalter (NAC), Forest Decker (NAC).

#### Welcome/Introductions

- Celina Genta- Celina is a new Intern in Nate's office and will be assisting with community relations work. She will be attending and taking notes at future NAC Meetings. She is a first-year student from St. Louis.

#### Guest Speakers

- KC Streetcar Updates – Katie Meyer
  - Progress on KC Streetcar
    - 54% done overall;
    - 59% complete with track installation;
    - 59% OCS pole foundations have been poured; and,
    - 25% OCS poles have been installed.
  - The work at the corner of Brookside and 51<sup>st</sup> has been completed and was finished on-time. The intersection reopened last Saturday.
    - Troy shared Jason's concerns that the timing was not great with the start of the school year, and that earlier communication with the University can help the Board of Trustees communicate with their vendors.
    - Other neighbors expressed that it was only a minor inconvenience and that the short duration of the interruption was appreciated.
    - The Trolley Trail will reopen early next week (Monday or Tuesday)
  - Continued Work
    - Crews are shifting to phase two of construction, which includes the instillation of the northbound track. By the end of the month, crews will begin additional work on Brookside Blvd. While temporary road closures are possible, its likely that work can be completed by reducing traffic to a single lane in both directions.
  - Questions
    - Q: Are you still on track to be completed in 2025?

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- A: Yes, construction will end in 2025, but there is training and testing to be done before actually opening for service.
- Q: What are the intervals the streetcars will be running
- A: Approximately every 13-15 minutes
- How many streetcars run now?
  - KC Streetcar has 6 Streetcars in operation, with 3 running every day. An additional 8 will be added for the 2025 extension.

### University Updates

- Community Engagement Updates
  - The next UMKC Neighborhood News comes out next Thursday. Please continue to share with your respective listservs.
- UMKC Engagement Month – October 2023
  - Begins on 09/23 Symphony with the KC Symphony Mobile Music Box on campus- please invite your neighbors. Programing continues through October. There are currently 52 events scheduled!
  - Doug mentioned it's the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RepTtheater and encouraged that to be added to upcoming communications.
- NAC Seats Expiring in December 2023

49/63	Countryside	Manheim Park
Rockhill Crest	South Plaza	Troostwood
Troost Plateau		

- The NAC seats for the neighborhoods listed above are up for renewal/reappointment after our December meeting. Nate will be sending the applications to current members and neighborhood presidents. We encourage everyone to reapply, but also would like to have multiple applications to consider for each neighborhood. We understand some have been serving for multiple terms, and we don't want folks to feel like they have no choice but to serve. We also would like to increase diversity on the council.
- The application has been revised and simplified. Those reapplying do NOT need to provide references.
- The goal is to make appointment announcements at least one month in advance of the March 2024 Meeting
- Question: How many times can you reapply? - Doug
  - Answer: There are no term limits
- Question: Are there 2 application rotations now? - Ken.
  - Answer: Yes, the seats have been divided in two, with half of the council up for renewal/reappointment every year.

- Facilities Updates
  - Oak Street RFP - Shawn
    - We received four responses (3 from local firms). All of which have been interviewed. The university is now in continued conversations with the applicants. Sean anticipates this will take an additional 30-60 days. At which point we hope to have more updates. All four firms included community engagement plans as part of their proposals and all have spoken with the Colonial Shop Vendors.
    - In the meantime, the two fields have been transformed into intermural/recreation fields- cricket on the south and soccer on the north. The north field received new sod. Additionally, the east edge of field by Oak Street had a fence installed to prevent stray balls from going into the street.
    - Nate shared that some neighborhoods have requested the university come to neighborhood meetings to provide updates. At the moment, State procurement policy prohibits us for making any additional public statements or accepting additional public comments, but we plan to provide updates as soon as we are able
    - Question: Will we find a firm by the end of the year?
      - Answer: No, it will take longer than that, but he's hopeful to narrow in on finalists near the start of the year.
  - UMKC Owned Homes - Sean
    - Occupancy of the homes is currently at 85% with 121 homes occupied and 22 homes vacant. About half of the vacant homes are available for rent.
    - Sean shared that the level of upkeep of the houses is not at the standard he would like and wants to meet/hear from the community is discuss the best way for the university to move forward. It was shared, and echoed by several members, that they would urge the university to consider divesting and working towards returning the homes to single-family owner/occupant dwellings.
    - Sean would like to dedicate a significant portion of the December meeting, or possibly convene a smaller meeting just on the homes sometime in November. This meeting would include individuals form the neighborhoods as well as Rockhurst who recently divested of some houses.
  - Epperson House

- The university would like to revive/reissue a failed RFP for Epperson House that was initially posted in February 2020. COVID and the unique challenges of the house contributed to a lack of interest. But approx. 16 developers were given tours through 2020 and 2021. None could find a usable solution.
  - Epperson House is structurally in good shape, but the interior needs significant refurbishing.
  - Discussion was held on a community perception that the original RFP was restrictive and didn't allow developers to have full control over property. Troy clarified that they are open to any and all proposals including rentals leases, and sales.
- Other Facilities Updates:
  - The historic quad has had several improvements over the summer. If you are looking for a park-like atmosphere, this is a great space to check out.
  - The request to vacate 51<sup>st</sup> street has moved to the city. Once approved, there are several streets that will switch from one-way to two-way. We will ensure prompt communication before any changes occur.
- Updates on Oak Street Parking
- Nate provided clarification on the ownership/operation of the various lots on Oak Street. The Colonial Shops, and lots on either side, are owned by the UMKC Trustees who contract management of the property through Copeaken Brooks. Lot 46 is University owned/operated parking.
- Jason had expressed concerns that the shift to metered parking in Lot 46 was done without sufficient communication. Nate confirmed this and apologized for the oversight. 8 tickets were waived, and enforcement was paused for several weeks, but has since resumed.
- Later, additional concerns were raised on the parking in the Colonial Shop Lots, focused on students parking for extended periods of time.
- The issue and possible solutions were presented to the Colonial Shop vendors. They agreed that there was an issue, but it was not pervasive enough to warrant substantial remediation. The following steps were taken:
  - Replacing the Retail Only signs to say "One-Hour Parking for Crows, Kin Lin, Pizza 51 and Pride Cleaners" to delineate it was not parking for Whole Foods.
  - All employee parking spaces moved behind the colonial shops, allowing more customer parking in the side lots.

- All the tenants, and Pizza 51, were offered the opportunity to obtain additional employee spots in Lot 46
- UMKC Reissued employee parking passes
- Nate was concerned about some of the responses he received and reassured that the goal is always open communication that is honest and as timely as possible

**Standard Reports** \*Housing and Police Reports provided in separate documents

### **Neighborhood Announcements/Events**

There are city-wide conversations about connecting the bike lanes on Gillham to the Trolley Trail. All are encouraged to express their opinion.

Eddie shared that Crestwood has had an issue with increased property and car crime. Doug shared that it's the same case in Countryside. Laura shared that to help address this issue, Southmoreland has started a Block Contact Program. Sean shared that he has met with KCPD and they simply don't have the numbers to prevent additional incidents.

Southmoreland has their firepit and dumpster day upcoming on November 4<sup>th</sup> It is also their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as organization.

Rockhill Ridge had a very successfully Community and Garden Fair.

Alicia shared that next Thursday, HUD is appointing a community forum on community appraisals and equity.

Doug asked for a Roster of our group of our group and the neighborhoods they represent. Nate reminded him it was available on the NAC Website.

### **Public Comments**

### **Adjourn**

### **Looking Ahead:**

- December 12, 2023- Quarterly NAC Meeting- **NOTE CHANGE TO TUESDAY**
- January 6, 2024- NAC Applications Due
- February 7, 2024- NAC Appointments Announced