

Livable Neighborhoods Meeting

Thursday, April 27th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Presentations:

I. Kansas City, Kansas Community College

Rosalyn Brown, KCKCC Board Trustee, rbrown@kckcc.edu
Pat Brune, KCKCC Board Trustee, pbrune@kckcc.edu

Kansas City Kansas Community College (KCKCC) announces the development of their downtown campus. The downtown campus will be built on N 7TH St. Trafficway and State Avenue. Currently, the historic Seventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church stands there. As part of the development of the downtown campus, the historic church will be carefully deconstructed, and the preserved materials will be included in the construction of the new campus. The downtown campus will include a room dedicated to the history of this historic church. Also included on campus will be a Swope Health clinic. This clinic will accept walk-in appointments from registered patients of Swope Health. CommunityAmerica Credit Union will have a branch stationed within the downtown campus and hold financial literacy classes. The cost of development for the KCKCC downtown campus is around \$62 million and about 74% of this cost has been fundraised. The campus is expected to generate \$182.4 million in added income and support 2,811 jobs.

Question: Will the KCKCC downtown campus have a technical program?

Answer: Yes, the downtown campus will include a technical school. The community college is hoping to draw technical students from Missouri to its program since its location is close to the state's border.

Question: What will the campus' construction look like, and will there be parking dedicated to the school?

Answer: The campus will include a technical school, Swope Health medical facilities, a credit union with a drive-thru, as well as underground parking. It's possible that State Avenue will be taken down to one block to allow for diagonal parking along the school.

Question: When is the completion date?

Answer: July 2025

Question: What scholarship and financial aid opportunities are available?

Answer: KCKCC has raised enough scholarship money to offer some free educational opportunities. If you need assistance paying for your post-secondary education, reach out to KCKCC financial aid department and ask about these scholarship funds.

Question: How will the downtown campus support the dual enrollment program for high school students?

Answer: KCKPS high school students will be able to enroll in classes held at the downtown campus through the dual enrollment program just as they are able to at other KCKCC locations.

Question: What will happen to the Mt. Carmel Willa Gill Center and Wyandot Center Frank Williams Outreach Center?

Answer: Commissioner Melissa Bynum spoke on this question. Commissioner Bynum supports the work that Mt. Carmel and Wyandot Center do and expresses her desire to ensure that both organizations' work is not interrupted by the development of the KCKCC downtown campus. The Mayor's office has a taskforce that aims to address the needs of unhoused residents. In collaboration with this taskforce, elected officials are discussing solutions for the Willa Gill Center.

Commissioner Bynum offered a firm, verbal commitment to finding these organizations a new home.

Regular Updates:

I. Mayor's Office

Brian Perez, Taskforce Liaison, bperez@wycokck.org

The Mayor's Office announces new chairs and co-chairs of the criminal safety injustice and law enforcement advisory board. The Mayor's Taskforce meetings on criminal safety injustice take place on the 1st Thursday of every month at 6 PM. Brian invites all to join them in-person in the 5th floor conference room or via zoom. The Mayor's Taskforce meetings on law enforcement advisory take place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. The sustainability taskforce will be starting back up and will take place April 17th at the South Branch Library. Reminders for these meetings are on the UG calendar.

II. KCKPS USD 500

Francisco Litardo, Community Engagement Educator/Gov't Liaison, francisco.litardo@kckps.org

KCKPS is in the process of developing an informational webpage that would allow community members to (1) stay informed about legislative proposals and policies that KCKPS is focused on, (2) connect with educational advocacy agencies, and (3) provide updates about how government is impacting our Kansas City, KS public education system. This webpage is live, and Francisco encourages all to visit at <https://www.kckschools.org/community/legislative-priorities>. Francisco also encourages community members to get involved and advocate for the wellbeing of KCKPS and its students to our state congress members. Educational vouchers and special education funding are topics that need constant support and advocacy. Lastly, the school district's 2021-2022 annual report is available online at <https://www.kckschools.org/about/annual-report>.

Question: What is the district policy on public use of playgrounds?

Answer: Rachel Russell with the KCKPS School Board spoke on this question. Public use of school playgrounds is an ongoing conversation. There is concern about destruction of property, particularly regarding vandalism and graffiti, that would negatively impact students' ability to use the playgrounds during school hours. For this reason, playgrounds are currently not open to the public, but the issue is being reviewed and considered to better serve the needs and wants of community members while still prioritizing the interests of KCKPS students.

III. Turner USD 202

Lauren Aiello, Turner PR Professional, aiello@turnerusd202.org

The Turner Aquatic Center will be closed for renovation for Summer 2023 starting May 14th. It is scheduled to reopen in late July 2023. Turner High School will hold its carnival-style Back to School Bash on Tuesday, August 1st, 2023 from 4 PM to 6:30 PM. Lauren encourages businesses and organizations to register to table. Reach out to Lauren for additional promotional opportunities.

IV. KCK Police Department

Sgt. Angela Joyce

The South Patrol Open House will take place May 11th at 4 PM at the KCKPD's South Patrol Division (2200 Metropolitan Ave.). The West Patrol Open House will be June 1st at 4 PM at the Wyandotte County Police Department (1011 N 80TH Terr.). Come mingle with the KCKPD officers serving the south and west end. Hot dogs will be served.

Question: Will KCKPD have the cadets program this year?

Answer: Yes, the cadets' program will take place this year. The number of applicants selected this year will be reduced to better serve the cadets in the program. Apply online on the Unified Government's human resources page.

V. Neighborhood Resource Center

Greg Talkin, NRC Department Director

Jason Haworth fills the business license administrator role at the neighborhood resource center. Kansas House of Representatives allowed the time to expire on a policy that would guarantee the Property Maintenance Compliance (PM) department's ability to operate a vacant property registry. This registry allows PM to better know about and manage vacant properties in our community and provides useful information to emergency services (KCKPD, KCKFD, etc.). Lastly, Greg reminds the community to cut their grass.

VI. BPU

David Mehlhaff

Patrice Townsend, ptownsend@bpu.com

The week of May 7th is national drinking water week. BPU in partnership with American Water Works Association will be observing this decades-long tradition by educating the public on the importance of clean, safe drinking water and its role in protecting public health and the environment. BPU will be offering a limited number of tours of their water treatment facilities. Reach out to David for additional details about these tours. BPU's Summer Youth Program is closing. The program provides grant funding to the 8 NBRs in Wyandotte County to help offset the cost of summer youth activities and internships hosted by our community's NBRs. Lastly, David thanks Kansas state representatives, Sharice Davids and Jerry Moran. Davids secured \$3.7 million in federal funding for an emergency electric back-up generator. Moran secured \$10 million in federal funding to replace outdated water mains in our KCK neighborhoods.

VII. Sherriff's Department

Not in attendance

VIII. District Attorney's Office

Mark Dupree, District Attorney

The very first Wyandotte County Youth Court took place at Wyandotte High School on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023. Wyandotte County youth served as judges, prosecutors, etc. on an actual case. WYCO Youth Court allows our youth to seem themselves in these important roles and gives juvenile offenders the opportunity to make mistakes without ending up with permanent criminal records. The next youth court will take place on Friday, April 28th at F.L. Schlagle High School. Members of DA's office and KCKPD staff attended the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum in Alabama. These public servants were also able to hear from victims of Bloody Sunday. This opportunity highlighted our nation's duty to make amends for the past before we can ensure justice in the future. Finally, Mark reminds us that the Community Liaison Board is still active and is calling for victim liaison board members. If you are interested in becoming a victim liaison board member, contact Johnathan Carter at jcarter@wycokck.org or complete an application on the district attorney's office page on the unified government's website.

IX. KCK Fire Department

John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal

Open burn season official ends Sunday, April 30th, 2023. Sixteen (16) fire department recruits graduate Thursday, April 27th, 2023. Fire Marshal Droppelmann provides the community with this month's safety tip

about dryer safety: (1) make sure you clean your dryer filter out after each load, (2) regularly check your dryer vent line, (3) keep vent lines as short as possible, and (4) gas dryers should be metal-lined.

X. Planning & Urban Design

Alyssa Marcy, Long Range Planner

The planning department will review RFQ and RFP applications for the three (3) unified government owned properties mentioned in February and March. The landbank policy is in the process of being updated after public feedback and recommendations. This input is now being reviewed and considered by a landbank subcommittee. Subcommittee meetings are open to the public and you may observe in-person at City Hall's 5th floor conference room or join via zoom. The zoom link is available on the UG calendar. The comprehensive plan is kicking off with public engagement events every Tuesday in the month of May, most notably the vision summit on May 16th.

X. Health Department

*Blake Hensley, CHIP Program Coordinator
Susan Caman, CHIP Program Coordinator*

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is available on the health department's page on the unified government's website. The CHA will be presented to commissioners during a special session on April 27th. 2023 is the 5th and last year of the current Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) cycle. In celebration of the closing of this cycle and to kick off the next, the health department will hold an event on May 24th for community stakeholders where they will present the CHA and kick off the next CHIP cycle's planning process. Also on May 24th, the health department will host a community baby shower. Expecting parents or parents with children under 1 who are 22 years or younger are invited to attend. Finally, the kNOw Lead program is accepting applications. This program removes lead, a health-damaging substance, from your home. If you suspect that your home has lead, please reach out to the health department.

Question: Are there new COVID-19 boosters available?

Answer: No, there are no new boosters. Currently, there are two (2) boosters available, but these boosters have been available for some time now.

Question: What are the event details for the community baby shower?

Answer: The community baby shower is Wednesday, May 24th from 1 PM to 3 PM. The health department asks that you RSVP via Facebook or on the health department's webpage.

Question: Where does Wyandotte County rank in terms of health?

Answer: In the most recent Kansas county health rankings, Wyandotte County ranks 104 (out of 104) in health factors and 103 (out of 104) in health outcomes.

XI. Livable Neighborhoods

*Kayla Hower, Program Coordinator
Minah Chapell, Neighbor Liaison*

Kayla encourages all to spread the word and participate in the comprehensive planning process. Livable Neighborhoods is working to help better the notification process of landbank development. They encourage neighborhood groups to contact the office if you are a representative of a neighborhood group and would like assistance notifying your neighbors about landbank development within your group's boundary lines. The office is also in the process of creating a list of questions to better help neighbors make informed decision while considering the possibility of development on a landbank property near them. Lastly, Livable Neighborhoods has a home repair program. If you are a low-income homeowner

and need assistance with home repairs, please contact the office by calling (913) 57-8737 or emailing livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org.

Community Announcements:

- *Rachel Russell, Cross Lines Community Outreach*, Cross-Lines will host community forums about a homeless response plan draft. These will take place in late May/Early June. More details to come.
- *Melissa Bynum, Shepherd's Center*, Shepherd's Center will host their annual book and bric-a-brac sale. Shepherd's Center is accepting donations all-day Thursday, May 4th. The sale will take place on Friday, May 5th from 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, May 6th from 8 AM to 3 PM. Join them at Grace Lutheran Church for this event.
- *Tamara Barnes, Executive Director*, A Loving Space is a non-profit in Wyandotte County that coordinates neighborhood clean-ups that they call Whine the Dotte Clean-Ups. If you are interested in volunteering your time and cleaning up Wyandotte County neighborhoods, you can RSVP for a clean-up on their website alovingspacefoundation.com.