

Livable Neighborhoods Meeting

Thursday, August 24th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Presentations:

I. KC Digital Drive

Leslie Scott, lscott@kcdigitaldrive.org

KC Digital Drive is a civic non-profit with the mission of making Kansas City a digital leader. The organization aims to close the digital divide by addressing three focus areas: digital equity, digital inclusion, and digital innovation. Currently, KC Digital Drive is promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program that provides a \$30/month discount on internet service to qualifying households. KC Digital Drive has created [a landing page](#) to help households determine if they might qualify for this program and what documents they'll need to submit along with their ACP application.

Question: Is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) a program through the Area Agency on Aging?

Answer: No, the ACP is a federal program. However, older adults are disproportionately disconnected and have more difficulty fitting internet service into their budget, so it's important that they too take advantage of this program. KC Digital Drive is available to assist with completing the ACP application for those that need help.

Question: Does my household qualify if I have a student that attends USD 500?

Answer: Yes, USD 500 schools are covered by the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The CEP allows high-poverty schools and districts to provide breakfast and lunch free of charge, and automatically qualifies household with students that attend CEP-covered schools for the ACP. Applicants will need to request a letter stating that their student does indeed attend a CEP-covered USD 500 school from Central Office and submit this letter along with their ACP application.

Question: Does my household qualify if I have a student that attends Turner 202?

Answer: The Turner 202 school district is not covered by the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and so households with students attending the Turner school district do not automatically qualify for the ACP.

Question: Is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) the same as the Kansas Educational Enrichment Program (KEEP)?

Answer: No, these are separate programs.

II. Department of Strategic Communications

Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communications azhand@wycokck.org

The Unified Government's Neighborhood Summit is coming up! The Neighborhood Summit calls on neighborhood leaders to help reimagine the Unified Government and the future of our community. The summit recognizes the importance of neighborhoods in creating a vibrant and resilient Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS. There will be conversations ranging from economic prosperity to climate resiliency, opportunities to discuss the role and responsibility of the UG, and information sharing from various departments. The Neighborhood Summit will take place Saturday, October 28th, 2023, from 9 AM to 3 PM. [Be sure to RSVP](#), and if you'd like to volunteer in any way, reach out to Ashley.

Question: The RSVP form asks for your neighborhood. What if you aren't sure what neighborhood you live in?

Answer: That's okay! You can simply put "I don't know." You could also contact the Livable Neighborhood Office at (913) 573-8737 to see if you have an active neighborhood group in your area.

Regular Updates:

III. Mayor's Office

Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff, icaudillo@wycokck.org

Irene reminds us that the [various taskforces](#) housed in the Mayor's Office are always looking for new members who are looking to make a positive change in our Wyandotte County community. Reach out to Irene if you are interested in joining any of these taskforces by emailing the address provided above or calling (913) 573-5011. Not interested in joining a taskforce but still want to have your voice heard? The Mayor's Office has instituted Mayors Mondays and Tyrone Tuesdays (every 4th Tuesday 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM) to give residents opportunities to share comments or concerns.

IV. KCKPS USD 500

*Edwin Birch, Executive Director Communications & Marketing, edwin.birch@kckps.org
Markl Johnson, Director Communications & Marketing, markl.johnson@kckps.org*

Oh, where did the summer go. Kansas City, KS Public Schools USD 500 has kicked off the 2023-2024 school year. The Beginning of Schools Convocation went wonderfully. A special thank you to everyone that was able to attend! The annual back-to-school festival was also a success. Over 2,000 backpacks were given away along with other supplies and resources. Nine new officers have recently joined KCKPD and their oath of office ceremony was held at Central Office on August 8th. Lastly, Markl informs the public of the Kansas Educational Enrichment Program (KEEP). KEEP is a state benefit that awards \$1,000 per child for qualifying households to help cover educational goods and services including school supplies, tutoring, music lessons,

academic camps, etc. Markl advises that applications be completed as early as possible by visiting the [KEEP website](#).

V. Turner USD 202

Lauren Aiello, Turner School District Public Relations, aiello@turnerusd202.org

Renovations for the Turner Aquatic Center are finished, and the center is now open to the public. The Turner School District finished up other community projects paid for by the 2019 Community Bond this summer.

VI. KCK Police Department

Sgt. Angela Joyce, Community Policing, ajoyce@kckpd.org

Sargeant Joyce shares some upcoming events. Saturday in the Park with South Patrol will be on September 9th from 11 AM to 3 PM at Emerson Park. On October 14th there will be another community and policing event at City Park from 11 AM to 2 PM. Come out and have some hot dogs! Spanish Citizens' Academy classes are beginning. Those interested must be 18+ and have no criminal history. Contact Captain Osvaldo Navarro for additional information at onavarro@kckpd.org or 913-573-6277. The Faith in Blue event will be October 7th at Rosedale Park from 8 AM to 4 PM. Lastly, KCKPD encourages WyCo parents and guardians to take advantage of the [Police Athletic League \(PAL\)](#). The PAL is for school-age children and ensures that they have a safe environment to be kids and to foster good relationships with law enforcement. The PAL offers boxing lessons, archery, tutoring, and more.

VII. Neighborhood Resource Center

Greg Talkin, Director of Neighborhood Resource Center, gtalkin@wycokck.org

The Neighborhood Resource Center has no updates.

VIII. BPU

David Mehlhaff, BPU Communications, dmehlhaff@bpu.com

BPU Employees were on an early start schedule to help keep them protected from the high temperatures during the excessive heat advisory. David urges all to stay hydrated and cool, and provides some tips make sure our homes can keep up with the heat: 1) Set the thermostat higher when no one's home, 2) change air filters more than normal, 3) use microwaves and crockpots in place of ovens, 4) operate appliances early in the morning or late at night, 5) and set your ceiling fan to spin quickly and counter-clockwise. David acknowledges that will the high heat comes higher utility bills and encourages those that need financial assistance to contact United Way for utilities assistance and BPU to set up a payment plan.

IX. Sheriff's Department

Emmett Lockridge, Wyandotte County Sheriff, elockridge@wycosheriff.org

Sherriff's Day at Parkwood Pool went great! Thanks to all that were able to come out. There are currently five recruits in the Sheriff's Academy. The Sheriff's Department celebrates the diversity of this cohort.

Question: Will there be a prayer vigil for the fallen officer?

Answer: Yes, the prayer vigil will be Friday, October 6th, 2023, at Emerson Park at 6 PM.

X. District Attorney's Office

Jonathan Carter, Public Information Officer, jcarter@wycokck.org

The Expungement Fair was a huge success. 115 residents participated and started the process of clearing their criminal history; out of the total number of participants, 45 have scheduled court hearings to see a judge, and 40 signed up for paid job training. A special thanks to United KC, Kansas Legal Services, UMKC, KC Scholars, and all others that made this event possible. Lastly, the District Attorney's Office has put together [a video discussing the battle against Fentanyl in our community](#).

XI. KCK Fire Department

John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal

KCK Fire Department shares that 13 cadets will be starting in the Fire Academy on October 5th, 2023. The blood drive in collaboration with the KCKPD and WyCo Sheriff went great! The goal for the drive was 50 units of blood, and 68 units were donated. This month's safety tip is to plug air units directly into a wall outlet opposed to an extension cord or power strip. The Red Cross is planning to do smoke detector installation in the Turner Area in late October. Stay tuned for more details. Lastly, Chief Droppelmann urges residents to wait until October 16th when open burn season starts to get rid of remaining storm debris.

Question: Will the Fire Department be continuing the Ambulance Membership Program?

Answer: Yes. Applications to apply can be found [online](#) or picked up from Fire Headquarters. Shepherd's Center can also mail applications by request.

XII. Planning & Urban Design

Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning & Urban Design, ghand@wycokck.org

The Planning Department is continuing engagement for PlanKCK. Reach out to the Planning Department, Communications Department, or Livable Neighborhoods if you like to have a PlanKCK representative speak with your neighborhood group about the comprehensive plan. A draft to the landbank policy update is nearing completion. There will a be presentation on historic preservation at the South Branch Library on September 14th. There is a concentrated

effort to enforce the short-term rental ordinance. Please reach out the Planning Department or zoning officers with any concerns regarding short-term rentals.

XIII. Health Department

Hannah Lang, FIMR CAT Program Coordinator, hmlang@wycokck.org

Hannah Lang introduces herself as the new program coordinator for the Fetal & Infant Mortality Review Board-Community Action Team (FIMR CAT). This program acts as the final step in the fetal and infant review process in which they take recommendations regarding fetal and infant health and create action plans to affect change in the community. FIMR CAT is looking for individual members and organizations with a vested interest in fetal and infant health to participate in their meetings and serve on their board. There is an upcoming meeting on September 7th at the Community Health Council.

XIV. Livable Neighborhoods

Kayla Hower, Program Coordinator, kjhower@wycokck.org
Minah Chapell, Neighborhood Liaison, mchapell@wycokck.org

Updated [resource guides are here!](#) There are also prints available in Spanish and English at the Livable Neighborhoods Office. Celebrate National Good Neighbor Day with a week of activities from September 25th to September 29th. Additional details to come. Unified Government Neighborhood Group Grant season has arrived. Neighborhood grants will be made available on August 31st, 2023. Reach out to Livable Neighborhoods with any questions or for assistance completing the application.

Community Announcements:

- *Pam Blood, Shepherd's Center, Join* Shepherd's Center at Victory Hills Baptist Church for their biscuits and gravy fundraiser on September 23rd from 8 AM to 11 AM.
- *Denise Dias, K-State Research and Extension,* If you are interested in learning more about wildlife in the urban setting, please reach out to Denise at ddias@ksu.edu
- *Connie Brown-Collins, Voters Rights Network of WyCo,* The Voters Rights Network of Wyandotte County works at the state level for legislation that impacts Wyandotte County. The organization push for civil, human, and voting right, and among their most notable works was actions that led to the redistricting of the county. The organization meets virtually twice a month. Contact Connie at conniejbrowns53@gmail.com if you're interested in keeping up with what's going on in the Capital.
- *Rachel Russell, Cross-lines Community Outreach,* Conversations surrounding the housing crisis will continue. There are upcoming events on September 20th with the Rosedale Leadership Council at 6:30 PM, on October 3rd at the Bonner Springs Community Center from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, and the fifth annual Wyandotte County Housing Summit will be Saturday, October 14th, 2023, at Memorial Hall from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.
- *Leslie Scott, Re.Use.Full* is looking for more KCK non-profit organizations, schools, and churches that could use more in-kind donations, like still-good clothing, books, toys, bikes, furniture, and other household items, to participate in our first Un-Dumpster Day in KCK on Saturday, September 23, from 8 AM to 12 PM. It's FREE! Email Rachel@reusefull.org for more info or to volunteer!

- *Ray Freeman, One Community Jiu Jitsu Club*, One Community Jiu Jitsu Club offers free self-defense classes. Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is widespread across the country, and Ray's goal is to bring this popular sport here to Wyandotte County.
- *Aldrian Alemifar, Wyandotte County Budget Office*, The WyCo Budget wants to get out into the community! Reach out to Adrian if your organization or neighborhood group would like to hear from a financial specialist in the Budget Office. Her email is aalemifar@wycokck.org
- *Gina Lane, Property Maintenance Compliance*, Property Maintenance Compliance is not giving out any violations for debris left by the recent storms at this time. Storm Debris can be broken down and placed on the curb with trash-up. Debris can also be taken to the Recycling & Waste Center at 3241 Park Dr. For more information on how to discard of storm debris, visit the [UG website](#).