



Livable Neighborhoods Meeting

Thursday February 23, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Introduction to Neighborhood Liaison, Minah Chapell

- ❖ Minah Chapell transitioned to the Unified Government from Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools where she served as a middle school world language teacher. Prior to education, Minah participated in community service and youth mentor opportunities that fueled her interest in social welfare. These opportunities included roles in KCMO's Men of Vision and Empowerment (M.O.V.E) and the Burn Program with Children's Mercy Hospitals. In her position as neighborhood liaison, she hopes to continue serving communities in a positive and meaningful way. Minah holds a B.A. in Hispanic Language and Literature with a minor in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. She aims to use her skills, educational background, and propensity for community service to aid her hometown of Kansas City, and the Greater Wyandotte County area.

It is important for Minah to give back and empower the community that has watered her. She believes that she can use her position here at the Unified Government to provide the Wyandotte County community with tools and resources to be the agents of their own empowerment and improvement.

In her personal life, Minah's hobbies include cooking, astrology, music and podcast, and going on solo movie dates (shout \$5 Tuesdays at AMC).

Presentations:

- ❖ Cross-Lines Community Outreach
 - Rachel Russell, Director of Community Engagement, rachel@cross-lines.org
 - Crosslines' mission is to meet the hunger and housing needs of the community. Rachel introduced Crosslines' hunger initiatives which included (1) community kitchen (2) community market, and (3) a Senior Commodity Program. Their housing initiatives included (1) rent & utilities assistance, (2) housing case management and supportive services, and (3) a cold weather shelter.
 - Crosslines is in partnership with the Health Department to provide safe and affordable housing. This partnership includes action regarding (1) community land trust, (2) landlord risk mitigation fund, (3) development of Wyandotte County Homelessness Response Plan, and (4) homeowner and tenant educational opportunities.
 - September 29, 2023—join Crosslines in celebrating their 60th anniversary. Reach out to Kelly Gough, Director of Development and Communication, via email for additional details: kelly@cross-lines.org
- ❖ Planning & Urban Development
 - Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning & Urban Design

- City Planning commission is in the process of codifying existing protocol on the short-term rental ordinance for special use permits. There are upcoming planning commissions on March 13th, March 27th, and March 30th, 2023.
- The UG has launched requests for qualifications/proposal on three (3) government-owned sites: Indian Springs Mall, Downtown Triangle Parsley, and 18th & Quindaro. More details will be provided on “Redevelopment RFP/RFQ” Webinar. This will take place February 28th, 2023 @ 11 AM. Please register on the UG website to attend.
- There will be a Landbank Policy update on February 23, 2023 @ 3 PM. Hybrid format meeting available.
- ❖ Mayor’s Office
 - Mildred Edwards
 - The Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast will take place on February 27th, 2023 at Memorial Hall @ 7 AM.
 - There will be a commission meeting on March 2nd, 2023 @ 7 PM. The mayor’s office will vote on the candidate for county administrator.
- ❖ KCKPS USD 500 District
 - Edwin Birch, Mark Johnson, Francisco Litardo
 - There are two (2) upcoming Listening & Learning sessions March 4th, 2023 from 1 to 3 PM and April 22nd, 2023 from 10 AM to noon. These sessions will take place at Central Office. The Board of Education encourages all to participate and give feedback.
 - Read Across America will occur March 2nd, 2023. Contact Edwin for the opportunity to read to USD 500 students and/or to request a specific school.
 - “Enough is Enough” is an initiative spearheaded by KCKPS in partnership in KCKPD to address the mental health, safety, and wellbeing of students. There will be a panel discussion on how best to meet the mental health needs of students on March 1st, 2023 @ 5:30. This will take place at J.C. Harmon High School. Dinner will be served.
 - KCKPS will host a career fair at Central Office on March 4th, 2023 @8:30. There will be information on job openings, retention incentives, relocation assistance, tuition assistance, etc.
 - Francisco highlights some legislative concerns regarding (1) possible termination of High Density At-Risk Waiting, (2) special education funding, and (3) tax credit for private schooling expansion. Francisco encourages all to reach out with questions or concerns regarding these topics. He can be reached at Francisco.Litardo@kckps.org .
- ❖ Turner School District
 - Lauren Aiello
 - Job openings for the 2023-2024 school year are available.
- ❖ Neighborhood Resource Center
 - No updates
- ❖ BPU
 - David Mehlhaff

- BPU is available for community outreach and can provide speakers for an array of topics (energy efficiency, electrical concerns, etc.)
- Reminder: BPU does not handle trash. Call 311 for questions or concerns regarding trash collection.
- Be aware of scams and phishing. BPU will never demand immediate payment or threaten immediate disconnection. All BPU employees carry official identification.
- ❖ District Attorney's Office
 - Mark Dupree
 - DA's Office will be introducing a delinquent diversion program, Youth Court, into USD 500. This will begin at Wyandotte High School and F.L. Schlagle High School in the current Spring 2023 semester.
- ❖ KCKFD
 - John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal
 - Open Burn season begins in April. Fire Marshal warns that now is an extremely dangerous time to burn and reminds residents to wait until April.
- ❖ Emergency Management Department
 - Matt May
 - The week of March 6th, 2023 severe weather alarms will be tested out of sequence. Alarms will be tested on Tuesday, March 7th and the regularly scheduled Wednesday, March 8th.
- ❖ Livable Neighborhoods
 - Kayla Hower
 - Livable Neighborhoods welcomes their neighborhood liaison, Minah Chapell.
 - The Home Repair Program is back. Contact the Livable Neighborhoods for possible assistance with minor home repairs.
- ❖ Not in attendance: KCKPD, Sheriff's Department, Health Department

Community Announcements:

- ❖ In honor of Black History Month, KCK Public Library will host an event called KCK Pioneers which will celebrate the legacy of Issac Franklin Bradley Sr., the first elected African-American judge in Wyandotte County. Join KCKPL on Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 @ 5:30 for this event.
- ❖ Strawberry Hill Pub Crawl will be June 24th, 2023. Additional information to come.
- ❖ KCK Women's Chamber Foundation is now accepting application for 2023 Scholarships for non-traditional female students.
- ❖ Senior Tax Rebate Program—Call 311 to make an appointment.
- ❖ Homeowner and Renters' insurance 101 - Jennifer Mills, JMILLS1@amfam.com
- ❖ Sign up for autism education with Parents as Partners on their website parentsaspartners.com
- ❖ The Public Health Department is hosting "Racism is a Public Health Crisis" engagement series. RSVP to participate, but hurry spots are limited. Dinner will be served and childcare provided.
- ❖ Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a government program that provides \$30/month discounts on internet services from participating providers. Help get the word out about ACP by distributing flyers at your neighborhood association, schools, churches, and community events.