

## **Livable Neighborhoods Meeting**

Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Presentations:**

##### I. Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA)

*Emily Voss, Community Prevention Coordinator, [evoss@mocsa.org](mailto:evoss@mocsa.org)  
Maddie Dumbell, Prevention Specialist, [mdumbell@mocsa.org](mailto:mdumbell@mocsa.org)*

MOCSA is the rape crisis center in the Kansas City Metro area. They provide advocacy, counseling, education, prevention services and legal assistance, and manage a 24-hour crisis line. Their primary focuses are improving neighborhood connectedness, improving neighborhood safety through environmental design, and addressing harmful social norms. MOCSA is particularly invested in sexual assault and violence prevention-- leading and participating in various initiatives. MOCSA's violence prevention work includes the formation of the Wyandotte County sexual assault prevention coalition (WyCo-SAP) and participation in the Unified Government Public Health Department's CHIP. Specifically, MOCSA has acted as a co-lead on the CHIP's violence prevention plan. They believe in putting communities first, and this belief is the basis of their Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) toolkit. CPTED is a way of thinking about our communities that makes them more welcoming and safe by making simple changes to our surroundings to encourage neighborhood connectedness. There are five (5) principles of CPTED: natural surveillance, natural access control, territorial reinforcement, space management, and social management. Does your neighborhood follow CPTED safety principles? Ask yourself these questions. Can I see others? Can others see me? Do I know where to go? What is this space for? Is this space maintained? Is my neighborhood connected? Is there a sense of community? For a more in-depth CPTED assessment of your neighborhood, check out the [Neighborhood Safety Toolkit](#) or [contact MOCSA to request a neighborhood walkthrough](#) with your neighborhood group.

*Question: Sometimes governmental approval and intervention is needed to alter and design a space to make it "safer," for example installing streets signs or paving sidewalks. Does MOCSA help navigate these government processes?*

*Answer: Yes! Government can be difficult to navigate. MOCSA maintains and fosters working relationships with local government departments to better help community members design safer, more connected neighborhoods. They won't fill out the paperwork for you, but they'll support neighborhood crime prevention projects and facilitate conversations as best they can.*

#### **Regular Updates:**

##### II. Mayor's Office

*Ana Marin, Executive Assistant, [amarin@wycokck.org](mailto:amarin@wycokck.org)*

The Mayor's Office has no updates.

### III. KCKPS USD 500

*Edwin Birch, Executive Director Communications & Marketing, edwin.birch@kckps.org*  
*Francisco Litardo, Community Engagement Educator/Gov't Liaison, francisco.litardo@kckps.org*

Kansas City, KS Public Schools USD 500 is working on a facilities master plan in which they'll be reviewing all school buildings to ensure that they are of high quality. The school district is looking for community volunteers to aid in this review process, and encourages community members to reach out if they are interested. There will be a community vision team meeting on Tuesday, July 11th, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Please contact Edwin Birch to RSVP.

### IV. Turner USD 202

*Lauren Aiello, Director of Public Relations, aiello@turnerusd202.org*

Renovations for the Turner Aquatic Center are underway! The renovations are going according to the set timeline which means the center should open back up as expected in early August. The Turner school district is hiring for certified teaching positions as well as transportation, custodian, and food services positions.

### V. KCK Police Department

*Not in attendance*

### VI. Neighborhood Resource Center

The Neighborhood Resource Center has no updates.

### VII. BPU

*David Mehlhaff, BPU Communications, dmehlhaff@bpu.com*

David informs residents that BPU repairs broken streetlights or replaces bulbs in streetlights, but does not install new streetlights. If you would like to request the installation of a new streetlight, please contact the Public Works department at (913) 573-5311. If you need to report a damaged streetlight (ex. needs a new bulb), please call (913) 573-9522. Be sure to give the exact location of the damaged streetlight. Each streetlight has a yellow tag with an ID number; give this ID number when making your report to help quicken the repair process. Finally, [BPU is looking for community ambassadors](#) to meet on a quarterly basis.

### VIII. Sherriff's Department

*Michael Kroening, Administrative Support Captain, mkroening@wycosheriff.org*

The Sherriff's Department will be hosting a pool event at Parkwood Pool on August 5th, 2023. Be there or be square. Also, the Sherriff's Department s currently hiring for sworn deputies and

civilian positions. Learn more about these positions at their hiring event on July 20th, 2023 beginning at 9 AM at Pierson Community Center.

#### IX. District Attorney's Office

*Jonathan Carter, Public Information Officer, [jcarter@wycokck.org](mailto:jcarter@wycokck.org)*

The District Attorney's Office is looking to add additional personnel to their team, specifically attorneys, admin, and members for their community liaison board. Lastly, if your neighborhood group is interested in having a representative from the DA's Office attend your neighborhood meeting, Jonathan encourages you to reach out to him via email or at his direct line (913) 573-2849.

#### X. KCK Fire Department

*John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal*

KCK Fire Department shares July's safety tip! Deck fires are becoming a huge issue; Chief Droppelmann encourages proper disposal of cigarette buds to prevent fires. Do not dispose of cigarettes in potted plants. The Chief provides information on the school fire at 14TH & Metropolitan. The building was significantly damaged by incendiary fire, especially the roof. The Fire Department encourage residents to call in ant tips regarding the fire to the hotline at (913) 573-5555. Lastly, the Fire Department is looking for suggestions to better traffic at Wyandotte County Fair this year. If you have an idea, suggestion, insight or comment, please share.

*Question: When can fireworks be set off?*

*Answer: The KCK dates for legal firework use is July 2nd to July 4th from 9 AM to 11:00 PM.*

#### XI. Planning & Urban Design

*Alyssa Marcy, Long Range Planner, [amarcy@wycokck.org](mailto:amarcy@wycokck.org)*

The Planning Department is doing engagement over the summer for PlanKCK, the comprehensive plan, which covers a multitude of topics and you can find more info on the [PlanKCK website](#). Additionally, the three UG sites up for redevelopment are undergoing their review process for the RFQ, and the UG hopes to announce the qualified developers and subcontractors end of July 2023. More info on that available at on the [UG website](#).

#### XII. Health Department

*Not in attendance*

#### XIII. Livable Neighborhoods

*Kayla Hower, Program Coordinator, [kjhower@wycokck.org](mailto:kjhower@wycokck.org)  
Minah Chapell, Neighborhood Liaison, [mchapell@wycokck.org](mailto:mchapell@wycokck.org)*

Livable Neighborhoods is hosting a pet owner forum in collaboration with Animal Services and Great Plains SPCA. This event will be held at the Neighborhood Resource Center on July 18th, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Come and voice what resources and supports you need to be a responsible pet owner. National Night Out Against Crime will take place Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 from 5 PM to 8 PM at the KCKCC Field House. The annual Community Development Workshop will be held September 23rd, 2023. Stay tuned for registration details as those will be shared as soon as they're available. Lastly, Kayla shares that the KCKPD website has been remodeled and incident reporting and information finding is now much easier thanks to their new set-up. [Go check it out!](#)

### **Community Announcements:**

- *Yalanda Jackson, Parks and Recreation*, Yalanda introduces herself as the new program coordinator and Community Liaison for the Parks and Recs Department! Parks and Recs is planning some upcoming events. Christmas in July will be July 22nd, 2023 starting at 5 PM. at Wyandotte County Lake Marina.
- *Pam Blood, Shepherd's Center*, Shepherd's Center is an organization that provides resources and supports to older adults to help them lead meaningful lives. The organization is doing some strategic planning to better map out the next 5 years and identify how they might best serve older residents. On July 21st, 2023, Shepherd's Center will have a strategic planning session at Victory Hills Baptist Church.
- *Linda Wolford, Kansas City, KS Public Libraries*, The summer reading program is off to a great start! Check out the [KCKPL calendar](#) on summer reading events.
- *Leslie Scott, KC Digital Drive, [lscott@kcdigitaldrive.org](mailto:lscott@kcdigitaldrive.org)*, Save the Date. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a federal program that could save you \$30 on your internet bill. The Cut the Cord Workshop will help you lower your cable bill by suggesting low-cost streaming alternatives. Reach out to Leslie for more information on either of these opportunities.
- *Angela Turner, KCK Women's Chamber Foundation*, Save the Date. The KCK Women's Chamber Foundation annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon is on July 27th at 11:30 am BPU. Tickets can be purchased at <https://charityauction.bid/kckwcf>
- The Merc Co-op is proud to host the KCK Farmer's Market. Every Saturday from 8 AM to noon.