

Livable Neighborhoods Meeting

Thursday, May 25th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Presentations:

I. Unified Government Public Health Department

Hannah Conner, Social Epidemiologist, hconner@wycokck.org

The public health department presents their findings from the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA was a 15-month process that surveyed 1,150 Wyandotte County residents who were representative of various zip codes, age groups, income level, education, race, and ethnicity. Amongst these respondents, the top three health concerns were (1) community violence, (2) drug misuse, and (3) mental health. The respondents identified the top three health barriers as (1) health care access, (2) employment & income, and (3) affordable housing or homelessness. Additionally, the CHA includes breakdowns of the top causes of death, life expectancy rates & variance, and racial disparities in health outcomes and factors. Access the full CHA report [here](#). Hannah also speaks on heat islands as a public health issue. "Heat Islands" are hotspots in the city where temperatures are higher due to lack of tree cover or impervious surfaces (e.g. buildings). Heat islands can cause heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and have other negative health impacts. The Public Health Department plans to gather "community scientists" who'd like to volunteer their time and drive through Wyandotte County neighborhoods to collect data on these heat islands. You can register to volunteer as a "community scientist" [here](#).

II. Department of Community Development

Stephanie Stauffer, Program Coordinator, sstauffer@wycokck.org

The Department of Community Development's role is to administer three grants federally funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These three grants total over \$3.4 million and are administered to fund projects pertaining to housing rehabilitation & construction, public services for low-income homeowners, public infrastructure, and fair housing education. Examples of projects funded through HUD grants are the planned projects happening in Clifton Park, Boston Daniels Park, and City Park, as well as home repair programs throughout the Unified Government. The Annual Action Plan outlines how the Department of Community Development intends to continue using money from the previously mentioned HUD grants. Wyandotte County community members and stakeholders are encouraged to submit public comments on the upcoming Annual Action Plan from May 25th, 2023 until June 25th, 2023. A public hearing on the plan will be held on June 8th, 2023 at 7 PM during the Board of Commissioners meeting. [Click here for more information](#) about the Annual Action Plan or how to become involved in this planning process.

Question: Can HUD funding be used to improve non-public parks in Wyandotte County?

Answer: HUD funding can be quite restrictive. It's most likely that this funding only extends to the improvement of public parks. Reach out to Stephanie if you have any doubts about whether a park in your area qualifies for federal funding.

Question: Will the finalized Annual Action Plan include a more detailed breakdown of how the Department of Parks & Recreation will use their allocated funds?

Answer: The Annual Action Plan typically provides a general overview of where and how much funding goes to various UG departments and other subrecipients. Detailed breakdowns of how different UG departments use their allocated funds can be found in the "[Total Budget Expenditures](#)". However, Stephanie notes that it would be useful for similar breakdowns to be included in Community Development's action plan.

Regular Updates:

I. Mayor's Office

Mayor Tyrone Garner, mayorgarner@wycokck.org

The Mayor's Office emphasizes the importance of the public's participation in the budget process. Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS elected officials urge residents to voice their interests, questions, and concerns regarding the county's fiscal responsibilities. Mayor Garner also encourages neighborhood groups to reach out to our newly appointed County Administrator, David Johnston, if they are interested in having him meet with their group.

II. KCKPS USD 500

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

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023! KCKPS earned a combined total of over \$265 million in scholarships. F.L. Schlagle received over \$1 million in scholarships, J.C. Harmon \$45 million, Sumner Academy \$120 million, Washington \$37 million, and Wyandotte \$62 million. KCKPS is extremely proud of their seniors and will continue celebrating their successes. KCKPS is considering putting together a fentanyl campaign for the upcoming school year. Edwin emphasizes that the fight against drug misuse is a community issue and asks for the support of the community in making this a successful anti-fentanyl campaign. KCKPS hopes to lean on faith-based organizations and community partners to help promote this message. Markl shares that the summer learning program is from June 5th, 2023 to June 28th, 2023. For additional information about the summer learning program, career opportunities, or other happenings at KCKPS, [visit their website](#).

III. Turner USD 202

Lauren Aiello, Director of Public Relations, aiello1@turnerusd202.org

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023! Turner school district had 266 graduating seniors this year. Summer school is coming up, and lastly, Turner USD 202 is hiring for teaching and non-teaching positions.

IV. KCK Police Department

Not in attendance

V. Neighborhood Resource Center

Not in attendance

VI. BPU

*David Mehlhaff
Patrice Townsend, ptownsend@bpu.com*

BPU's bi-annual newsletter, BPU Connection, will be hitting mailboxes soon. Information on the water quality report, upcoming rate hearings and possible rate adjustments, energy efficiency tips, and utility assistance programs can be found in this copy. You can sign up for an [electronic version on the BPU Connection here](#).

VII. Sherriff's Department

Not in attendance

VIII. District Attorney's Office

Jonathan Carter, Public Information Officer, 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.

IX. KCK Fire Department

John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal

KCK Fire Department shares a summer grilling safety flyer. This flyer will be included in Livable Neighborhood's upcoming e-newsletter. The fire that occurred at the recycling center in Armourdale on Friday, May 19th, 2023 has been investigated by the EPA and they report that preliminary tests taken for air quality and run-off water were within acceptable limits for any contaminants. City entities will meet to further discuss this fire.

*Question: Are there additional details about the fire that happened at the Franklin Center?
Answer: There are no updates at this time, but some will be shared in the near future.*

X. Planning & Urban Design

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

2023 is the year of visioning. The department of Planning & Urban Design has been hosting various summits and roundtables aimed at uncovering Kansas City, KS shared vision for the future of our city. Gunnar recognizes that these summits and roundtables have not allowed the opportunity for all KCK residents to participate in the planning process, and so encourages neighborhood groups and non-profit organizations that want to be more engaged with the comprehensive planning process to reach out and request that a representative from the planning department attend a future community meeting. For additional information about the comprehensive plan or how to request a speaker [visit their website](#). Finally, there has been an update to the ordinance pertaining to short-term rentals. In this update, the term "short-term rental" has been defined. These updates will be implemented as a test for a year and any findings or recommendations will be reported to the planning commission board in April 2024.

XI. Health Department

Hannah Conner, Social Epidemiologist, hconner@wycokck.org

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is available on the health department's page on the unified government's website.

XII. Livable Neighborhoods

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

Kayla encourages community engagement in the comprehensive planning process. The Unified Government wants to receive as much input as possible from as many people as possible about the comprehensive plan. Livable Neighborhoods asks that you personally invite your neighbors and other KCK community members to engage in upcoming planning events. 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) 573-8737 or emailing livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org.

Community Announcements:

- *Donnie Thomas, Kensington Community Neighborhood, Kensington community will have a neighborhood clean-up day on Saturday, June 24th, 2023. Individuals interested in cleaning*

up the Kensington Neighborhood should meet at Grace Lutheran Church. Dress comfortably and bring gloves! On Tuesday and Wednesday, May 30th (3:30 PM – 4:30 PM) and 31st (3 PM – 4 PM) Narcan training sessions will take place at Wyandotte County Juvenile Justice Complex.

- *Paul Soptick, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Patrol (NCPP)*, National Night Out Against Crime will take place August 1st, 2023 from 5 PM to 8 PM. Stay tuned for additional details.
- *Rose Eilts, Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association*, the Strawberry Hill Pub Crawl will be on June 24th, 2023. Sponsors for the Pub Crawl are needed. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like to purchase a ticket [visit Strawberry Hill's website](#).
- *Rachel Russell, Cross-lines Community Outreach*, Kiwanis Club will host their Bike Rodeo on Saturday, June 3rd, 2023 from 10 AM to 12 PM at KCKCC. The month June celebrates both pride month and Juneteenth, there are many community events—most of which will be promoted in Livable Neighborhoods' [weekly e-newsletter](#). Community conversations about homelessness in Wyandotte County will take place June 1st to June 10th at various locations around the city. The first community conversation will be hosted June 1st, 2023 by the KCK Housing Authority. These conversations are being put on by the CHIP Safe & Affordable Housing Action Team.
- *Anonymous*, Juneteenth Parade will be on Saturday, June 17th. The Parade will be off of 5th Street. This is a free event with rides, prizes, vendors, live music, food, and so much more!