



Livable Neighborhoods Meeting
Thursday, September 28th, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Opening:

I. Livable Neighborhoods Taskforce

Kayla Hower, Executive Director, kjhower@wycokck.org

The Unified Government has been observing “Good Neighbor Week” which started September 25th and ends September 29th. Good Neighbor Day is a nationally recognized day that occurs yearly on September 28th. Mayor Tyrone Garner proclaims this September 28th, 2023, as Good Neighbor Day in Wyandotte County. A special thank you to all our neighbors, and community organizations and partners like A Loving Space Foundation and The Shepherd’s Center, that participated in the UG’s first-ever Good Neighbor Week. Check out the [2023 Good Neighbor Week Kick-Off Video](#). Finally, join Livable Neighborhoods Taskforce on Thursday, October 26th from 9 AM to 10:30 AM for part one of our strategic planning process. The first session will take place in lieu of the monthly meeting. Come provide feedback, input, and ideas on how the Livable Neighborhoods’ Office can continue to support neighborhood work and foster a safe and healthy Wyandotte County. The second session will occur at the [2023 Neighborhood Summit](#) on Saturday, October 28th at 1 PM.

Presentations:

II. Unified Government Department of Public Works

Sharon Cook, Solid Waste Division Program Coordinator, scook@wycokck.org

The Solid Waste program coordinates efforts between the Unified Government and the contractor responsible for recycling and trash pickup. Currently, the UG has a contract with Waste Management (WM). The agreements in this contract state that WM has 24 hours to return once notified that they’ve missed your trash. You can submit a “missed trash pickup” request by calling 311 or emailing info@wycokck.org. Sharon reminds us that curbside recycling must be “loose”, not bagged. Also, Styrofoam items, glass, compost, and food containers that cannot be cleaned like pizza boxes should not be placed in recycling. When in doubt, throw it out! Lastly, Dumpster Days is an opportunity to get rid of junk that cannot be set out for curbside trash and recycling pickup. The last Dumpster Day of the year will be October 13th and October 14th, and [more details about the event can be found on the UG website](#). If you are looking to get rid of hazardous materials like construction debris, pesticides, paint, etc., the last Household Hazardous Waste Disposal will be October 21st, 2023, and [an extensive list of acceptable disposal items can be found on the UG website](#).

Question: How much time is remaining on the UG’s contract with Waste Management?

Answer: The contract ends in 2032.

Question: What items need to be wrapped in plastic for curbside pickup?

Answer: Mattress need to wrapped plastic or secured in mattress covers before they can be picked up. Glass (mirror, TVs, etc.) also needs to be wrapped. This ensures the health and safety of the disposal crews.

Question: How do I dispose of construction debris?

Answer: Construction debris cannot be set out for curbside trash pickup. It must be taken to a landfill or disposed of at Household Hazardous Waste events.

Question: How is the UG showing and communicating the benefits/effectiveness of 311 reporting?

Answer: Ashley Hand in Strategic Communications answered this question. The public is encouraged to use 311. 311 processes need tremendous improvements and the UG has a dedicated team working to create better outcomes for 311 reporting, however, these outcomes can only improve if users continue to use the system so that those reporting experiences can also serve as data for the performance and innovation team.

Question: Where can someone get a new recycling bin?

Answer: Public Works Department is currently out of recycling bins and are ordering more, but when they become available you can pick one up from the Recycling and Yard Waste Center (3241 Park Dr. Kansas City, KS 66102).

Question: What should I do if I see an unwrapped mattress on the street?

Answer: Call 311 and provide the location of the mattress. An abatement team will be sent to pick it up.

Regular Updates:

III. Mayor's Office

*Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of Unified Government, tgarner@wycokck.org
Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff, icaudillo@wycokck.org*

Mayor Garner proclaims September 28th, 2023, as Good Neighbor Day in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS! The Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting will be Friday, November 17th, 2023, at 4 PM. If you'd like to volunteer to help with this event or if you are a vendor that would like to participate, please reach out to Irene. Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, will be the Mayor's State of the Government Address. Lastly, Irene encourages the public to stay engaged by subscribing to the UG's e-newsletter or requesting that a representative from the Mayor's Office attend your neighborhood's event.

IV. KCKPS USD 500

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

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

Kansas City, KS Public Schools USD 500 is in the midst of their Master Planning Process. The goal is to take a comprehensive look at the current condition of our schools and better understand what steps need to be taken to ensure all facilities are high-quality learning environments for students, staff, and community members. There will be a ribbon cutting for the new Mini Pitch soccer field at Banneker Elementary (2026 N 4th ST) on Friday, October 6th, 2023, from 2 PM to 3 PM. Lastly, [stay up-to-date on all things KCKPS by visiting their website](#).

V. Turner USD 202

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

The Turner School District is looking for local businesses and organizations that would like to participate in a mentorship program for their high school students. If you are interested, please contact Lauren. Lauren also reminds us that Turner Days and Homecoming season is here!

VI. KCK Police Department

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

Sargeant Joyce shares some [upcoming events](#). The Faith & Blue Weekend event will be October 6th and 7th. KCKPD will be providing security at the 38th annual Turner Days on Saturday, October 14th. On Friday, October 27th KCKPD will host their Trunk-o-Treat at 6601 Parallel Pkwy starting at 5:30 PM. There's a still several upcoming Picnics in the Park, a great opportunity to get to know the officers from your local division, on October 21st at City Park from 11 AM to 2 PM join East Patrol and on October 28th at Emerson Park from 11 AM to 2 PM join West Patrol. Lastly, Cop's Christmas is right around the corner. Stay tuned for more details.

Question: What are the results of the Law Enforcement Advisory Board listening tours?

Answer: The advisory board is currently compiling the feedback received and will be presenting their findings to the commission at some point, but at this time the results have not been finalized.

VII. Neighborhood Resource Center

Not in Attendance

VIII. BPU

David Mehlhaff, BPU Communications, dmehlhaff@bpu.com

National Public Power Week is from October 1st to October 7th. As one of about 2,000 public utility companies in the country, BPU will be observing this week. National Clean Energy Week was September 24th to September 30th. Governor Kelly proclaimed Clean Energy Week in the state of Kansas, and recognized BPU as the greenest utility in the state and one of the greenest in the country, as 48.5% of BPU's energy is renewable. Finally, BPU currently has a handful of RFPs out for purchase or lease of former facilities.

IX. Sheriff's Department

Not in Attendance

X. District Attorney's Office

Mark Dupree, District Attorney, mdupree@wycokck.org

DA Dupree provides some insight into crime statistics. Only 35% of criminal cases in Kansas City, KS are violent crimes; the remaining majority are crimes such as theft, drug possession, etc. The DA's Office has partnered with law enforcement agencies across the county in the fight against fentanyl. These agencies are doing two main things: 1) taking a preventive approach by speaking with school-age children about the dangers of this drug and 2) aggressively pursuing convictions against dealers as opposed to drug users. The goal is to get this drug off the streets, not to punish individuals who have fallen victim to addiction and fentanyl use. The expungement fair was a huge success. Over 150 applicants submitted expungement requests during the fair. Applicants that were deemed to have paid their restitution were considered and this opportunity was not available for those that committed violent crimes such as murder or sex crimes. 80% of individuals with a criminal history will be denied employment due to their felonies. The hope of the expungement fair is to help these individuals clear their record so they can go on to find work and lead productive lives.

Question: Does the UG have any prevention programs for individuals struggling with addiction and substance misuse?

Answer: The DA's Office works with community organizations that aid individuals struggling with addiction. Also, the Wyandotte County Public Health Department offers Narcan and teaches how to administer it. Contact Erika Holliday at erholliday@wycokck.org for more information on this program or the Recovery Coalition.

XI. KCK Fire Department

John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal

The Fall season of Residential Open Burn begins October 16th and ends November 15th. [Apply for a burn permit on the Kansas City, KS Fire Department's website.](#)

XII. Planning & Urban Design

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

The selection process for the RFQs for two of the three UG-owned sites has concluded and the [list of pre-qualified lead developers and subcontractors](#) has been made available. The Planning Department concluded that RFQs submitted for the 18th and Quindaro site did not meet qualifications, and so will only move forward with the sites at 4th and Minnesota and Old Indian Springs. Planning Department has also completed a [county-wide market analysis](#) and invites you to check it out.

XIII. Health Department

Blake Hensley, CHIP Program Coordinator, bhensley@wycokck.org

Blake provides an update about the Urban Heat Island Mapping project that took place a couple of months ago. The results for this project should be back some time in October, and the Public Health Department will provide an update at that time. Lastly, Blake invites the public to two upcoming events. On October 19th from 8:30 AM to 12 PM there will be a Kick-Off Session for the 2024-2028 Wyandotte County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP Committee and partners are happy to announce they've added behavioral health as one of the focus areas for this upcoming CHIP cycle which will address mental health and substance misuse. On Saturday, October 14th from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM the fifth annual Wyandotte County Housing Summit will take place at Memorial Hall.

Community Announcements:

- *LaMonica Upton*, LaMonica will be leading the strategic planning session for Livable Neighborhoods on October 26th, 2023, from 9 AM to 10:30 AM during our usual monthly meeting time.
- *JoAnn Woody, American Redcross*, The American Redcross will be celebrating Home Fire Safety here in various Wyandotte County Neighborhoods (Rosedale, Argentine, Armourdale, and Turner) on October 20th, 2023, by installing new fire alarms for residents free of charge. Call (913) 573-5971 to register for your free fire alarm installation!
- *Pat Devine, Cross-lines Community Outreach*, Saturday, October 14th from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM the fifth annual Wyandotte County Housing Summit will take place at Memorial Hall. Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, from 11:30 AM to 1 PM the Landlord Townhall will take place at the Neighborhood Resource Center.
- *Leah Henrikson, KC Digital Drive*, Affordable Connectivity Program can save you up to \$30/month off your internet bill, email Leah Henriksen to get access to portal to request flyers (English and Spanish) or social media content: henriksen@kcdigitaldrive.org
- *LaCherish Thompson, Community Housing of Wyandotte County*, Community Housing of Wyandotte County is hosting our Annual Block Party for Rooftops at Waterway Park next Friday, October 6 from 5-9 PM!!! There'll be live music, dancing, food trucks, drinks, and more! Tickets are \$12. You can get your tix here: chwcblockparty2023.eventbrite.com