



Department of Planning + Urban Design

Unified Government of Wyandotte County • Kansas City, Kansas

701 N 7th Street, Suite 423
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
www.wycokck.org/planning

Phone: (913) 573-5750
Fax: (913) 573-5796
Email: planninginfo@wycokck.org

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Proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Commercial Historic District Outreach Summary

Public Meetings and Process

(In chronological order. This is a living document that is subject to change as meetings occur)

May 2021: The Planning and Urban Design Department petitioned the Board of Commissioners for approval to seek a grant to establish the Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

Fall 2021: Conducted a public Request for Proposals (RFP) procurement process that resulted in the selection of a consultant, Polis Cultural Planning, to complete the draft nomination for the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

August 23, 2022: At the Downtown Shareholders monthly meeting, provided a general project update and informed the group about the scheduled Public Open House meeting to be held at the KCK Public Library on September 20. Approx. 12 attendees

September 2, 2022: Information about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District was circulated through the Livable Neighborhoods newsletter to inform the public about the Public Open House on September 20. The information was also posted to their Facebook page.

Week of September 5, 2022: Canvassed the area of the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District and its environs handing out flyers and information about the proposed district and the public meeting scheduled for September 20. Approx. 150 flyers given to businesses in the area and communal gathering places (i.e., the Merc Co-op, churches, coffee shops, etc....)

September 6, 2022: Mailed a notice letter to all property owners within the boundaries of the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District with information about the Public Open House to be held on September 20. Approx. 121 properties were involved.

September 20, 2022: Staff historic preservationist, Mr. Randy Greeves, hosted a Facebook Live even in collaboration with the UG's Strategic Communications Division to discuss and promote the proposed district and the public meeting held later that evening. Approx. 130 people viewed and/or interacted with the video.

September 20, 2022: Public Open House at Downtown KCK public library, presenting the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. 26 attendees

September 28, 2022: Presentation at the KCK Chamber of Commerce Board meeting to review the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. A follow-up meeting was scheduled in order to spend more time on the subject with their broader membership. Approx. 15 attendees

October 4, 2022: Attended the Townhouse Apartments Open House and spoke to residents, developers, and business owners about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District. Approx. 5 engagements

October 7, 2022: Spoke with Paul Helmer from Friends of Sacred Structures and received a Letter of Support in favor of the Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District.

October 7, 2022: Spoke to Kelley Hrabe, Managing Members of the Y Lofts redevelopment project that is rehabilitating the historic YMCA building at 900 North 8th Street and received a Letter of Support in favor of the Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District.

October 7, 2022: Spoke to Myria Farnsworth, Director of Integration and Finance for My Smart Plans, which operates at 803 Armstrong Avenue in the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District and received a Letter of Support in favor of the district.

October 10, 2022: Spoke to Travis Willson, the owner of Veritas Architecture and Design, who is in working with the developer that is rehabilitating the UMB Bank Tower at 601 Minnesota Avenue, which is within the boundaries of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District. Veritas submitted a Letter of Support in favor of the proposed Historic District.

October 12, 2022: Interviewed a local historic preservationist, Ms. Cydney Millstein, about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial district, and her previous work on the 1996 survey of Downtown Kansas City, Kansas which the Historic District is based upon.

October 19, 2022: KCK Chamber of Commerce special meeting and presentation of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District. This longer form meeting dedicated to the proposed Historic District allowed for much more information to be shared, questions answered and subsequent discussion. Approx. 30 attendees

October 19, 2022: At the Rosedale Development Association (RDA) Leadership Council Meeting, discussed the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District, historic tax credits, and distributed informational pamphlets. Approx. 15 attendees

October 21, 2022: Set up an informational booth at a popular local event known as Third Friday in Downtown KCK. Approx. 70 engagements

October 25, 2022: Attended a meeting of the Downtown Shareholders and gave a short presentation on the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. Approx. 15 attendees

October 25, 2022: Attended a meeting of the Wyandotte County Historical Society and presented on the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. Approx. 15 attendees

November 1, 2022: Spoke to Susan Crain Lewis, President/CEO of Mental Health American of the Heartland that owns the Tucker Building at 701 Minnesota Avenue and received a Letter of Support in favor of the Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District.

November 1, 2022: Spoke to Bill Hutton, President of the Wyandotte County Historical Society, and received a Letter of Support in favor of the Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District.

November 7, 2022: Presented to the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District and voted unanimously to recommend approval to the full Board of Commissioners to allow Staff to submit the nomination to the National Park Service for their consideration.

November 8, 2022: Presented to the Downtown Shareholders about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. Approx. 7 attendees

November 15, 2022: Attended an event with the County Historical Society and spoke to other attendees about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. Approx. 20 attendees

November 15, 2022: Attended the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association meeting and presented about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District nomination. Approx. 13 attendees

November 20, 2022: Presented to the Wyandotte County Historical Society regarding the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District. Approx. 50 attendees

November 22, 2022: Attended the Downtown Shareholders monthly meeting and updated them on the status of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District. Approx 7 attendees

December 2, 2022: Mayor moved the recommendation to submit the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District to the National Park Service for their consideration back to Standing Committee to allow for additional outreach and discussion.

Week of December 12, 2022: Canvassed the area of the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District, handing out flyers and other relevant information. Approx. 23 businesses and 44 people

December 14, 2022: Attended the Rosedale Development Association's (RDA) annual public meeting and spoke about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District. Approx. 10 attendees

December 27, 2022: Met with local business owner, Frank Aguilar, about the status of his property at 726 Minnesota Avenue on the National Register, and subsequently received a Letter of Support.

Week of December 26, 2022: Conducted several phone calls with Tom Prudden, Vice President of Facility Operations for Foster Adopt who owns the Kansan Newspaper building, about the impact Historic Tax Credits from the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District nomination would have on his plans for the building.

May 2021-Present: Updated the Landmarks Commission monthly on the status of the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District.

January 9, 2023: Received Letters of Support from Crossline Towers at 1021 North 7th Street Trafficway and Security Bank at 701 Minnesota Avenue.

January 9, 2023: Presented to the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG) Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee about the proposed Downtown KCK Historic Commercial District and voted unanimously to recommend approval to the full Board of Commissioners to allow Staff to submit the nomination to the National Park Service for their consideration. Several members of the public spoke in support of the Historic District, and some in opposition.

January 17, 2023: Received a Letter of Support from Community Housing of Wyandotte County.

January 18, 2023: Received a Letter of Support from RG Capital Partners, who are working to rehabilitate the UMB Bank Tower building at 615 Minnesota Avenue.

April 2021- Present: A total of 11 Friday notes were sent to the Board of Commissioners updating them on the status of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District project and process.

One on One Meetings with Stakeholders

(Phone calls, letters, emails, and other small meetings)

September 29, 2022: Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning and Urban Design, met with Travis Willson of Veritas Architecture and Design, and his development partners about their rehabilitation project and its synergy with the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

October 11, 2022: Gunnar Hand met with Dr. Greg Mosier, President of the Kansas City Kansas Community College, about the impact of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District, and its proposed boundaries in relation to the proposed Downtown KCK Community College campus.

October 24, 2022: Gunnar Hand and Cynthia Ammerman met with the Mayor and his staff about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

November 4, 2022: Gunnar Hand met with Patrick and Keith Kearns about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District, and their plans for Downtown KCK, including the Brotherhood Bank building project.

November 8, 2022: Gunnar Hand met with the head of Security Bank and their senior leadership about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

November 28, 2022: Meeting between Randy Greeves and Gunnar Hand with Greg Kindle, President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council, about the impact of the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District on businesses in the Downtown KCK area.

November 29, 2022: Gunnar Hand met with Elnora Jefferson of the Northeast KCK community about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

November 30, 2022: Meeting between Randy Greeves and Patrick and Keith Kearns, Brotherhood Bank building, about the impact the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District might have on their future development plans in Downtown KCK.

December 1, 2022: Randy Greeves and James Molloy, Planner, spoke to a local business owner in the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District about the effects it would have on local businesses while surveying the neighborhood.

December 3, 2022: Randy Greeves spoke to two (2) members of the public about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District while surveying the neighborhood.

December 4, 2022: Randy Greeves spoke to one (1) member of the public about the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District and its effects via telephone.

May 2021-Present: Gunnar Hand has had multiple one on one conversations with all the Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed Downtown Kansas City, Kansas Historic Commercial District.

Letters in Support/Opposition

As of January 17, 2023, Staff has received 12 letters of support, including from Downtown Shareholders, Community Housing of Wyandotte County, Security Bank, Crossline Towers, Frank Aguilar owner of Sol's Jewelry, Friends of Sacred Structures, The Y Lofts, Mental Health America of the Heartland, The Wyandotte County Historical Society and Museum, Myria Farnsworth a local property owner, RG Capital Partners and Veritas Architecture and Design.

As of January 17, 2023, Staff has received one (1) letters in opposition from Patrick Kearns of the Brotherhood Bank Building.