



Neighborhood Advisory Council Meeting Notes

Wednesday, October 2 at 12:00 pm
Memorial Auditorium (Lower Level Room B1)

Members Present: Lacy O'Malley, Ryan Williams, Bob Gilmore, John Lair, Mark Newbold, Glennis Peck, Kristen, Sarah, Marnie, Bo Bowman

Others Present: Sarah Runyon, Kim Froman, Matt Bacon (Public Works), Dustin Strong

Members Absent: PJ Graham

Call to Order – Marnie Schipper

- Guest Introductions
- Agenda Review

1. Review/Approve Last Meeting Notes – Action Needed

- Motion to Approve (as written or with changes) – Lacy O'Malley
- Second – Mark Newbold
- **All in favor** / Any opposed

2. Open Discussion – Quadrant Issues, Concerns or Bright Ideas (5 – 10 minutes)

- Lacy opened discussion talking / asking about the Fall Spruce Up
- Vacant properties / landlords that aren't in town, what do we do when no one local cares about it?
 - o One property, the owner passed & was donated to the land bank
 - o Kim responded that if they're abandoned and unoccupied, the city can start a case, especially when there are not utilities at the structure.
 - Submit to SeeClickFix
 - o Properties that are neglected, have been contacted by the City, and nothing is being done, the county has a tax sale process
 - Crawford County is behind on tax sales, it could take a decade or more
 - Lacy asked if that process can be sped up
 - Kim said not really due to the legal processes in place
- John Lair asked about a structure at 16th & Joplin
 - o City pink slip is on the structure, but people are going inside
 - o Kim said to call PD
- Ryan mentioned if we had incentives (grants or tax incentives) for people to keep up with their houses we may get people to be more proactive
 - o Rather than relying on codes enforcement / negative reinforcement
 - o Houses that are rentals are most likely to be neglected
 - o 2-10 houses / "slumlord" category, how do we incentivize the owners to maintain their property
 - o Kim said there's a grant / tax incentive that exists. Incremental tax incentive based on improvements over 5 years
 - Only one person runs it

- Property owners are eligible
- Sarah recommended looking into other communities and their “blight” ordinances
- Kristen asked how easy it is for fines to be ignored
 - Sarah said it is pretty easy
 - Can encourage donation to the land bank (will erase back taxes owed)
- Sarah has a house in her neighborhood that is an unsafe structure
 - They sent a letter to the address on record recommending that the owner donate to the land bank
 - Sarah said there are opportunities to educate that could help expedite the process
- Bob mentioned the courts are backed up as well which can delay the process as well
- Lacy asked about the number of fines versus paid fines
 - Matt mentioned most of the information was recently posted in the newspaper
- Matt Bacon said that there are out of town owners that would rather just pay the fine because it’s cheaper than maintaining the property themselves
- The land bank has a 7 member board that votes to approve or deny
- Ryan mentioned that the majority of properties are not necessarily land bank eligible
 - How do we incentivize landlords to maintain properties
 - Gathering good contractors
 - Landlords registering as businesses
- Bob mentioned that the city tried to make landlords register almost 20 years ago
- Kim & Matt mentioned 4-6k is the cost of some demolitions

- Glennis asked about power lines that are being interfered with by trees
 - If its from the street to the house, it’s the homeowner
 - If it’s on the street, Evergy
- Ryan asked if we could get tree workers to agree to do bulk rates for tree topping
 - Matt Bacon responded that the committee should go back and collect tree information from residents
 - Once information is collected it’s easier to get bulk bidding
 - 60 trees cost \$50,000 – city expenses
 - 4-6 weeks of work, potentially up to 12 weeks to complete

- Matt Bacon – Sidewalks
 - October 12?
 - Clean sidewalks
 - Going through with a Mini Excavator w/ a straight blade on a knuckle to clear sidewalks
 - Sidewalks have been sprayed
 - Mark asked about high-flow power washers to spray soil and grass away
 - Matt said the slurry (dirt) would need to be picked up somehow anyway
 - No movement on the sidewalks mapping project as Chris has been busy with other projects
 - ATAB has been helping with some of the mappings
- Matt mentioned they can do drop-down fields for the mappings so that it’s easier
 - Authorized users only, it’s not an app that can be downloaded / contributed to
- Bob asked what the goal is
 - Having the data, helps guide resources, data visualization, easier to find funding, etc.
 - Handicap accessibility is part of the research

3. Board Vacancy – SE Quadrant Opening

- No New Applicants – they are going to republish and advertise for this position
- Bo’s last meeting is today, new notetaker will be necessary.

4. Fall Spruce Up – Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

TUESDAY the 8th – 3pm Zoom / Teams Meeting

- Sign-ups?
- Everyone should try to participate, get registered, get volunteer groups signed up
- Logistics need to be finalized, should have 1 more meeting to finalize the details & kinks
- City property
- 2 furthest east houses on 6th going into schlanger park
- 10/24 properties have agreed, 1 person said no
- Between the sidewalk on 6th & alleyway is the biggest work
- Jotform – 7 households are signed up – email blast will be sent this week to those who said they wanted to participate / sign up for the NAC survey
- PetSense reached out & are doing a corporate table with free pup nail trimming & dog treats
- JT construction might cover the costs for safety glasses & gloves
- Trash Bags & Dumpsters (Dexter said get with Troy, may need to borrow from a city facility).
- Someone to go to the City Commission meeting and talk about the cleanup effort

5. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 6 at 12:00 PM – **Memorial Auditorium**

6. Adjournment – Action Needed

- Motion to Approve – Lacy O’Malley
- Second – Ryan
- **All in favor / Any opposed**