

Northeast Alliance Together (NEAT) General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: February 18, 2016

Meeting Minutes: February 22, 2016

Attendees:

Manny Abarca
Forestine Beasley
Rick Deane
Carmen Espinoza
Bernadette Gittings
Charlie Hopper
Alec Kelly
Ed Linnebur

Bob Long
Charlie Passantino
Brett Shoffner
Dave Shuck
David Stadler
Claudia Visnich
Brooke Yoder

Facilitator:

Mary Cyr

Other Presenters:

Al Tunis, Kansas City Public Schools
Shannon Jaax, Kansas City Public Schools

1. The meeting opened at approximately 8:35AM.
2. Due to scheduling issues, the presenter led the agenda. Al Tunis and Shannon Jaax presented on the new Kansas City Public Schools Master Plan. Please see the document attached to these minutes and this link <http://www.kcpublicschools.org/masterplan> for more information.
3. Mary Cyr welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Each attendee introduced themselves.
4. Grace United Community Ministries, located at 801 Benton Blvd., is a Northeast nonprofit that provides free after school tutoring for 80-100 elementary school students in reading and math. They also offer Summer Camp and Teen Enrichment and Leadership programs. Grace United Community Ministries is seeking to expand their facilities and remove neighborhood blight. They have received an abandoned car wash from Land Bank and are soon launching a capital campaign to renovate the land and property for outdoor amenities for their youth programming and for the neighborhood. NEAT is supporting them and has attended meetings with City Council to garner support.

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5. NEAT met with the St. Louis Kansas City Carpenters Union to discuss engagement with their paid apprenticeship program for high school students who are not headed for college.
6. NEAT met with the new East Patrol Commander Joe McHale and our new Community Interaction Officer Greg Smith. We agreed to meet monthly. These monthly meetings will be a great way for NEAT to communicate prioritized community need to the KCPD.
7. NEAT now has a relationship with BikeWalk KC. They are a non profit that promotes active transportation and lifestyles. They will partner with NEAT on Livability issues. Specifically we will work together to find non-homeowner funding to replace sidewalks.
8. NEAT is learning about Tiny Homes, a new trend in housing that may have applications in the Northeast. Tiny Homes are small, sometimes as small as 100 square feet, sometimes on wheels, homes that are custom built. They appeal to persons seeking a simplified lifestyle. People seeking to live in Tiny Homes may find the Northeast an attractive community. NEAT has attended the Tiny Homes Collective meeting and also met with City Planning and Development staff to learn more about how Tiny Homes can be built under the current zoning code.
9. The Indian Mound Neighborhood Association has been awarded a KC Healthy Kids Communities Initiative technical assistance and capacity building grant. They offer a series of workshops that NEAT is taking part in with Jenna Wilkins of Indian Mound.
10. NEAT continues to work with the Northeast neighborhoods on the Voter Engagement Drive. Rather than work towards increasing voter registration the group has chosen to focus on existing registered voter turnout. Our goal is to double the turnout from the 2012 election which was at 40%.
11. NEAT now has a relationship with Cherith Brook Worker House, an intentional community that serves the poor and homeless of the Northeast. NEAT is eager to learn of the needs of the homeless in the Northeast and to find ways to advocate for them.
12. NEAT is working with Jerusalem Farm, Indian Mound Neighborhood Association, UMKC's Center for Conflict Resolution, Don Bosco Center, and Cherith Brook Worker House to develop an Accountability Board. The Accountability Board will be a panel of neighborhood stakeholders who will

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engage indigent homeowners with codes violations with the goal of finding resources to abate the violations. KCMO Housing Court is now official engaged with Jerusalem Farms as a nonprofit contractor. In the new budget the court now has doubled the funds available for assistance to this population to \$300,000.00.

13. NEAT hosted a reception for the new East Patrol Commander Major Joe McHale and Community Interaction Officer Greg Smith. We also thanked the departing Commander Major Rick Smith and CIO Jason Cooley.
14. NEAT now has a standing monthly meeting with the neighborhood leadership and the C.I.D. The goal of these meetings is for NEAT to lead the neighborhoods to develop a unified voice on issues important to the advancement of the Northeast. We had our first meeting last week and it was a great success. We collected a vast amount of information and ended the meeting selecting an issue that NEAT is now pursuing with City Hall.
15. The issue that NEAT is advocating for is the enforcement of an existing ordinance that requires all rental properties to be inspected annually by KCMO inspectors. The standards for inspection are the same as for Section 8 housing. If this ordinance were enforced it would be a game changer for the Northeast. We understand that it will take some time for the city to organize and staff up for this. The Unified Government has this program and it is a revenue producer for them. NEAT has met with Councilwoman Justus who is very eager to pursue this and will meet with City Staff next week.
16. Claudia Visnich stated that the Northeast Branch Library is working with Grace United Ministries by teaching computer classes and running a summer reading program with them.
17. Alec Kelly reported that the Citizens Task Force on Violence will meet on March 8th at 6:00PM at the Gregg/Klice Community Center. www.kcmo.gov/violencetaskforce. The next quarterly Neighborhood Association Presidents Meeting will be held on March 21st at 6:00PM at a yet to be determined location. Contact Alec at 816-513-6517 for more information on these events.
18. Ed Linnebur announced that the Neighborhoods Rising Fund Grant is now open. Contact Ed at elinnebur@lisc.org for more information.

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19. Vladimir Krstic announced that the Kansas City Design Center is working with LISC to create a new Momentum Map of Kansas City that identifies new assets in the urban core. They are also working with the Scarritt Renaissance neighborhood to study building on sites that don't meet the zoning requirements for lot size.
20. Charlie Passantino commented that it is important that if the City will start enforcing the rental property inspections law that it be done equitably so that everyone is held accountable to the same standard.
21. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30AM.
22. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 8:30AM at the Kansas City University, Butterworth Alumni Center. Please park in parking lot G.