

# **Northeast Alliance Together (NEAT) General Meeting**

## **Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: November 19, 2015

Meeting Minutes: November 23, 2015

### Attendees:

Forestine Beasley

Angela Eley

Dana Gibson

Paul Gutierrez

Alec Kelley

Rebecca Koop

Ed Linnebur

Charlie Passantino

Laura Shultz

David Stadler

David Valdiviezo

Anne VanGarsse

Pedro Zamora

### Facilitator:

Mary Cyr

### Other Presenters:

Angela Eley, KCMO City Planning & Development

1. The meeting opened at approximately 8:35AM. Mary Cyr welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Each attendee introduced themselves.
2. Mary Cyr gave an overview of NEAT's activities. The first six months of her time will be spent forging relationships, building trust, and understanding the vision that the residents have for their community.
3. The first three months have been spent building relationships with city-wide stakeholders and Northeast leadership. Mary met with over 30 city-wide and local leaders in the areas of public safety, commercial and residential development, economic development, and livability.
4. During the second three months of that first six months she will move into a more localized networking phase: meeting with church and school leaders. NEAT seeks to connect directly with residents, and the best way to do that is through the neighborhood associations. There is a need to increase and diversify attendance at neighborhood association meetings. So far, connecting with individual residents has been a challenge. Mary would like to see culturally responsive fliers regarding neighborhood association meeting attendance going home in children's backpacks from school, and she'd like to see spiritual leaders supportive of the agenda of engaging and empowering individual residents mention neighborhood involvement at their church services.

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5. Only after Mary connects as best she can with the residents can NEAT, with any validity, start initiating programs.
6. Mary introduced the Breakfast with Santa event. At the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with KCPD Chief Forte, NEAT committed to host a neighborhood event this year. We have decided to move ahead with a Breakfast with Santa concept that will be in collaboration with the Soccer for Success program and Mattie Rhodes Center. Toys for Tots may participate. The event will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at a yet to be determined location.
7. NEAT looks to this to be a celebratory event in contrast to the events we've had this fall that focused on crime and other problems faced by the Northeast. This event is intended to reach the residents to inform them about NEAT and encourage attendance at neighborhood association meetings. NEAT's event partners also have agendas.
8. NEAT will be the main sponsor of this event. Soccer for Success will participate by contributing to the costs. Mattie Rhodes Center will also contribute financially.
9. NEAT has in their account about \$5,000.00 that was raised in 2013 when NEAT asked stakeholders to contribute \$500.00 each. NEAT plans to use some of this money to pay for the Breakfast with Santa event. The budget has not been defined yet, but we are expecting to spend no more than \$1,600.00 on the event.
10. The use of these funds was discussed and consensus was reached that NEAT use these funds in sponsorship of Breakfast with Santa. Recognition of the entities that contributed to NEAT's funds will be made in an event program and signage at the event.
11. NEAT will identify the entities that contributed money to these funds and reach out to get them reengaged with NEAT.
12. Angela Eley gave a brief overview of the Independence Ave. Overlay District project.
13. Mary asked the meeting attendees if they had any news or announcements of upcoming events. The following is what was shared:
  - a. The Northeast Chamber of Commerce will have a luncheon and ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 at Bella Romance Salon at 4231 Independence Ave.

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- b. The Hispanic Economic Development Corporation will have its anniversary event on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Boulevard Brewing Co. at 2501 Southwest Blvd.
  - c. HUD will visit Kansas City to discuss the Choice Neighborhoods program on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. Information will be forthcoming.
  - d. Kathryn Shields and Jolie Justus will hold a community meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 at the Roanoke Community Center.
14. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30AM.
15. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17 at 8:30AM at the Kansas City University, Butterworth Alumni Center. Please park in parking lot G.