

Northeast Alliance Together (NEAT) General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2016

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Attendees:

Michael Carmona
Hephzibah Dutt
Angela Eley
Carmen Espinoza
Paul Gutierrez
Alec Kelly
Sarah Kraly
Ed Linnebur
Carl Markus

Cliff McMurray
Brett Shoffner
Laura Schultz
Dan Smith
David Stadler
Anna Marie Tuter
David Valdiviezo
Claudia Visnich
Brooke Yoder

Facilitator:

Mary Cyr

Other Presenters:

Scott Wagner, 1st District at Large Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem

1. The meeting opened at approximately 8:35AM.
2. Mary Cyr welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Each attendee introduced themselves.
3. Mary Cyr asked the attendees to write on the index card provided what is their favorite thing about the Northeast. The following were collected:
 - a. Its diversity along every line: ethnic, racial, mixed income, nationality.
 - b. The people.
 - c. The rich and diverse cultures!
 - d. Engaged, creative, and inspiring residents.
 - e. Diversity and groups that work together for the good of Northeast and the community.
 - f. Opportunities.
 - g. KC Museum in the 90's.
 - h. Diversity.
 - i. Architecture & ethnic diversity.
 - j. Its cultural diversity, beauty and challenges, the people.

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- k. Kessler Park.
 - l. Diversity of population.
 - m. The beauty of Kessler Park, Museum, and homes.
4. Scott Wagner gave a brief presentation on the renewal of Kansas City's Earnings Tax. He discussed what the Earnings Tax is, who pays for the Earnings Tax, who does not pay for the Earnings Tax, what the Earnings Tax pays for, and what the City would have to resort to if the Earnings Tax were to go away. For more information on the Earnings Tax go to www.kcmo.gov/etax.
5. Mary Cyr described the Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) that NEAT is partnering with Jerusalem Farm on implementing. The NAB will reach out to indigent property owners who receive codes violation notifications from the City. The NAB seeks to support those individuals with property code violations in getting assistance to remedy the violations. It also seeks to build community by bringing together neighbors to understand each other's needs and jointly find solutions to grievances. Those active on the NAB will receive training from UMKC's Center for Conflict Resolution. Attendees had the following comments and suggestions:
- a. Anna Marie Tutera suggested inviting home remodelers to sit on the NAB as an added possibility for donated labor and materials.
 - b. Hephzibah Dutt described what the NAB does as restorative justice and invited anyone interested in the NAB to contact Jordan Schiele at Jerusalem Farm at jordan@jerusalemfarm.org.
 - c. David Valdiviezo, community organizer in the Scarritt Renaissance neighborhood, said that the neighborhood has had success working with City codes inspector Christina Carroll when violations are cited on indigent or disabled property owners.
6. Mary Cyr spoke about NEAT's efforts in getting the City to enforce its rental property registration and inspections ordinance. She has met with city staff, Council, and City Manager's offices. There are two issues with the ordinance that need to be addressed. The first is the fact that the ordinance has as a penalty for the landlord who refuses to abate code violations eviction of the tenant. Mary feels that this unduly penalizes the tenant. Second, the ordinance only empowers inspectors access to properties that are

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vacant. This severely reduces the number of properties that will get inspected. She is working with the City Manager's office on these issues.

Attendees had the following comments and suggestions:

- a. Carl Markus indicated that he allows tenants to pay what they are able to live in his properties and if strict inspections criteria were enforced he would have to abandon his properties. Mary Cyr said that she would send him as copy of the ordinance for more information.
7. Mary Cyr gave an update on the NEAT Steering Committee. The composition of the Steering Committee has been revised. The Committee now consists of representatives of the six neighborhoods that NEAT works with, a representative of the Independence Ave. C.I.D., one representative of the Mattie Rhodes Center Board of Directors, one appointment of the Mattie Rhodes Center Board of Directors, three NEAT stakeholders and one NEAT stakeholder appointment. The Independence Ave. C.I.D. representative is an addition to the original composition previously presented and two additional NEAT stakeholders are also added. The term "stakeholder" is used loosely as there is not a membership class in the organization. The three NEAT stakeholder positions and the NEAT stakeholder appointment candidates have been selected by a nominating committee. The nominating committee consists of Gloria Fisher from Westside Housing Organization, Bobbi Baker of the Northeast Chamber and the Independence Ave. C.I.D., and Cliff McMurray resident of the Scarritt Renaissance neighborhood. The nominating committee identified ten potential candidates for the three NEAT stakeholder positions and three potential candidates for the one NEAT stakeholder appointment. Mary Cyr will organize elections. The elections will be done via email. Voters consist of those individuals who have attended at least one NEAT General Meeting since September 1st.
 8. Mary Cyr asked attendees to share any activities or events happening in their groups.
 - a. Laura Schultz said that the Northeast Community Center is busy making accommodation for United Way to occupy space to deliver services in relation with HUD's Choice Neighborhoods Grant.
 - b. On Sunday, April 10, 2016 KC Harmony will have a fundraiser at the Boulevard Brewery from 5:00PM to 7:00PM. Tickets are \$50.00. Food will be provided by Oklahoma Joe's.

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- c. On June 26th KC Harmony students will join the Kansas City Symphony for a concert on the lawn of the Kansas City Museum.
 - d. Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 26, 2016 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM at Concourse Park. There are opportunities for volunteers. Contact David Valdiviezo at dvaldiviezo@mattierhodes.org for more information.
 - e. The Kansas City Museum is staging an exhibit of Native American pottery called “Pueblo to Pueblo”. There will be an opening reception on Friday, March 18 from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Kansas City Museum.
 - f. The redevelopment of the Kansas City Museum proceeds with a community engagement exercise facilitated by the design consultant. The event will take place on March 24 from 8:30AM to 10:30AM at the Museum.
 - g. Anna Marie Tutera shared news that Kansas City’s Japanese friendship doll is on loan to a museum in Japan. The last time the doll has been in Japan was 1927. The doll has been on display for twenty days and has been viewed by sixteen thousand people.
 - h. Brooke Yoder said that she will no longer be the liaison between Kansas City University and NEAT. The University has hired Elizabeth Alex as Community Relations Manager. Ms. Alex will attend future NEAT General Meetings.
 - i. Angela Eley said that the Independence Avenue Zoning Overlay District Steering Committee will meet twice more before its work is completed. There will be one more public meeting on the district. Adoption of the ordinance is expected in May.
 - j. Claudia Visnick had a few news items from the Northeast Branch Library. The Library is partnering with Truman Medical Center on a course on chronic disease. The Library offers a Friday morning chair exercise class, a yoga class, and a walk program.
9. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45AM.
 10. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 8:30AM at the Kansas City University, Butterworth Alumni Center. Please park in parking lot G.