

Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter Two (November-January) Due Feb. 10

Neighborhood: Brook Creek

Completed By: Amy Ousdahl

Date: 2/6/2020

Phone Number/Email: (913)-620-5152, brookcreekna@gmail.com

Each Neighborhood is required to have at least quarterly meetings. (minutes must be attached.)

Meeting Date #1 11/6/2019

Minutes Attached? Yes

Meeting Date #2 12/4/2019

Minutes Attached? Yes

Meeting Date #3 1/6/2020

Minutes Attached? Yes

How was the neighborhood notified of the meeting(s)? (check all that apply)

email
newsletter
other announcement? (please specify)

Bi-weekly e-newsletters
Fall 2019 print newsletter
Facebook & Nextdoor posts

Officer elections this quarter? (if so, attach list of new officers)

Yes

Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.

Date of Newsletter no printed newsletter this quar Copy Attached? _____ (required)

Bi-weekly e-newsletters sent out on 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16, 12/30, 1/6, 1/20

Also to be attached: _____

Neighborhood activity list for the quarter, including method of notification as well as estimated attendance. (Required)

Best practices in regard to neighborhood events that can be shared with other neighborhood associations. Provide information on outreach, event, and outcome. (recommended)

Any other information your neighborhood association feels will be information that will help to provide a clear view of your neighborhood associations accomplishments. (recommended)

Brook Creek Neighborhood - 2nd Quarter Report 2019-2020

- November
 - BCNA meeting on 11/6 - 8 people in attendance
 - Sent out 100 new Nextdoor postcards to neighbors
 - Sent e-newsletters on 11/4 and 11/18
 - Active community outreach to recruit candidates for our 2020 board
 - Represented Brook Creek at 11/20 LAN meeting

- December
 - BCNA meeting & community potluck on 12/4 - 12 people in attendance
 - Held BCNA Board elections - elected 3 officers and 4 directors (1 additional director not up for election this year)
 - Sent out 100 new Nextdoor postcards to neighbors
 - Sent e-newsletters on 12/2, 12/16, and 12/30
 - Advocated for the neighborhood regarding the 19th St Redesign project as part of the 19th St Coalition
 - Represented Brook Creek at 12/18 LAN meeting
 - Attended the Friends of Oak Hill meeting to learn about their preservation efforts in the Brook Creek neighborhood

- January
 - BCNA meeting on 1/8 - 7 people in attendance
 - Sent e-newsletters on 1/6 and 1/20
 - Sent out 68 new Nextdoor postcards to neighbors
 - Emailed neighborhood about upcoming construction update on 1/24 - 67 opens
 - Welcomed the Kansas Zen Center into the neighborhood
 - Actively working on CDBG application for 2020-2021 funding year
 - Shared thoughts on ADU in RS5 lots at 1/22 Planning Commission meeting
 - Continued to advocate on behalf of Brook Creek regarding 19th St Redesign and met with City Engineer
 - Represented Brook Creek at 1/15 LAN meeting

- Bi-Weekly E-newsletters
 - We send an e-newsletter to our email list every other Monday containing relevant neighborhood events, meetings, and city news.
 - 196 active subscribers
 - 11/4 e-newsletter: 67 opens
 - 11/18 e-newsletter: 51 opens
 - 12/2 e-newsletter: 61 opens
 - 12/16 e-newsletter: 64 opens
 - 12/30 e-newsletter: 56 opens
 - 1/6 e-newsletter: 57 opens

- 1/20 e-newsletter: 60 opens
- BCNA Facebook Page
 - 266 follows
 - 93 posts between 11/1-1/31
- BCNA Facebook Open Forum
 - 191 members
 - 31 discussions between 11/1-1/31
- BCNA Nextdoor Page
 - 454 neighbors signed up (31% of neighborhood)
 - Sent new invitation postcards on 11/17, 11/25, 12/10 and again on 1/25
- BCNA held board elections in December 2019, and spent the majority of November 2019 recruiting candidates for open Director positions. We re-elected 3 of our officers, re-elected 2 directors, and elected 2 new directors. We're currently seeking a secretary, as Byron Wiley had to step down due to other obligations.
- BCNA has been active in the discussion of the 19th Street Design Options. At our 12/4 meeting, two concerned residents living in Brookwood shared their concerns regarding 19th St east of Harper, and we had a productive discussion. The 19th St Coalition, which includes Brook Creek, met with the City Engineer on 12/16 to share concerns and request a 22 ft option for the 19th St Redesign. A Memorandum of Understanding was sent to the City Engineer stating what was discussed and agreed upon at the meeting regarding the 22 ft street width. BCNA is keeping a close eye on the Transportation Commission agendas and will be in attendance when the design options are presented.
- Kansas Zen Center opened their new location in Brook Creek in December, and we welcomed them to our neighborhood. We invited Stan Lombardo, teacher at the Kansas Zen Center, to our 1/8 meeting and learned about their class and meditation offerings. We're looking forward to forming a partnership and we're excited about the value and opportunities they bring to our neighborhood.
- BCNA is trying to increase presence on Nextdoor for the neighborhood, and over 50 new households signed up this quarter from our postcard invitations.

November 6th, 2019 BCNA Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 8 people

Board members present: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Melinda Henderson, Ron Bishop
BCNA members/attendees: Phil Collison – ELNA President, Courtney Shipley – incoming City Commissioner, Brandon McGuire – City Manager’s office, Amy Ousdahl – BCNA Coordinator

Introductions/Welcome

10/01/2019 – 10/31/2019 Treasurer’s Report

Balance Forward \$61.00; Dues + \$1.00; Withdrawals 0; Petty Cash Balance \$62.00

Checking Beginning Balance: \$1190.17

Checking Ending Balance: \$1190.17

Vote to Accept – Melinda moves to accept, Ron seconds, Treasurer’s Report passes.

Amy’s Update

Increase in e-newsletter audience and Facebook likes; 28% of neighborhood has joined Nextdoor, sent another batch of invitation postcards

Meeting time update – vote to move meetings to 6:00 p.m. starting in January 2020

January meeting will be 1/8/20 (first Wednesday is 1/1/20)

Half-Marathon

What is the best way to communicate with the neighborhood? Adjacent neighbors were not notified of the upcoming event and street closures. City Manager’s office tried to use their resources to reach neighbors quickly via Nextdoor. Confusion regarding volunteer staffing and police department presence throughout the course day of event.

Phil asked if City Manager’s office will be taking any action to ensure neighbors are notified in the future? City Manager’s office will create recommendation for City Commission for events in the future – working on policy and currently discussing options. Agreed that notification must happen in the future – working towards a proactive solution – more scrutiny next year. Phil believes this should go through the Lawrence Parks & Recreation advisory board.

Brandon – there has been some confusion throughout the staff internally, especially with the transition and reassignment of event handling to Parks & Recreation. Had some delays implementing a street events policy so ROW process was used. Staff needs to be more accommodating with their street events process, update form & ensure they are filled out correctly. There is currently a disconnect between what is on the form and what is actually implemented.

Street Maintenance in Brook Creek

10/15 City Commission consent agenda contained a change order for approved street maintenance. The funding for Sunset Hills & Brook Creek neighborhood street maintenance (total funds \$105,000) had been reallocated for street maintenance on arterials that are more heavily traveled like 6th & Wakarusa and other intersections that had been unfunded in the CIP. Staff had started looking at the plan and thought approved funding needed to be relocated. There are more cars on Wakarusa than our neighborhood, but that does not negate the fact that our streets in Brook Creek are falling apart and in need of repair. We feel that our concerns are not being heard in regards to infrastructure. Melinda tried to get to the 10/15 City Commission meeting in time to have that item pulled from agenda but did not make the deadline – walked in right as agenda was being approved. Melinda expressed concern during public comment that an item was added to consent agenda that directly impacted our neighborhood.

Melinda created a presentation that Jesse, Byron, and Melinda delivered last night during the 11/5 City Commission meeting.

Brandon – There are two issues, the need for emergency repairs and an acknowledgement of lapse of communication with the neighborhood. A recommendation was made to re-appropriate funding for a few projects in the pavement maintenance budget and they needed to prioritize emergency repairs on arterial streets. Identified Brook Creek and Sunset Hills projects, mill overlay in Old West Lawrence, and milled work on streets around the city. What level of notification have neighbors received about planned work? City Manager's office knew that Brook Creek neighbors had been notified of the maintenance over the summer, and they needed to follow up with anyone who received a door hanger with a new notification explaining why the work will not occur. That did not happen, and Brandon is here to apologize for the lack of communication and notification to neighbors. The work that was planned for Brook Creek was a full depth mill and overlay. Those segments that were identified are streets that are in a failed condition, and they will get worse.

Michael – not in agreement on scoring system; does not believe that his street is a failed block. Has two concerns – does not feel that if delayed one year, streets will deteriorate that much more, but isn't there a street maintenance reserve fund that is available for emergency repairs? Starting in 2020, Brook Creek is scheduled for Public Works through CDBG to put down street markers indicating 20mph. If streets are reworked after that work is done, it will need to be redone.

Brandon – City does not have a reserve fund budgeted for emergency authority. Trying to stay within 2019 budget, looked first at own operating budget (\$171,000) and then the project budget, which is where the reallocations occurred. The reason for reallocation is because these arterial streets all have maintenance needs that have been exacerbated by weather – incredible amount of rain and snow. If those streets fail it will be much more difficult to repair those streets, and the engineering opinion is that those streets need to be reworked first.

Courtney – Optics of inequity of moving funds from one side of town to the other side of town. How in the future can we be equitable when moving those funds? How can we be more clear or how can staff think about how it would be viewed moving funds from a low-mod neighborhood to wealthier neighborhoods?

Brandon – Wakarusa is just one neighborhood; these are city streets that everyone uses and are not specific to a neighborhood. Repairs include Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama & Naismith, which are not affluent/wealthy streets. What we need to think about is if these streets fail (these serve everyone), then that will compromise our ability to do street maintenance anywhere in the neighborhood. We're dealing with a substantial deficiency in maintenance due to funding and revenue constraints.

Jesse – The gross income east of Mass St. is different, and Brook Creek compared to West Lawrence is different. A bump and a flat tire costs more in Brook Creek than West Lawrence. Knowing more about the issue, it comes down to communication.

Brandon – cannot make any promises about next year's program. Do we prioritize arterial streets over streets that have already failed? Ultimately going to be a City Commission decision. Tried to spread around the maintenance program in the past – politically expedient, but not the most strategic way to handle funding and projects, wanting highest return on investment. There is a lot of investment in infrastructure in the community, and the community has been paying a lot for maintenance. Old infrastructure takes more money to maintain, and the city targets a lot of resources into older

neighborhoods (east of Iowa). One of the challenges with that (water line, sewer line replacements, streets) is that money does not go as far for complete reconstruction. Older neighborhoods need more money, but it doesn't go as far.

Michael – Our main concerns are that there might be a need for emergency street maintenance repair fund, and the pavement marking program needs to be coordinated with street maintenance. We'd also like to know if maintenance will occur next year.

Brandon – City Manager's office has the same concerns and wants the community to keep sharing concerns with their office. Acknowledges failure of communication, apologizes to the neighborhood and wants to improve.

Opportunity Zone Update

Phil – Attended the 10/22 Opportunity Zone meeting. A team is putting together a pamphlet to distribute with ideas, with hope that big time developers will come in and want to pursue their project. Purely a private function, no disclosure to city and no reporting required. Two opportunity zones (KU & East Lawrence – east side of downtown, Warehouse Arts District, neighborhoods, Venture Park), were discussed and each area was broken out and characteristics were listed. People put dots next to the items that they believed were most important (grocery store received 23 dots, rehabilitation of historic assets received 15 dots). Unsure who came up with different choices for development, but all of this information should end up in the pamphlet that will be distributed to attract developers. This will be a "wish list" and encouragement, but prospective developers have no requirements other than sticking to planning restrictions.

Courtney – Could anyone create one of these opportunity zone funds and put capital gains in it, assuming funds were spent at the right time, rather than an outside developer coming in? Could the community create a fund and do something homegrown? Or could we give priority to local developers?

Michael – what can neighborhoods do to influence decisions in opportunity zones?

Phil – Chamber of Commerce said that local, smaller groups cannot really influence or do anything. Putting together a local group of funds was not discussed at the meeting, but it seemed like it could not be done.

All agreed it is unfortunate that the 19th & Haskell shopping center was left out of the opportunity zone.

Transportation Commission – 19th St Plan for City Commission

Do not yet know the date that the 19th St Plan will go to City Commission. The 26 feet width is what Brook Creek wants, but we do not want to connect to O'Connell Rd. We need to focus on the O'Connell connection for the City Commission meeting. Drainage was not discussed at the most recent Transportation Commission meeting.

We've gone through several options and backed down demands, but we're still in the game. We need to plan what we want to say at the City Commission meeting and increase Brook Creek's presence at that meeting. When we find out the meeting date, we'll need to do neighborhood outreach.

Nomination Campaign Updates

We have a list of potential candidates and will continue the conversation via email with Byron.

Vote to Accept Meeting Minutes

Byron sent June, September, and October meeting minutes

June and September meeting minutes have been corrected and are ready to post online

October minutes cannot be approved yet – need to be cleaned up

Ron moves to approve June & September minutes with corrections, Melin seconded. June and September meeting minutes are approved.

Michael – Double density was on the City Commission consent agenda last night. RS5 passed for special use permit if the lot is 6000 sq foot or larger, which is 86% of the lots in Brook Creek.

Advertisement regarding Christmas Program – deferred

Closed meeting

BCNA Meeting – December, 4th 2019

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Byron Wiley, Jenna Coker, Ron Bishop, Tom Bogardus, Amy Ousdahl, Natasha Naramore, Andrew DeMoe (resident), Stuart Boley (City Commissioner), Lori Herd (resident), Carla Parris (resident) – 12 total

Introductions

Treasurer's Report

Petty Cash Balance: \$62.00

Checking Ending Balance: \$1190.17

All funds as of 11/30/19: \$1252.17

Jenna will move some money from petty cash to the checking account. Tom B, motion to accept the treasurers report, Michael 2nd the motion. It is approved to transfer petty cash and treasurer's report is approved.

Elections

BCNA Board and attending BCNA members cast ballots for the 2020 BCNA Officers and Directors. All four board members cast votes, as well as two directors and four members. Amy will tally votes and email final count to the board. Byron Wiley is stepping down as Secretary to focus on other obligations. Amy was submitted as a write-in candidate for Secretary until a new candidate is found.

The slate of directors presented by the nomination committee was approved for the coming year.

Jesse Brinson - President

Michael Almon - Vice President

Secretary - Amy Ousdahl

Treasurer - Jenna Coker

Director - Natasha Naramore

Director – Fred Sack

19th St Redesign

Lori Herd and Carla Parris, both Brookwood residents, expressed their concerns regarding 19th St east of Harper. The road leading from Harper to Brookwood, parallel to the Fairgrounds, is in disrepair and impacts water lines at Brookwood. They have been following the progress of the 19th St Redesign, but feel that efforts to push back construction until a 22 ft wide street plan is presented only further delay necessary repairs on 19th street. There is only one main route to enter Brookwood, so they must drive on a damaged road every day. This is exacerbated during Derby Days or other large events at the Fairgrounds where cars park on the sides of 19th St. Michael updated the group on the current status of the redesign, and shared details regarding the 22 ft width requested by the 19th St Coalition. BCNA will do our best to keep all residents involved regarding updates to this initiative, and when plans will be presented to the Transportation Commission.

Stuart Boley stated that the new water lines are approved. Do not know how it will be staged. Should visit with the Assistant City Manager.

Chuck Soules told Michael that the new water lines will be off to the side while the old water lines will keep water flowing.

Amy's update - Friends of Oak Hill Cemetery is looking for board members. They meet 946 Vermont at 5:30pm on December 19th

January 8th meeting starting at 6:30pm on Wednesday. Discussion about days. Amy will check with Rec Center on consistently available days.

Meeting adjourned early so all attendees could enjoy the annual BCNA dessert potluck that follows the December meeting.

BCNA Meeting - January 8, 2020

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Ron Bishop, Tom Bogardus, Melinda Henderson, Amy Ousdahl, Stan Lombardo (Kansas Zen Center) - 7 total

Introductions

Treasurer's Report

Petty Cash Balance: \$64.00

Checking Ending Balance: \$1175.96

All funds as of 12/31/19: \$1239.96

Kansas Zen Center

Stan Lombardo joined us to speak about the new location for the Kansa Zen Center at 1201 Laura Ave. They have 5-day retreat currently occurring and offer zen practice in the Korean tradition: meditation, bowing, chanting, walking meditation, kong-an (koan) practice. Classes, retreats, and special ceremonies are also offered. Regular practice is 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday; 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Retreats occur almost every month, which can last one day, two days, or five days. Classes are held about once a month. Sangha (community) ceremonies and meetings happen 3 or 4 times per year. They also host individual ceremonies (weddings, memorials, baby ceremonies) on an individual basis. More information can be found on their website

kansaszencenter.org. Open noon hour meditation (come as you are and sit as you like, nothing formal or particularly Zen or even Buddhist) starting February 3, Monday through Thursday.

Kids classes introduce kids to kindness, generosity and quiet sitting. Opening the space to spiritual traditions or practices such as yoga, tai chi, 12 step and so on. Contact at kansaszencenter@gmail.com for more information.

They are hoping to be more open to the community than they previously were at location on New York St. Excited to now be handicap accessible and have more parking and space. Adding 4 new parking spaces to their back lot. Currently researching neighborhood streets where people could park without disturbing neighbors. Anyone can become a member, but classes are free. Donations are always welcome! BCNA can offer insight to Zen Center on streets where parking may be available

Amy's Report

Keep e-newsletter to every other week, shift to send out 1st and 3rd Monday of each month

Increasing Nextdoor presence is a priority

CDBG Applications are due 2/21, Amy will attend required applicant meeting on 1/22.

19th Street Update

On 12/16, 19th St Coalition met with City Engineer to ensure that city understands what neighborhoods are asking for in the 19th St Redesign. Coalition sent City Engineer a Memorandum of Understanding stating what was discussed and agreed upon at meeting regarding a 22 ft width street.

The city wants to consolidate all of the construction and service operations, trash trucks, Parks and Rec trucks at Farmland Industries, just north of Venture Park. That traffic will go in and out all day, and coalition is concerned about traffic moving through 19th St. City stated the trucks will not go down 19th St (will be directed to O'Connell & 23rd), but service vehicles will be traveling down 19th St.

Coalition wants a partial closure, because what will stop those trucks from using 19th St?

Neighborhood Traffic Management program - \$115,000 allocated to come up with new slogans to slow down traffic. Maybe we could get a sign facing east on 19th St, stating speed limit and indicating a residential neighborhood (slow down, drive like your kids live here, etc.)

2/3 Transportation Commission meeting – scope of the 19th St Redesign project will be presented After Transportation Commission looks at the scope, BG Consultants will create a concept design, which will be presented at either the March or April Transportation Commission meeting.

Annual Clean-up – avoid April 18 due to Earth Day celebration
Reach out to KU about the Big Event and clean-up dates

How can we find out what else the neighborhood cares about? How can we do more with our association?

Would like to get a count of current homeless in our neighborhood and see how we could assist.
Melinda to reach out to Homeless Outreach at Bert Nash.



Brook Creek Neighborhood Association

Jesse Brinson, President
1502 East Glenn Dr., Lawrence, KS 66044
Telephone: (785)-218-8684
Email: jesse@calledtogreatness.com
Coordinator: brookcreekna@gmail.com

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association 2020-2021 Board Members

Officers

Jesse Brinson, President

Michael Almon, Vice President

Jenna Coker, Treasurer

Secretary (open - Amy Ousdahl to take meeting minutes until a new candidate is found)

Directors

Melinda Henderson

Ron Bishop

Tom Bogardus

Natasha Naramore

Fred Sack

Coordinator

Amy Ousdahl