

Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter Three (February-April) Due May. 10

Neighborhood: Brook Creek

Completed By: Amy Ousdahl Date: 5/05/2020
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Each Neighborhood is required to have at least quarterly meetings. (minutes must be attached.)	Meeting Date #1	<u>02/05/2020</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>Yes</u>
	Meeting Date #2	<u>03/04/2020</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>Yes</u>
	Meeting Date #3	<u>04/01/2020</u>	Minutes Attached?	<u>Yes</u>

How was the neighborhood notified of the meeting(s)? (check all that apply)	email newsletter	<u>Bi-weekly e-newsletters</u>
	other announcement? (please specify)	<u>Facebook, Nextdoor</u>

Officer elections this quarter? (if so, attach list of new officers)	No
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Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.	Date of Newsletter	<u>no printed newsletter this quarter</u>
	Bi-weekly e-newsletters sent out on	<u>2/3, 2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 3/30, 4/13, 4/27</u>

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

Brook Creek Neighborhood - 3rd Quarter Report 2019-2020

- February
 - BCNA meeting on 2/5 - 10 in attendance
 - Hosted Brad Finkeldei (city commissioner) at our February meeting to discuss 19th St. Redesign and homelessness in the neighborhood
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 2/3 and 2/17
 - Represented Brook Creek at LAN meeting on 2/19
 - Submitted CDBG application for 2020-2021 funding year
 - Formed partnership with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association for regular clean-up initiatives for Burroughs Creek Trail

- March
 - BCNA meeting on 3/4 - 12 in attendance
 - Hosted Mayor Jennifer Ananda at our 3/4 meeting to discuss the 2020 Strategic Plan and neighborhood issues (19th St. Redesign, ADU's in RS5)
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 3/2, 3/16 and 3/30
 - Provided COVID-19 information and resources to neighborhood through multiple communication methods
 - Actively promoted the 2020 Census to the neighborhood

- April
 - BCNA meeting on 4/1 - 5 in attendance
 - Switched monthly meetings to virtual format using Zoom
 - Discussed potential partnership with Habitat for Humanity for community assistance
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 4/13 and 4/27
 - Represented Brook Creek at LAN meeting on 4/15
 - Provided COVID-19 information and resources to neighborhood through multiple communication methods
 - Actively promoted the 2020 Census to the neighborhood
 - Actively promoted Election 2020 mail-in ballot information to the neighborhood

- Bi-Weekly E-newsletters
 - We send an e-newsletter to our email list every other Monday containing relevant neighborhood events, meetings, and city news.
 - 195 active subscribers
 - 2/3 e-newsletter: 61 opens
 - 2/17 e-newsletter: 69 opens
 - 2/24 March meeting reminder: 51 opens
 - 3/2 e-newsletter: 63 opens
 - 3/16 e-newsletter: 78 opens
 - 3/30 e-newsletter: 68 opens

- 4/13 e-newsletter: 62 opens
 - 4/27 e-newsletter: 60 opens
- BCNA Facebook Page
 - 276 followers (increase of 10 followers)
 - 123 posts between 2/1-4/30
- BCNA Facebook Open Forum
 - 204 members (increase of 13 members)
 - 46 discussions between 2/1-4/30
- BCNA Nextdoor Page
 - 460 neighbors signed up (32% of neighborhood)
- During this quarter, we continued to advocate on behalf of Brook Creek regarding the 19th St. Redesign project, discussing our concerns with Brad Finkeldei, City Commissioner, and Barker neighborhood at our February meeting. We also discussed this issue with Mayor Jennifer Ananda at our March meeting. This issue continues to be a moving target, but we keep the neighborhood informed of any updates we receive.
- We had a very productive discussion surrounding homelessness in our neighborhood, and the city as a whole, with Brad Finkeldei at our February meeting. We are aware that several individuals reside in the Nature Woods Area of Brook Creek Park, as well as Burroughs Creek Park. We want to gain a better understanding of homelessness in Brook Creek and determine ways that BCNA can provide assistance.
- Our coordinator spent the majority of February assembling and writing our CDBG application for the 2020-2021 funding year, which was submitted on 2/12/20.
- We've been following the Planning Commission proposal regarding accessory dwelling units in RS5 lots, assessing the impact on the Brook Creek neighborhood. We were pleased that this proposal has been deferred indefinitely, allowing ample time for community feedback and discussion among neighborhoods.
- COVID-19 response has been a primary focus for BCNA to ensure that our neighborhood is informed and has access to necessary resources. We're providing weekly (sometimes daily) updates on the Kansas state orders, as well as local ordinances from the county. We are also staying connected with local food organizations and sharing options for neighbors via social media and our e-newsletters. We are doing everything we can to keep the neighborhood connected with those who can assist during this difficult time.

- We met with Erika Zimmerman from Habitat for Humanity at our April meeting to discuss a potential pilot program that would provide assistance to those who need help with home repairs, yard work, junk removal, furniture moving, etc. This would not be a need-based program, but instead would be open to everyone - neighbors helping neighbors. We're currently creating a survey to share with the neighborhood to see what the greatest needs are in Brook Creek, and plan to send that out at the end of May. We've seen repeated requests via Nextdoor of neighbors who need assistance with yard work or home maintenance, so we think this could be an effective and positive program for our neighborhood.
- Due to COVID-19, our annual Burroughs Creek Cleanup was canceled. However, in honor of Earth Day, we're encouraging all neighbors who are participating in socially distanced walks to clean up any trash they find along their route. We are hosting a virtual clean-up, asking neighbors to post photos on our Facebook page and open forum group. We're hoping that this will help us pinpoint any areas that need additional attention during a future clean-up. Prior to COVID-19, we had planned a partnership with East Lawrence Neighborhood Association to collaborate on clean-up efforts for Burroughs Creek Park. We're hoping to work together once we can gather in-person again.
- We hosted our first virtual BCNA meeting in April via Zoom, and we'll be using the same format in May. We promote the event date and time on our Facebook page, e-newsletter, and Nextdoor, and provide the Zoom link to those who express interest in joining the meeting. This approach limits the security risks related to publicly posted links.

BCNA Meeting - February 5, 2020

Attendance: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Melinda Henderson, Ron Bishop, Tom Bogardus, Amy Ousdahl, Brad Finkedei (city commissioner), Bonnie Uffman (visiting from Barker), Judy Roitman (Kansas Zen Center), Nicole Van Velzen (resident) – 10 total

Introductions

Treasurer's Report

Petty Cash Balance: \$64.00

Checking Ending Balance: \$1175.96

All funds as of 1/31/20: \$1248.96

19th St Update

Brad Finkedei, City Commissioner, joined us tonight to discuss the 19th St Redesign project. Brook Creek supports additional business in Venture Business Park, but wants to reduce cut through traffic through the neighborhood. We would like restrictions on the connection of O'Connell Rd to 19th St. and do not support a 47th St width. Brook Creek proposed keeping the street width at 22 ft width and reconstructing the water lines. We understand importance of having access into Venture Business Park for fire, medical, etc. allowing traffic into the business park, but do not support traffic coming into the neighborhood from the business park. We are concerned about game day and commuter traffic (cut over from 23rd St) onto 19th St. Most recent City Commission meeting agreed to at least have some look at a 22ft width. Met with David Cronin to discuss parameters in December – brought scope to Transportation Commission on 2/3. BG consultants will then come up with a schematic design that will be presented at March/April Transportation Commission meeting.

We would like to see more pedestrian crossings (at least 3 protected – beacons, raised, etc). Brook Creek is particularly concerned about westbound traffic, and concerns about MSO facility being built at Venture Park and traffic (dump trucks, snow plows, etc) heading into neighborhood. The plan now is for 23rd and O'Connell to be the primary entrance/exit and 19th St will be a No Truck Route, but who will enforce? Concerned about game day traffic/KU commuters not driving all the way to 23rd/Iowa exit and instead taking 1900/1750 Rd or O'Connell to 19th St. We would like a partial closure where traffic is allowed into the Venture Park, but not allowed out, except for emergency vehicles.

Bonnie Uffman from Barker - sees positive effects of roundabout at 19th and Barker because it slows down traffic and may deter people from driving down it. Shares our frustrations about staff not making the redesign a priority year after year.

Brad Finkedei – new City Manager is very much supportive of options and feedback (pros and cons) for projects. Trying to get the staff to follow that approach and review all options.

CDBG Funding

Discussed changes happening to CDBG funds – now reviewed by staff rather than CDAC, so changes may be made to how funding is distributed. Amy is currently working on BCNA's application for this year and we are concerned about funding cuts.

ADUs in RS5

Does not accomplish plans to scatter affordable housing through out the city as stated in Plan 2040. Double density can occur in RS7 by right, and RS5 by special use permit. SUP has a \$725 permit fee – property on west side costs thousands more than property on the east side. If you have to pay \$725 fee, but save \$5000 by purchasing an east side lot, developers and organizations will continue working on the east side. 95% of RS5 are east of Michigan St. 87% of Brook Creek’s properties are RS7 or RS5. We do not have any confidence that the city policy will prevent density in our neighborhood, and with the ADU policy, we’re concerned about increased density in the neighborhood.

Brad Finkeldei – 4-5 churches on the west side are considering affordable housing units on their property (Kasold & west). Some will partner with Family Promise, TTH or other organizations to build affordable housing units. The goal is to build permanently affordable housing on these larger church lots (churches don’t want to sell, but have land). Connect Church at 31st & Kasold has a large lot to build several units. This puts affordable housing on the west side of town and allows for larger projects.

Ron Bishop – what about tiny house development? Maybe those could be built on larger west side lots.

Amy’s Update

Annual Spring Creek Cleanup – reach out to the Big Event to see if we can register for volunteers on 4/18. This is also Earth Day, so we’d aim to have the clean up early in the day (8-12pm)

CDBG – working on our 2021 CDBG application and will make edits suggested by Melinda. This will be submitted next week (due date 2/21).

Limited English Proficiency Plan Update – BCNA’s LEP plan has been updated and will be sent to the city as part of our CDBG application

Winter Shelter – discussed churches opening shelters and if they are regulated by the city in terms of number served. Do churches have to abide by city regulations that dictate the number of people who can be served by a winter shelter?

Brad Finkeldei described the different groups served: sudden homelessness, homeless but have a car or disability payment (can get a hotel), homeless with little means (camping), stable group at Jubilee/Library/Link/etc (most walk all night and sleep during the day when they can). This last group has been coming to the winter shelter and are very appreciative. There has been a consistent group of 14-15 people who attended the winter shelter, but as word spreads, more individuals started to show up and included more than those who really need assistance. 41 people showed up the night it reached 4 degrees. We need second location for other groups outside of those who are regularly served.

Community building or public building (non-religious) would require SUP to open a shelter – would need to be approved and go through formal process (multiple weeks even months). Churches have religious exemption to SUP. Upcoming study session on camping ordinance, pan-handling, and 15 person limit.

Brook Creek regularly has homeless who sleep in our neighborhood woods and in Burroughs Creek park. What can Brook Creek do to assist these individuals?

Strategic Plan 2020

BCNA will reach out to the city to have a facilitator attend our March meeting and discuss options for community feedback regarding the city’s strategic plan.

Meeting adjourned.

March 4, 2020 Meeting

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Melinda Henderson, Ron Bishop, Natasha Naramore, Jenna Coker, Amy Ousdahl, Lisa Larsen – City Commissioner, Margaret Gille – Brook Creek resident, Andrea Repinsky – MSO Analyst, Mayor Jennifer Ananda, Christina Gentry – Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Introductions

Coffee w/ the Mayor will be happening on Monday, March 16th at 5:30pm at S&S (23rd and Iowa)

19th St Redesign Project Update

At the December meeting, the Transportation Commission wanted staff to come up with a 22 ft wide option. At the January meeting, contract fees and scope were presented and consultants are currently working on 22 ft option. The April Transportation Commission meeting (4/6) will be when the concept design is presented. There are 4-5 other cross section options for other street widths and all options will be examined, including the 22 ft width. The 19th St Coalition is grateful that the 22ft width is on the table for discussion. Along with 22ft wide cross section, other concerns include how many crosswalks are along 19th St. One is proposed at Brookwood Mobile Home park, and the coalition would also like one at the Humane Society and Douglas County Fairgrounds, and another at the second entrance of Brookwood.

We would also like to see something that addresses the connection at O'Connell Rd. Nothing is currently in the plan to manage traffic at that intersection other than David Cronin's mention that this will not be a truck route, but nothing will restrict traffic. New MSO facility campus is moving over to that area, but it sounds like heavy trucks will not be coming out of that facility, west on 19th St. A compromise would be to close this connection westbound to prevent KC traffic from heading down 19th St to KU campus. The roundabout at Barker already gets very packed with the current traffic load. There is a lot of thoughtful conversation happening, and we don't want this walkable neighborhood to become a heavy thoroughfare. The primary access for city trucks will be 23rd and O'Connell Rd but nothing is stopping them from heading down 19th St. We would like to see a partial closure that would allow fire and medical access but restrict westbound commuter traffic.

2020 Strategic Plan

The final public meeting is at Lawrence Public Library on Saturday, March 7th at 4:00pm, Room B. There is an online survey or hard copies are available for community members to fill out. There are over 80 individual meetings scheduled for staff to go out to community groups to discuss the 2020 Strategic Plan.

Melinda expressed concern that the final discussion amongst city staff will not be recorded like City Commission meetings. It will not be held in the Commission Chambers with video capabilities, so there will not be a video recording. Mayor Ananda stated that meeting minutes will be taken as a record for the public. The alternate location will allow city staff to sit in an arrangement that will allow them to face each other and have a discussion.

Resident Feedback – Trash in Yard

Margaret Gille lives on the corner of Cadet St and E. Glenn and brought a bag of trash that was in her yard today. She lives near Edgewood park, where there are not any No Littering signs, and people throw trash in her yard. She asked Mayor Ananda if No Littering signs could be added?

Margaret Gille also asked what is Lawrence doing to address climate change? Solar/wind energy, plastic bags? Mayor Ananda discussed the checkpoints that the city has in place for renewable energy and they are working on a climate change plan. The plastic bag ordinance should be coming to City Commission again soon. There is an issue at the state level – passed legislature through the house that took local control away to make policies, telling cities that they cannot make local ordinances. We're waiting to see what happens at the state level.

Ron Bishop – why are there not any trash receptacles at bus stops? Riders cannot bring beverages on the buses, so people are forced to leave them at the bus stop. Stops with shelters have them, but stops without shelters do not (Brook Creek).

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) in RS5 Lots

Mayor Ananda – her house is on an RS5 lot and has an ADU (for transparency). The Planning Commission initiated a text amendment and now staff will work on developing a presentation to bring back to the Planning Commission.

Neighborhood concerns – Brook Creek made a statement at the Planning Commission meeting, not in opposition, but the policy of the city is to spread affordable housing around town, rather than redline on this side of town. If ADUs are allowed in RS5, that will add even more density to the densest part of town. 95% of RS5 is east of Michigan St. We support affordable housing but City policy says it should be spread to areas that are not as dense as our neighborhoods.

Christina Gentry – Affordable Housing Advisory board – always going to consider input of community and equity. She hears Brook Creek's thoughts on flooding and double density, and used to live on Forrest Ave. She empathizes with the concerns our neighborhood has. Working with Douglas County Coalition to understand poverty and barriers to employment, and going to be hosting focus groups. While Lawrence is not a redline city per se, some very redline-like policies have been implemented in city housing.

Michael – brought up the protective covenants that protect west side subdivisions from things like double density.

Studio 804 Housing

Tiny houses are defined by the International Code Council as 400sq ft or less, which is what these houses were billed as – affordable and tiny.

Michael – Double density might work if the houses are true tiny houses. What defines a tiny house and what defines affordable housing?

Melinda – it doesn't seem like everyone is on the same page when it comes to the clustering of affordable housing. Seems like there are spots where people can develop several units in a single area. We have to consider multi-unit complex affordable houses.

Melinda – asked about Community Survey results, will they be combined into the 2020 Strategic Plan? Andrea does not think so, unrelated.

Melinda – how would we handle if things needed to be added to the plan in 3-4 years?

Andrea – we plan to revisit the Strategic Plan every 2 years to keep things fresh and ensure we're addressing and modifying as needed. Things may change as needed. Would like to align this when the new commissioners come into their terms.

Amy Update – Propose that we partner with East Lawrence on the annual Burroughs Creek Trail clean-up, and start Second Saturday Clean-up sessions.

Starting to collect content for Spring 2020 print newsletter.

February Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward: \$73.00

Petty Cash Balance: \$73.00

Checking Beginning Balance: \$1175.96

Withdrawals: -\$25.00 (LAN Dues)

Ending Balance: \$1150.96

All funds as of 2/29/20: \$1223.96

Resident raised questions about how housing is decided in Lawrence, who decides where and which housing types are built?

Lisa Larsen – as long as developers meet code, they can build. If they follow all of the rules, the city commission does not hear about it. If they want tax incentives, they have to go through the full process of going before the city.

Climate change concerns – lots of organizations and groups working towards climate change plans in Lawrence.

Jesse will not be continuing as BCNA President after his term ends in December 2020.

Motion to close meeting

Meeting adjourned

BCNA Meeting – April 1, 2020
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Amy Ousdahl, Erika Zimmerman – Habitat for Humanity, community member (5 total)

Introduction – BCNA Mission Statement, respond to the community's changing needs

Our Community and COVID-19

There are many at-risk individuals in our neighborhood who cannot go out to receive essentials. BCNA would like to be a liaison between the community and services. We ask that neighbors let us know if they need help and we can connect you with assistance.

Presentation from Erika Zimmerman (Habitat for Humanity)

Starting a year ago, Habitat for Humanity started an initiative to assist with senior home repairs to increase safety and mobility to keep seniors in their homes. They are interested in learning what collaboration opportunities exist in Brook Creek to improve quality of life and safety in the neighborhood. The goal is to empower and encourage residents to be involved.

They have talked with some other affiliates, and previously initiated a Rock the Block event, where volunteers come out to a neighborhood and help with repairs on a single block (yard repair, painting, roof repairs, etc.). Habitat would help with tools, volunteers, and repair expertise. They are looking to partner with other community organizations, possibly with Independence Inc. or Just Food. What do residents need in our community that Habitat for Humanity could help partner on?

Jesse – We see ourselves as the liaison between residents and resources. We don't have exact numbers on the elderly population percentage in Brook Creek, but we definitely want to connect with that demographic and assist those in our neighborhood.

Erika – This program would be open to all residents, not just the elderly. This would be a program to assist any and all residents who need help. We'd like to survey the neighborhood to see what the needs are – what assistance is needed?

Michael – shares support for the Aging In Place program. Seniors on fixed incomes need help maintaining their property. If properties cannot be maintained, that hurts residents and the neighborhood.

Erika – discuss ideas for Rock the Block, maybe bring dumpsters or recycling pods, etc.

Amy – manages the Nextdoor page and there are a lot of requests for assistance with home repairs, yard work, moving furniture, etc. on the Brook Creek page. Let's send out a survey to gather what the biggest need would be for our community (SurveyMonkey, Mailchimp)

Treasurer's Report:

Petty Balance Forward: \$73.00

Move to Checking: \$50.00

Petty Cash Balance: \$23.00

Checking Beginning Balance: \$1150.96

CDBG Reimbursement (Coordinator Jan/Feb): \$540.00
Transfer from Petty Cash: \$50.00
Withdrawal for Coordinator Salary: \$540.00
Ending Balance: \$1200.96
Total Funds: \$1223.96

Amy's Update

- Print Newsletter: what content do we want to include?
 - o President's Letter from Jesse
 - o Burroughs Creek Trail Cleanup – Community effort, post your own photos, ways to stay active
 - o 19th St Update from Michael (pending upcoming Transportation Meeting)
- March Minutes: Amy will update with Michael's recommended edits and board will vote next meeting.

Next meeting – May 6th at 6:00pm via Zoom