

Quarterly Neighborhood Performance Report - Quarter Four (May-July) Due August 10

Neighborhood: Brook Creek

Completed By: Amy Ousdahl

Date: 7/31/2020

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 5/6/20

Minutes Attached? Yes

Meeting Date #2 6/10/20

Minutes Attached? Yes

Meeting Date #3 7/1/20

Minutes Attached? Yes

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

email x
 newsletter _____
 other announcement? (please specify) Facebook/nextdoor

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

No

Each Neighborhood is encouraged to produce regular newsletters.

Date of Newsletter July 2020

Copy Attached? Yes

Bi-weekly e-newsletters sent out on 5/11, 5,25, 6/8, 6/22, 7/6, 7/20

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 - 4th Quarter Report 2019-2020

- May
 - BCNA meeting on 5/6 - 6 in attendance
 - Discussed Burroughs Creek Trail extension to downtown
 - Continued to advocate for 19th St Redesign on behalf of 19th St neighborhoods
 - Discussed possibilities for a community garden in Brook Creek
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 5/11 and 5/25
 - Represented Brook Creek at LAN meeting on 5/20
 - Actively promoted the 2020 Census to the neighborhood
 - Actively promoted Election 2020 information to the neighborhood

- June
 - BCNA meeting on 6/10 - 4 in attendance
 - Investigated neighborhood complaint regarding archery range and hate speech occurring in Brook Creek
 - Reviewed 1632 East Glenn Rezone Request and will continue to follow proposal through Planning Commission
 - Closely followed the CDBG public hearing and City Commission meetings, sending correspondence supporting an increase in funding allocated for BCNA and other neighborhoods
 - Assembled all content and ads for our summer print newsletter to mail in July
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 6/8 and 6/22
 - Represented Brook Creek at LAN meeting on 6/17
 - Provided COVID-19 information and updates to neighborhood through multiple communication methods
 - Created neighborhood survey with Habitat for Humanity to gather feedback on potential pilot project in Brook Creek

- July
 - BCNA meeting on 7/1 - 6 in attendance
 - Discussed SUP proposal for a 3rd house at 15th and Prairie
 - Distributed a neighborhood survey in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in our summer print newsletter, e-newsletters, and social media
 - Sent out e-newsletters on 7/6 and 7/20
 - Mailed out the summer print edition of our newsletter
 - Represented Brook Creek at LAN meeting on 7/15
 - Provided COVID-19 information and updates to neighborhood through multiple communication methods

- 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
 - 5/11 e-newsletter: 61 opens
 - 5/25 e-newsletter: 59 opens
 - 6/8 e-newsletter: 37 opens
 - 6/22 e-newsletter: 58 opens
 - 6/22 meeting update: 44 opens
 - 7/6 e-newsletter: 48 opens
 - 7/20 e-newsletter: 53 opens
- BCNA Facebook Page
 - 291 followers (increase of 6 followers)
 - 83 posts between 5/1-7/31
 - BCNA Facebook Open Forum
 - 222 members (increase of 3 members)
 - 60 discussions between 5/1-7/31
 - BCNA Nextdoor Page
 - 477 neighbors signed up (33% of neighborhood)
 - During this quarter, we continued to advocate on behalf of Brook Creek regarding the 19th St. Redesign project, sharing our concerns with the Transportation Commission at their June 1 meeting. We shared updates with the neighborhood as this moved to the City Commission on July 7.
 - Our coordinator spent the majority of June seeking advertisements and assembling content for our summer print newsletter, which mailed the week of 7/13 to all households in Brook Creek.
 - We've been following the SUP proposal for the RS5 lot at 15th and Prairie and sent correspondence to the Planning Commission on 7/22 advocating for the spread of affordable housing throughout the city, rather than clustering on the east side.
 - 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 continued conversations with Erika Zimmerman and Erin Schmidt from Habitat for Humanity regarding 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 worked with Habitat for Humanity to create a survey to share with the neighborhood to see what the greatest needs are in Brook Creek. This survey was included in our print newsletter that was mailed in July, as well as our 7/6 and 7/20 e-newsletter and Facebook page. We've asked that neighbors fill out the survey and mail to Habitat for Humanity so they can review responses and assess needs.

- Our coordinator connected with Nancy O'Connor from Growing Food Growing Health regarding a new garden partnership between CMEF and Full Circle Youth at Edgewood. Students manage the garden at Edgewood and host a free Farmer's Market every Wednesday for residents. We actively promoted market days and the garden project on social media, our e-newsletters, and our print newsletter.
- We continued to host virtual BCNA meetings via Zoom in May, June, and July. 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. We currently have the meeting room reserved at the East Lawrence Recreation Center for our August meeting, but we will continue to provide Zoom links for all upcoming meetings so attendees have both an in-person and virtual option.

BCNA Meeting – May 6, 2020

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Melinda Henderson, Michael Almon, Tom Bogardus, Amy Ousdahl, KS State Rep. Boog Highberger (6 total)

Introduction and Welcome

Boog Highberger – available to assist with any questions regarding unemployment or things happening at the state level. If any neighbors have question or concerns, please reach out at 785-424-3262 or boog.highberger@house.ks.gov

Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Survey – Amy & Jesse to meet with Erin Schmidt to discuss next steps for the sending out the survey, timing, hardcopy vs. electronic version, etc.

April Treasurer's Report

Petty cash: 23.00

Checking Balance: 1,200.96

Withdrawal: 220.00 Amy's March hours

Ending balance: 980.96 + petty cash 23.00

Total availability: 1,003.96

Minutes Vote – Board approved the amended meeting minutes for December. Board approved meeting minutes for March and April.

Salvation Army property at Haskell and Lynn

Salvation Army owns property at Haskell and Lynn (owned for 10 yrs.) and is in the process of selling their downtown property. They have not closed the downtown deal yet because they are still raising money to build their new site at Haskell & Lynn. Michael talked with Lieutenant Andy about the project and invited him to attend one of our upcoming meetings this fall (August/September). We are interested to know what their agenda is and what their goal is for that property. It will be a church, but we know that they do not want to use that structure for a shelter.

Burroughs Creek Trail extension to downtown

Jesse attended the scheduled meeting along the trail, but no one else showed up.

Michael – when Brook Creek, Barker, and East Lawrence started the Burroughs Creek trail in 2005, we worked with the city and made a plan. The trail was built from 23rd St to 11th St. The new plan calls for the trail to extend north of 11th St. The original plan was for the trail to extend through Hobbs Park, along Delaware St. by the Depot and continue to City Hall. The City has been working on a route for 4-5 years but needs acceptance by KDOT. Difficult to find a way to thread through city property to continue that route. They have proposed going from 12th and Haskell and continuing along Burroughs Creek to the railroad tracks at 11th, which would cross the railroad tracks at the City compost facility. Trail could continue north along the river and back towards City Hall, or it could follow the north side of the railroad tracks towards City Hall.

Right now the city is looking at these two options, as well as looking at a few other options by Allen Press/Hobbs Park, but that would involve going over a hill, which would not be ideal. Next steps are talking to the Railroad to see if crossing the tracks is feasible and safe.

19th St. Update – Currently working on the water line right now. The design that would include a 22 ft wide street was finally developed. The city initially was going to present to the Transportation Commission on March 2, but that was canceled due to COVID-19. Next meeting was planned for April 6, which was also canceled. Now aiming for June 1 – unsure if this will be an in-person meeting or a virtual meeting, but we should all plan to attend if that meeting stands.

Community garden – Resident expressed interest in starting a community garden in Brook Creek. Possible placement: Cadet at 15th St and head South, right before you reach East Glenn there is a softball field, green space is west of field and before the skate park. The area there that would be promising for a community garden. Jesse is going to send resident information about the Common Ground program.

Come together sometime in June and discuss where we're at in terms of print newsletter, Habitat for Humanity survey, update on Common Ground, 19th St update, Burroughs Creek trail.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 10th

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Melinda Henderson, Amy Ousdahl (4 total)

Treasurer's Report

May petty cash: \$23.00

Checking balance: \$980.96

Amy's April hours: \$200.00

Reimbursement: \$220.00 from CDBG Amy's March hours

Ending Balance: \$1,000.96 + \$23.00 petty cash = \$1,023.00

Neighbor complaint – Resident reached out on the BCNA Facebook page with concerns about activities occurring in her neighbor's backyard. Neighbor has an archery range and is shooting in close range to other neighboring backyards. Amy reviewed city code and does not see anything specific about bow and arrow shooting in the city limits, except with regard to hunting restrictions. It is illegal to discharge a firearm. NRO may be able to assist and provide more information. Amy to send information to Melinda to do some follow up with resident via Facebook.

Political ads on BCNA social media – Resident posted political post for a current DG County Commissioner candidate on our BCNA Open Forum page. Board agreed that yes, we will allow these posts, but we need to be equitable about it. If we let one candidate post, we need to let all candidates post. Similarly, if we accept advertisements for the print newsletter for one candidate, we need to accept any others that are submitted. Melinda to reach out to other current candidates to see if they would like to share their election info on our Facebook page. Possibly set up a Zoom meeting and invite the neighborhood to a candidate discussion?

Salvation Army Lt. Meeting – Michael to invite Andy Wheeler to our July meeting (either in-person or via Zoom). Amy to reach out to Parks & Rec about scheduling a meeting on July 1 at 6pm in the meeting room.

1632 East Glenn Rezone Request – Concerned neighbor reached out to BCNA Facebook page stating that the new owners of this property were using double density to build three new houses on the lot. BCNA received rezone request notice from the City stating that the owner is requesting to rezone from RS7 to RS5, as well as requesting a reduction of the right-of-way on Harper and East Glenn. Double density is currently allowed in RS7 by right, and would require an SUP for an RS5 lot. Based on that, we do not think that double density is being used, but we'd like to gather more information. That property is currently owned by Owen Lehmann of Vintage Greenmark Construction. Melinda to reach out to Owen Lehmann to gather more information about their plans for the property. Jesse may walk down there to see what is currently going on.

15th & Prairie – Tenants to Homeowners filing a special use permit for the two lots on the corner of 15th and Prairie. Each lot currently has one house built, and they are filing the SUP to

build a second house directly behind. We have not been contacted by Tenants to Homeowners about these plans, which we've asked for several times. BCNA would like to be contacted by developers who intend to develop areas in our neighborhood, prior to plans being filed so we can be aware. We're opposed to double density in RS5, and those lots are not necessarily protected by SUP clause. Jesse to reach out to Tenants to Homeowners about how we can engage in discussion prior to these plans being filed. Michael may draft a letter for the upcoming Planning Commission meeting regarding double density.

CDBG Funding – Two different funding sources. Neighborhoods are in the pool that also includes public service and nonprofits. The city disbanded the CDAC committee who used to review these applications – neighborhoods could be involved in those discussions and advocate for themselves. The city changed the decision rules and decided that staff will review based on a matrix. All neighborhood associations were cut by over 50%. Phil Collison and Bart Littlejohn voiced opposition at the public hearing last week. We would like to see what our matrix score was based on our application, to see how we compare to those applicants we were fully funded. A nonprofit or public service organization does not operate the same way that a neighborhood association does, and we do not think that they should be compared side by side. The funding recommendation goes to City Commission on 6/16, so we still have a chance to submit comment. Melinda asked Danelle Walters for our matrix scores so we can see how we compare. Melinda to draft a letter on behalf of BCNA and Jesse will submit to City Commission.

Print Newsletter – discussing content, what do we want to include?

- President's Letter
- Habitat for Humanity survey
- Save the Date for Fall Picnic – Sunday 10/4
- Growing Food Growing Health Edgewood Garden feature
- Susan Miller tribute
- 19th St Update
- Meeting dates
- How to connect with BCNA
- Ads: Boog Highberger, Paradigm Design

Target mailing date is the week of 7/6. Deadline for advertisement submissions is 6/19. Amy to start working on a draft and send out to the board next week.

19th St Update – CIP was on City Commission agenda. 19th St. Update may go to City Commission next week. We will monitor the upcoming agendas.

BCNA Meeting: July 1, 2020

Attendees: Jesse Brinson, Michael Almon, Melinda Henderson, Amy Ousdahl, Stu Aiken (resident), Natasha Naramore (6 total)

June Treasurer's Report:

Petty cash: \$23.00

Checking Account Beginning Balance: \$1000.96

Deposits – Boog Highberger Ad: \$30.00

CDBG Reimbursement – Amy's April Hours: \$200.00

Withdrawal – Amy's May Hours: \$220.00

Withdrawal – Amy's June Hours: \$270.00

Ending Balance: \$740.96

New Coordinator Role: Jesse, Michael, and Melinda to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday 7/8 to discuss tasks and divide duties amongst the board or determine which tasks a new coordinator could take on.

CDBG Budget update: Additional \$1000 granted to all 4 neighborhoods (Brook Creek, East Lawrence, Pinckney, Schwegler)

Tenants to Homeowners Letter: Jesse is drafting a letter to Tenants to Homeowners regarding the Special Use Permit for a 3rd house at 15th and Prairie (behind the two new houses that were built). We want to reiterate our desire to collaborate with Tenants to Homeowners and have open communication with their organization regarding projects happening in Brook Creek. We'd like to hear about new projects directly from Tenants to Homeowners, not the Planning Commission. We share the same goal of affordable housing and we'd like to work together to achieve that goal.

Double Density SUP for 15th and Prairie: This is the first instance of a special use permit being used for double density in an RS5 lot. We are concerned about this proposal setting a precedent for SUP applications in RS5, rather than taking advantage of the larger lots that could reasonably accommodate two houses on a single lot. We believe that affordable housing should be spread around the entire city, rather than clustered on the East side of Lawrence. 99% of RS5 lots are east of Michigan St.

Michael – should we send a letter to the Planning Commission prior to their meeting on 7/22 regarding the SUP application for 15th and Prairie? Should we take a neighborhood position on the project?

Board agreed that we should send correspondence emphasizing our desire for affordable housing to be spread throughout the city. Michael will draft a letter and send to the board for review.

August Meeting: We have the meeting room reserved at ELRC for 6:30 p.m. on 8/5, but we will also offer a Zoom link for anyone who would like to join virtually or in case our reservation is canceled due to COVID-19.

Jesse is planning to invite Katie Werner from The Care Center to our August meeting to discuss Sexual Violence Prevention.

Michael will invite Andy Wheeler from the Salvation Army to discuss plans for Haskell Ave & Lynn St.

East Glenn development to go to City Commission soon, we'll keep an eye out for the date on the agenda.

Zoom meetings: We need to make a plan for virtual meetings indefinitely due to quarantine – COVID will likely go on for some time. Can we create a BCNA Zoom account? Jesse is looking into plans – might be anywhere from \$15-\$45 per month. We need to see if there is a month to month option.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association
1406 Oak Hill Avenue
Lawrence, Kansas 66044



Join Brook Creek Neighborhood Association for only \$1.00

Support BCNA so that we can effectively represent you.

MEMBERSHIP RATES

In-neighborhood individuals \$1.00

Out-of-neighborhood individuals and businesses \$5.00

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Member information is used only for neighborhood communications, and not distributed or sold.

Please **check** any box that applies:

- I do not want my name printed in the newsletter as a new or returning member
- I would like to be included in a neighborhood e-mail list-serve
- I would like to receive a weekly e-newsletter

Mail this form and your check payable to BCNA to:
Brook Creek Neighborhood, 1406 Oak Hill Ave., Lawrence KS 66044

Visit us at <http://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com/>



The Brook Creek Breeze

The Newsletter of the
Brook Creek
Neighborhood Association

Summer 2020

Neighborhood Events

August

- 5 BCNA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec Center

September

- 2 BCNA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec Center

October

- 4 BCNA Fall Picnic
Brook Creek Park
- 7 BCNA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec Center

November

- 4 BCNA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec Center

December

- 2 BCNA Meeting 6:30 p.m.
East Lawrence Rec Center

Letter from the President

Hi families and friends of Brook Creek Neighborhood!

My name is Jesse Brinson and I serve as the president of your Brook Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA). I'm currently in my 2nd year as your president and embrace the opportunity to connect with you and draw our community together.

Due to COVID-19, much our lives are filled with anxiety, uncertainty, confusion and no rhythm. It is at this time we must draw closer as a community. By that I don't mean we should not respect the rules and requirements of CDC. What I do mean is there has never been more of time that we should connect via social media, check in on our neighbors and offer support for those who need it and who can give it.

My wife and I have worked with Called To Greatness for over 15 years and currently serve as community outreach and development coordinators. That means we are the liaison between the church and the community, offering tools for better living. I accepted the role as president of BCNA because it too has that same heart. BCNA answers the question of, "How can we (BCNA) be a liaison between our community and what's going on around us?" To do this efficiently, we need to hear from you!

How can you connect with us? Email us at brookcreekna@gmail.com or connect with us on Facebook. You can also attend our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We usually meet at the East Lawrence Recreation Center, but due to COVID-19 we have been meeting virtually this summer. Sign up for our e-newsletter or follow us on social media for updates on meeting locations for the fall.

Connect with Brook Creek between Newsletters!

We regularly share updates and city news on our main BCNA Facebook page, and our website has meeting minutes, newsletters, event dates and more!

Connect with neighbors through Nextdoor.com or our Neighborhood Facebook group.



Neighborhood Contacts

Jesse Brinson, President

jesse@calledtogreatness.com

Michael Almon, Vice President

paradigm@ixks.com

Amy Ousdahl, Secretary

brookcreekna@gmail.com

Jenna Coker, Treasurer

jcoker@ku.edu

Directors

Natasha Naramore

Tom Bogardus

Ron Bishop

Melinda Henderson

Fred Sack

Neighborhood Coordinator

Amy Ousdahl

brookcreekna@gmail.com

Stay informed! Are you receiving our E-newsletter?

Due to increasing costs and reduced funding, BCNA will only be able to send paper newsletters twice a year.

However, we do send an email newsletter every other Monday! You can sign up on the Brook Creek website:

[Brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com](http://brookcreeklawrence.wordpress.com)

Don't miss out on important neighborhood news!

Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Survey

BCNA has partnered with Habitat for Humanity on a neighborhood survey to assess the needs in Brook Creek and gather feedback from our residents. If you would like to participate, please fill out the form and questions below and mail to Habitat for Humanity, 720 Connecticut, Lawrence, KS 66044.

Name:

Occupation:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

What are the things that make Brook Creek a good place to live, things you want to keep the same or increase? (*current state/existing strengths*)

If you had a magic wand and could do anything to improve quality of life in Brook Creek, what would you do? (*dreams/aspirations*)

What do you think is the biggest challenge that people are facing in Brook Creek? (*fears/concerns*)

Are there any skills or talents you could contribute to work in Brook Creek? (*gifts/assets*)

Growing Food Growing Health Garden & Free Farmer's Market

In partnership with the Full Circle Youth Program, the Community Mercantile Education Foundation's (CMEF) Growing Food Growing Health project has started a new garden at Edgewood! This is the newest addition to the gardens around town that are maintained and harvested by CMEF youth as an initiative to strengthen community and support sustainable, local food systems. This program helps develop youth leaders, creates productive gardens, and promotes the connection between food and health.

In addition to the new garden project, Growing Food Growing Health youth will be hosting a weekly free market at Edgewood every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the duration of the summer. This market is open to all Edgewood residents and the surrounding community. Produce grown by student gardeners will be available, including greens, herbs, and berries.

Learn more about the Growing Food Growing Health student garden project on their website at <https://www.growingfoodgrowinghealth.org>. You can also follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/GrowingFood/>.

19th Street Redesign Update

The Multimodal Transportation Commission evaluated six different concept designs for the 19th Street reconstruction project at their meeting on June 1. This project involves the stretch of 19th St. that extends from Harper St. to O'Connell Rd.

Brook Creek Neighborhood Association has opposed increased traffic anywhere on 19th St. since 2015, forming the 19th Street Coalition in 2016 with other 19th St. neighborhoods. We advocated for a 22 foot wide street, which was one of the concept designs presented. The other concepts considered were three variations of a 31 foot wide street, a 36 foot wide street, and a 47 foot wide street.

The commission voted 5-3 to recommend a 26 foot wide street with storm sewers, a sidewalk on the north, and a shared use path on the south. This will go to the City Commission on either July 7 or July 21.

Brook Creek Fall Neighborhood Picnic – Save the Date!

Sunday, October 4
Brook Creek Park

Join BCNA and your Brook Creek neighbors for our annual neighborhood picnic! Bring a snack or side dish to share, and enjoy an afternoon building community with your neighbors.

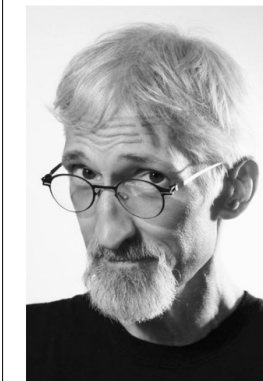


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