CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jamila Jefferson-Jones
University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law
Building the capacity of Kansas City neighborhoods

Neighborhoods throughout Kansas City are critical to the health of the city. Neighborhood leaders and advocates provide an important network of connections and support for residents. The Center for Neighborhoods aims to empower these leaders and create opportunities for neighborhood improvement.
COMMON POINTS OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE LAND USE PROCESS

Legislative actions
- Comprehensive plan
- Zoning code revisions
- Annexations

Discretionary permits
- Pre-application neighborhood meeting
- Notice of permit hearing
- Preparation of written comments prior to hearing
- Public hearing comment
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City Planning & Development
1809 E 80th St

**Parcel Data**

- **City PIN**: 17077
- **Code Cases**: 1
- **Permits**: 44
- **Plans**: 5
- **Holds**: 0
- **County APN**: JA477400000020000000000
- **Flat**: 0
- **Lot**: 0
- **Block**: 0
- **Tract**: 0
- **Owner**: Marian Stephen P & Toba R
  % Nortan Properties
  6007 Pasco Blvd
  Kansas City, MO 64131
- **Address**: 6001 Pasco
  View all addresses
- **Zip code**: 64132
  311 Cases
- **Council District**: 5th
- **Trash Day**: Tuesday (South)
- **Patrol Division**: Metro
- **Census Neighborhood**: Marlborough
  Heights/Marlborough Pride
- **School District**: CENTER 120
- **Park District**: South
- **PW Maint District**: D3
- **Impact Fee Zone**: EXEMPT
- **Water Improvements**: R

**Neighborhood & Homes Associations**

**Show Special Assessments**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Number</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Work Class</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>CPBD-T15365</td>
<td>CPPU - Demolition (Residential)</td>
<td>Complete Building Demolition</td>
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<td>CPPU - Plumbing (Commercial)</td>
<td>Plumbing General</td>
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<td>CPPU - Electrical (Commercial)</td>
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WHO ARE THE DECISION MAKERS?

- **Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)**
  - Eight (8) member board made up of citizens appointed by the mayor.
  - Hears and makes final decisions on requests for variances from the requirements of the Zoning and Development Code, exceptions to fence height, considers appeals of administrative decisions, and makes final decisions on Special Use Permits.
  - Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the Council Chambers located in City Hall

- **City Plan Commission (CPC)**
  - The CPC is comprised of eight (8) citizens appointed by the Mayor and commissioned to serve for 4 years.
  - Hears rezoning requests.
  - Developer and all owners of property within 300 feet of the affected site will be notified of the time, date and place of the hearing.
  - The City Plan Commission has established a policy requiring developers to hold a meeting with affected residents to review the project prior to the public hearing.
  - After the hearing, the CPC will make a recommendation to the City Council either to approve the request; approve it subject to certain conditions; or to deny it.
  - If the CPC recommends approval of the rezoning request, the City Planning and Development staff will prepare an ordinance and forward it to the City Council. The ordinance will be given a first reading before the City Council and will be referred to the council’s Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee, which will hold a public hearing on the ordinance and make one of the following recommendations to the full City Council: “do pass,” “do not pass,” “without recommendation,” or “hold in committee.”
  - If the City Council approves your rezoning request, or approves it with conditions, the ordinance to rezone your property becomes effective 10 days later.
  - If at any time during the process of seeking a rezoning the request is denied by either the CPC, the City Council or the council’s Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee, three (3) are options:
    - Revise the application and resubmit it at any time to the City Planning and Development Department.
    - Resubmit the same plans for the same property to the City Planning and Development Department one (1) year later.
    - Ask a City Council member to reintroduce the denied application at any time.

- **Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee** (a committee of the City Council)
  - Five (5) Councilpersons
CITYWIDE PLANS
Provide broad policy for entire city
(FOCUS Kansas City Plan, Bike KC
Plan, Trails KC Plan, Major Street Plan,
Advance KC, etc.)

AREA PLANS
Apply citywide policies to 18 areas

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS
Marlborough
CATALYST Plan,
integrated in Area Plan

Swope Area Plan
Other City Plans
The City has prepared a number of other plans to supplement the comprehensive plan and the area plans. These plans include citywide plans, neighborhood plans and project plans. If you'd like to request a copy of a plans listed below, please email your request to recordrequest@kcmo.org.

Citywide Plans
- Bike KC Plan
- Kansas City Safe City Initiative
- Kansas City Willability Plan
- Kansas City Willability Plan Neighborhood Walking Survey
- Stream Asset Inventory Phase 1
- Trails KC Plan
- Kansas City, MO Major Street Plan

Project Plans
- 2nd Street Land Use and Infrastructure Plan
- 20th Street Streetscape Plan
- 2000/3000 Street Replacement and Crosstown Circle Plan
- African American Heritage Trail Plan
- Brush Creek Valley Project Plan
- Cultural Heritage District Plan
- East Downtown PIFA Urban Design Framework
- Kansas City Downtown Streetscape Master Plan
- Main Street Corridor Streetscape Master Plan
- Old Film Row Urban Design Concept Plan
- South Loop Link Truman Road Feasibility Study
- Town of Kansas Master Plan
- Truman Road Redevelopment Study
- Vine Street Economic Development Plan

Neighborhood and Corridor Plans
- 63rd Street Corridor Plan
- 350 Highway/Blue Parkway Corridor Plan
- Blue Hills Neighborhood Plan
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FOCUS AREA: MARLBOROUGH / MIDDLE BLUE BASIN

The Housing and Neighborhoods Chapter includes a sub-area plan for the Marlborough area and the Middle Blue Basin.

The City of Kansas City, Mo., Water Services Department is implementing green solutions within a portion of the Middle Blue River Basin, generally in the Marlborough area. This project is believed to be the largest project using green solutions for combined sewer overflow control currently being planned for construction in the United States. It represents just one component of the City’s commitment to use green solutions to control runoff as part of the Overflow Control Plan. These features include above and below ground improvements that capture and hold storm water. These improvements are being coordinated with neighborhood improvement programs to try to leverage private investment in the area as the City makes this significant investment to improve area infrastructure.

Another recent initiative in the Marlborough area is the Marlborough CATALYST Plan. The CATALYST Plan is an initiative of the Marlborough Community Coalition to discover and develop the rich assets of the five neighborhoods of the Marlborough community (see map), and craft an action plan that will transform this potential into a thriving place to grow up, live, and work. Key elements of this plan are discussed below. The CATALYST plan should be consulted for more detail about proposed projects and initiatives. For more information about the plan, visit the website at: www.wearemarlborough.com. The Swope Area Plan will be the plan of record for the area and its recommendations will supersede the plans summarized below in instances where there are inconsistencies and discrepancies.

As improvements are planned and constructed in the Middle Blue basin, there should be coordination with the Swope Area Plan goals as well as the Marlborough CATALYST Plan priorities to look for ways to achieve community benefits as infrastructure improvements are made.

MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Marlborough residents and business owners identified the following priorities to strengthen the community:

- Increase attention to property maintenance and beautification on private and public properties.
- Build new sidewalks and curbs connected to transit, provide street maintenance, and repair failing infrastructure.
- Support organized community involvement to build neighborhood pride and capacity.
- Improve healthy food access in the neighborhood, as well as awareness of and connection between current healthy food assets
- Promote awareness building/education for parents and kids to support healthy choices and skills.
- Increase availability of programmed activities, recreation, and mentorship opportunities, especially for youth.
- Promote homeownership and landlord accountability.
- Address concerns for safety and perception of crime, especially around schools.
- Create new educational opportunities to develop residents’ employment skills and catalyze new businesses.
- Inform the image of the community as a dynamic, innovative environment that will attract residents, visitors, and new businesses.
PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

In order to be successful, an area plan must address the community’s primary issues. Therefore, public participation was essential in preparing the Swope Area Plan. The vision, primary aspirations and final recommendations in the plan are all the result of an extensive, inclusive and transparent public process that identified and addressed the areas challenges and opportunities. The planning process included interaction with area residents and stakeholders utilizing:

- Mayor-appointed Steering Committee composed of residents, neighborhood leaders, property owners, institutions and businesses. The committee was utilized to articulate the overall direction and review principles and concepts throughout the planning process.

- Technical Committee composed of representatives of City departments and other agencies provided technical expertise and guidance on a range of issues.

- Interactive Public Meetings, as well as additional meetings and presentations with individual neighborhood groups, institutional partners and other area stakeholders.

- MindMixer Web Site (www.plankcmo.com), which provided an online town hall meeting forum where residents and stakeholders could post ideas, respond to their ideas and provide feedback on key concepts throughout the planning process.

- Survey of area residents (see Companion Products).

- Project web site - This site was utilized to post documents and provide information about the project and upcoming meetings.
OBSTACLES TO CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

- Time – Business hours vs. After hours
- Days – Weekdays vs. Weekends
- Place – City Hall vs. Neighborhood
  - Parking
  - Familiarity
  - Security and fear of policing/immigration
- Length of Proceedings
Building the capacity of Kansas City neighborhoods

Neighborhoods throughout Kansas City are critical to the health of our community. Neighborhood leaders and advocates provide an important network of support to residents and other organizations. By building the capacity of these neighborhoods, we aim to strengthen their ability to address the challenges they face and to promote positive change in Kansas City.
Think outside of the box!