

CHNA Annual Meeting Minutes 10/25/14

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Coleman Highlands Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
Westport Roanoke Community Center



Agenda

1. Marcy Smalley - President, Board of Directors, City In Motion Dance Theater
2. MPO James Schriever - Kansas City Police Department, Central Patrol Division
3. Brian McMillan - CHNA Board Member, providing an update on midtown development
4. Michael - Director, Westport Roanoke Community Center

1.

Marcy thanked the neighborhood for our continued annual support for Dance In The Park. The annual event is a great midtown arts draw and the dance company also hosts a Modern Night at The Folly and offers dance classes for adults and many classes especially for children. Find out more at www.cityinmotion.org.

2.

Officer Schriever apologized for the drop-off in communication and shared that an issue with the police department computer system in April brought his database of contacts down and he has been slowly rebuilding the email group. He then used the opportunity to share his perspective on crime and what we as neighbors can do to minimize criminal activity.

- Crime trends are down, but it's important to rely on neighbors' vigilance to prevent and report crime. **We need to report all crimes to police** to have frequency documented and to justify additional police resources in the neighborhood.
- Homeless individuals in parks is an issue he spends 50% of his time addressing. Kansas City is one of the top places for homeless services and will sometimes be a destination for other cities (i.e. "a one way ticket drops them off at 10th and Main"). City law does not allow people to be expelled from park unless they've pitched a tent. Councilman Scott Wagner attempted to pass an ordinance to change this requirement, but it wasn't passed. From a police resource perspective, it is a daily challenge but it will be pursued. Transient population and homeless population are two segments - transients are purposefully living outside the system. Our city has many programs and exerts great efforts to help people break the cycle of homelessness and its root causes. **Notify police of encampments** and they will drop by and monitor even if they can't legally eject them. Police will give them 2 weeks notice before they break down a camp. When Schriever goes into camps he does frequently see evidence of criminal activity: shake and bake meth lab, stolen construction equipment, items off porches. They did eject a man camped on Karnes.
 - What is the best response if encountering homeless folks? Protect yourself - it's not your job to tell them not to be here. Call Schriever and they'll address the camps. The police dept is trying to protect the city and our communities.
- **Keep your junk in the trunk!** 5,000 car break-ins reported last year. Keep valuables out of sight to minimize car break-ins. These criminals typically look for easy targets. Reducing these crimes also frees police resources for other crimes and public safety. As noted above, all crimes should be reported to the police for documentation of all occurrences.
- Officer Schriever shared that there have been some home burglaries in Central Patrol and the police are actively pursuing suspects. Folks breaking in aren't typically armed. Having lights, security alarms hiding valuables etc absolutely do deter crime. When disposing of electronics boxes take them to city recycle or fold boxes outside-in to avoid broadcasting curbside what you have. Also, a panic alarm on cars is a good alarm alternative - keep fob on nightstand.

- What is being stolen when homes broken into? Purses have been targets for credit cards.
- When police do have suspects, Sunshine Law limits amount and type of information that can be conveyed - so no pictures can be shared of suspects by police. However, citizens can report information, share pictures, etc.
- **Report crimes through 911** as the intake. There are safety nets with 911 so that is the preferred method. Will be subject to call prioritization. If you are unsure if your house is not secured (after apparent break-in), let them know.
- MPO Schriever wants to communicate regularly and shared his email: James.schriever@kcpd.org

The neighborhood thanks MPO Schriever and fellow officers for their work in our community.

3.

Brian McMillan - update on what's been happening with the community response to potential development of QT. KC Life owns the ground and it is partly zoned commercial. To accomplish what QT representatives described, the land would all need to be zoned commercial and also special zoning to dispense gas. City in middle of redrawing city plans and the midtown development plan. City planning wants it to be residential and doesn't want it to be commercial. Surrounding neighborhoods don't want it either.

To create a new vision of positive development in midtown, Hufft Design is coordinating a charette **Nov 20th at the Westport Roanoke Community Center**. Referencing other mixed use alternatives to increase walkability and consistency with neighborhood.

Come to the charette! Help create an acceptable alternative to development for the land and find areas of agreement and shared interest

4.

Michael at the Community Center. Gym and pottery resources available. Stone Lion puppets here for three years and provide free show one a month. This is now the official arts community center for the city and have artists on staff, including a weaver. Will have a pottery show soon.

Call for Board Members

Thanks to all for coming out and please know that we always welcome new board members to help keep this neighborhood great! The next meeting is 11/19 and will be at a board members house. Please reach out to a board member (we're on the website) and we'll get you to the meeting.