

VNA Strategic Planning

Aug. 2, 2014

Strengths

- Housing stock
- Old neighborhood
- Children
- Have everything we need – library, etc.
- Close to colleges and universities
- Downzoned
- Long-term residents
- Small town community
- Proximity to Westport
- Front-porch culture
- Scenic
- Beautiful
- Trees
- Working across Trafficway
- History
- Hospitals
- Parties
- Strong neighborhood association
- Diversity in housing
- Feels urban
- High walkability
- Know our political representatives
- Good reputation as a neighborhood
- Good relationship with police
- Writer's Place/Benton Home
- Roanoke Park
- Parents working to start schools
- Young new homeowners

Weaknesses

- Transient foot traffic
- “Freeway” on Pennsylvania
- Homes not well maintained
- Reputation of “inner city”
- Tolerance of drug dealers who live in neighborhood
- Percentage of absentee rental property owners
- Lack of children
- School district

- No neighborhood school
- SWAT training
- Surrounded by boulevards
- 24-hour businesses
- Commercial infringement
- Old neighborhood infrastructure
- Snow removal on sidewalks
- Norman School
- Abandoned properties
- Shopping center
- Elm trees
- Proximity to bars
- Benefits outweigh weaknesses
- Lack of racial and ethnic diversity

Challenges

- Kansas City Life – vacant land
- QuikTrip
- No plan for vacant lots
- Knickerbocker
- Corporate landlord
- Involvement
- Traffic from KC Life
- Traffic
- No progress with KC Life plan
- Zoning
- PIAC money drying up – need creative funding ideas
- Drainage issues
- Educating neighbors
- Type of businesses on borders
- Security- graffiti, involvement
- Plasma Center
- Norman School

Opportunities

- Funding opportunities
- Expand block captains
- City grant programs
- Vacant land
- Shopping center could have more businesses, Aldis
- Streetcars
- KC Life as partner- development plan, regular meetings
- Experts live here and residents know stuff
- 4 neighborhoods starting to work together

Priorities

Votes	
26	Joint meeting of neighborhoods to work with Kansas City Life
13	Development plan including businesses – ongoing conversation
12	Increase membership – businesses, residents, etc.
11	Stronger block participation/security
8	Beautification
8	Walkability/Trafficway
8	Go after grants to fix problems
0	Home maintenance
0	Remote cameras

Small group discussions about priorities

Joint neighborhood effort to work with Kansas City Life

- Goal is to create a definite plan – by residents and property owners and at least partially implement it within three years
- Work with other three neighborhoods
- Create a steering committee
- Participants agreed to meet monthly and have quarterly meetings with property owners
- New steps
 - Gather information
 - Review, discuss
 - Set goals
 - Educate

Increase membership

- Business membership/sponsorship
- Need new ways to get the word out
- Leave newsletters at businesses
- Welcome new residents

Security

- Everyone in the group agreed to remain involved
- Scheduled regular meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Three pronged approach
 - Vital communications network
 - Census
 - Publicize disaster plan