

GREEN TEAM
Meeting Summary
August 19, 2009

Present:

President Rodney Knott, Vice President Obiagele Lake, Sarita Cann, Denise Douglas, Historic Manheim Park Association; Ryan Evans, Henderson Engineers and Historic Green; Rachel Stroer and Christina Hoxie, BNIM; Sidney King and Sheoni Jenkins, Liberty Bank; Janet Baker, U.S. Green Building Council and Baker Executive Management Consultants; Robert McLaughlin, McLaughlin Design and U.S. Green Building Council; Craig Colbert, Habitat for Humanity-Kansas City; Mike Hoey, Mayor's New Tools Task Force; Michael O'Connell, Hayes Insulation; Steven Cowen, Home Builders Association; David Dowell, el dorado architects; Dustin Schafer, Henderson Engineers, Kumud Pyakuryal, Tetra Tech and UMKC graduate student; Mark Stalsworth, Neighborhood Housing Services, Eddie Tapper, Kansas City Design Build; Anne Jenkins, Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, and Carol Grimaldi, Brush Creek Community Partners.

Rodney Knott presided over the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee. Rachel Stroer, chair of the Planning Committee said the committee had met and discussed the goal with which it had been charged: "To develop a five-year strategic plan for greening Manheim Park." The committee considered what it would take to be the greenest neighborhood in the world. One thing the group thought would be helpful at this point is to take the *Historic Manheim Park Healthy Neighborhoods Vision Plan* (available on Brush Creek Community Partners' website <http://www.bccp.org/development.html>) to others who should be involved in the Green Team effort.

It was determined the work of the Planning and Funding Committees would be dependent on the outcomes of the Housing and Community Development Committees, and the information would be shared at the Green Team meetings.

Community Development Committee. Carol Grimaldi and Obiagele Lake, co-chairs of the Community Development Committee circulated a summary of the committee meeting held the previous week. Ms. Grimaldi said the summary reflects the committee's charge: "To develop a five-year plan for community outreach and community based economic models to include:

- Community gardens & farmer's market
- Community trade center or mall
- Community center
- Community training program
- Community business incubation project
- Community economic fund"

in the context of other activities and opportunities occurring in and around the area, including: the Green Impact Zone, the Climate Sustainability Center, the Troost Paseo Urban Renewal Area plan for the southern half of Manheim Park, the purchase of and possible resale of Bancroft School, and other transportation and infrastructure improvements. Dr. Lake discussed an outline

of education and training initiatives that the Green Team should consider for inclusion in the plan and pursue, including:

Workshops and Training

- Recycling
- Global Warming
- Gardening – Spring Series
- Home Buying

Tutoring Center

- 2nd Grade – 12th Grade
- Adult Learning

Computer Training

- Basic Skills
- Word Perfect
- Excel, Access, Power Point, etc.

Web Site

- Neighborhood Meeting
- Community/City Events
- Workshops and Training
- Community Center Email

Dr. Lake expanded on the proposed tutoring center concept, which would develop family literacy on basic matters. Suggestions were made to look at what Majora Carter has been doing in the South Bronx or some curriculum models by the U.S. Green Building Council. Janet Baker offered to lead a task force look at the potential use of Bancroft School or some site as a green charter school. In response to an observation that the tutoring center idea itself was not green, Mr. Knott said he believes two tracks need to be pursued in the Green Team's development work. One is to educate the community as to the significance of green approaches to individuals and families; the other is to provide basic tools that lift up families, noting this neighborhood is among the last to get the information and the technology, and he wants the Green Team's work to help address that. Dr. Lake said the basic approach is important to help bring everyone's skills up for basic job training and employment qualification. Not everyone is suited for weatherization or green jobs and still have basic job preparation needs.

Housing. Housing Committee Chair Mark Stalsworth said the committee's charge "To develop a five-year housing plan to include:

- New green housing and infill
- Retro-fit and rehab houses
- Green Town within walking distance of the Climate Sustainability Center"

has been reviewed by the committee. The committee is identifying target blocks that provide the greatest opportunity for housing and green rehabilitation. The neighborhood presents challenges in the disparity of rental to owner occupancy houses. And questions have been raised as to what green housing is and the standards the committee, Green Team and neighborhood want in place. He said the committee is putting a list together that identifies the different types of resources to do different types of housing projects. Mr. Knott observed the neighborhood can get immediate

impact from housing. The group discussed the fact that the income requirements and other policies for weatherization and other housing improvement programs available through the city are very restrictive, which excludes a lot of people who need help. Mr. Knott said there is no answer to that right now, but part of what the Green Team can be working towards are finding resources or developing ones that can address these kinds of problems.

It was noted that the work of the Housing Committee intersects with the Community Development Committee in the potential to train craftsmen from the neighborhood to do work themselves and develop employment skills. Mr. Knott said this idea is consistent with restoring Manheim Park to a working class neighborhood.

Funding Committee. David Dowell, Funding Committee chair, said the committee currently consists of two members. The committee needed to have a clearer idea for what projects the Green Team would need money. He encouraged the Green Team and its committees to think about smaller efforts for which money may be easier to secure and that would be visible in order to demonstrate progress. He suggested the beginning stages of a community garden program as an example. While community gardens in public areas are difficult to keep maintained, programs like My Community Garden promote people to plant gardens on their own property. In addition to My Community Garden, UMKC has a model garden program. Mr. Dowell said the Funding Committee would welcome suggestions for smaller projects the committees would like to get funded now.

Mr. Dowell asked if non-residents could join the Historic Manheim Park Association. Mr. Knott said he would check the bylaws.

Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement. Mr. Knott presented the draft Green Team Vision Statement that came out of the development of the *Historic Manheim Park Healthy Neighborhoods Vision Plan* :

“An interconnected community empowered by the people supporting the health and well-being of all residents valuing attractive homes and vibrant businesses united around a common goal for a restorative future.”

The group agreed this was the Vision Statement for the Green Team.

Mission Statement. Mr. Knott proposed the following as a mission statement for the Green Team:

“To create the greenest neighborhood in the world by 2015 through developing community based programs, strengthening current community assets, applying sustainable best practices, and improving education, training, and employment opportunities for neighborhood residents.”

The group had difficulty with the opening phrase of the proposed mission statement, suggesting its specificity of goal and time would hamper the Green Team’s credibility and efforts, particularly with respect to funding potential. Mr. Knott said he would circulate the mission statement by email and solicit suggestions for its improvement.

New Business

Structure and Organization. Mr. Knott said he had posed the question as to whether the Green Team needed to be its own organization and have its own structure. He is exploring the potential of becoming an affiliate of Greenburg, Kansas' Green Town organization, which has spearheaded the development of a series of homes built to LEED standards. Ryan Evans thought the Center for Sustainable Development in New Orleans might be another model to examine. Mr. Stalsworth said he's involved because he believed this was the Green Team of the Historic Manheim Park Association, a neighborhood in which Neighborhood Housing Services has an interest. He expressed concern that a separate organization could dilute HMPA's enthusiasm and efforts, especially with so much else going on such as the Green Impact Zone.

Mr. Knott said he and Ms. Grimaldi would develop a chart of the various initiatives in and around Manheim Park and the participants in them. He also suggested he and Ms. Grimaldi look at models of possible organization to bring recommendations back to the group. Ms. Baker volunteered to be a part of that effort.

KU Architect Studio. Mr. Dowell said the studio for fifth year architecture students starts this Friday. The 14 students will be looking at designing new single family and possible multi-family housing in Manheim Park. He would like to bring the community into this process as much as possible. Mr. Knott informed the group that one aspect of the class' work will be a design competition to design a new house, and he and his wife will be building the winning house design in which to live.

Adjournment As there was no further business before the Green Team, the meeting was adjourned.