



LONGFELLOW HERALD

Newsletter of the Longfellow Community Association

MAY 2008

Mailing Address: LCA, 909 E. 30TH St. Apt 12, KC, MO, 64109

E-Mail: www.longfellowkc.org

Meeting Place: New Ronald McDonald House, 25th St. and Cherry, first and last Monday of every month

STEERING COMMITTEE and GENERAL MEETING FOR APRIL AND MAY 2008

The general meeting was held at the Ronald McDonald house at 25 and Cherry on April 4/7/2008. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the 3/8cent **bus tax**. Joining us was **County Legislator Scott Burnett**. Two guest speakers, Mike and Joe, discussed how the bus tax was used and the new plans for the MAX run on Troost, with limited stop service that will be implemented. They reported that there had been a 15% increase in riders and 46% of the riders are transit dependent. Although some of the funds do go to TIF and other fees, most of the funds will go for bus service. Three public hearings were scheduled for input and information sharing with the public. There was no CAN officer report. Election nominations were accepted. Codes enforcement officer Elsie Quagraine reported that a blue or green door hanger will be placed on the violator's door to warn them of pending code violations; more information to follow in this newsletter. Meeting adjourned.

The general meeting was held on 5/5/2008 at the Ronald McDonald house at 25 and Cherry. Most of the meeting was dedicated to the **development district committee** and their tax abatement plan for our neighborhood. Bob Long from EDC/LCRA, Share Bane, Micki McCaffrey, Susan Moreno, Mona Turner, and Allen Norman presented their completed plan and answered questions. The plan is ten-year tax abatement for property owners in the area from 27 to Linwood, Gillham to Troost. The plan will be in place for 15 years, which means property owners can apply for this abatement anytime within the next 15 years. The intent is to encourage and assist property owners to maintain and improve the unique characteristics that give Longfellow/ Dutch Hill its appeal. Eminent domain can only be used for dangerous buildings, multiple and persistent code violations, pattern of late tax payments, and abandonment. It cannot be used on any owner occupied residential property. To qualify for the abatement, you will need to spend at least \$5,000 on improvements. There is a minimal fee to apply. The advantages of this specific abatement plan is that it will motivate owners to fix their properties, give them a tax break, and any multi-family and commercial projects must be discussed with the neighborhood group first. A motion was made to accept the plan as presented. It passed. From this point, the plan gets presented to the city council and goes through several steps. This plan could be in place and operational as soon as August 2008, provided all steps happen in a timely manner. More information is available at www.edckc.com, click on EDC AGENCIES, then LAND CLEARANCE FOR REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LCRA), or at the neighborhood web site at www.longfellowkc.org. Other topics addressed were more election nominations, the yard sale, dumpsters for the area, and crime information for the CAN officers. Meeting adjourned.

FYI: The north end of the neighborhood, from 25 to 27, is already part of a development district and tax abatement is available for residents. Contact the EDC for information about the specific details.

VIEW FROM THE PRESIDENTS PORCH

Hello Everyone,

This is my last view from the President's Porch. I'll be leaving the office of President once we have elections in June. It has been an honor to work with the community association as President over the past 5 years. A tremendous amount has happened in Longfellow in the time that I've been associated with the group. I wish I could take credit for some of it. But what it really comes down to is the quality of people in our neighborhood and the efforts they are willing to make to help our neighborhood become a great place to live. There are so many people I need to thank who have contributed exceptionally on a consistent basis. One example is Dan Nash - he has been our treasurer for years and oversees so many of the association's necessities. Although this last President's Porch can't become a venue to individually thank those who have done so much, many of us know who you are, so THANK YOU to all of those who have played a role in the association! What I really need to address is the future, which I feel looks extremely bright. In the past few years, the association has developed strong and healthy roots, both here in our immediate neighborhood, as well as throughout the city. I believe that the Longfellow Community Association will continue to help the people who make this neighborhood their home, and I hope that you all will consider how you can play a part in supporting the quality level of living we strive for here in Longfellow. I look forward to continuing my involvement in the association and seeing you all around the neighborhood!

THANK YOU PAUL

On behalf of the neighborhood, we would like to thank you, Paul, for your guidance and leadership over the past five years. You have demonstrated infinite patience with the new members and taught us how to serve our neighbors. By inviting guest speakers to our meetings, many issues have been resolved and benefits were gained. We wish you the best and look forward to seeing you in future meetings.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

PIAC FUNDS

We were able to secure \$55,600 in PIAC funding for projects in our area. Trees will be planted in the 2500 block of Charlotte and along 27th street from Charlotte to Campbell, curbs will be repaired at the 28 and Campbell traffic circle and on Holmes from 31 to Linwood, and a sidewalk added on 27th street from the alley to Campbell.

BULKY ITEM PICK UP CHANGES

The bulky item pickup procedure has changed due to budget cuts. It is now by appointment only. Call 311 to schedule your pickup date.

ELECTIONS

June is the big month for board member elections. Anyone who lives in the neighborhood is eligible to run. The only requirement is that you show up for the election and for meetings afterwards. All 12 positions are open. Join us at the new Ronald McDonald house on June 2 at 6:30pm. Be part of the solution.

YARD SALE

The 2nd annual yard sale will be on Saturday, June 14th. The yard signs are out and the newspaper ad will be placed. Get out your goodies and get ready to barter! The sale is in conjunction with Hyde Park's sale, so the sale area will be from 25th to 47th streets.

SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. The opinions expressed will help the board in the coming year. Most everyone wants the development district to move forward, to find affordable boundary markers, continue to address code violations, provide dumpsters, clean up the alleys, develop the web site, address the student parking problems, and attend special events. The area does not support helping the elderly and disabled with their yard work and implementing block captains. Thank you again for your opinion.

DUMPSTERS

Mark your calendars!! Dumpsters will be at the traffic circle at 27 Terrace and Charlotte/Campbell on Saturday June 21, August 16, and October 18. Remember to clean up your part of the alley and bring your waste.

