

Valentine Neighborhood Association (VNA)
Agenda – Virtual Neighborhood Meeting
5/26/2020 – Tuesday, 7pm

Attending this Zoom meeting required using a link and password from the Monday (5/25) email at 11:20AM

Agenda

1) Finance Report

- Bank Balance 4/30 is \$13,986.99
- Only \$1400 in memberships so far this year (45), which we suspect is unusually low because most residents give neighborhood dues on Dumpster Day, which we had to cancel this spring.

2) Events committee

a. Easter and Thirsty Thursdays

- 7 kids participated in our window Easter egg hunt. Thanks to everyone for participating! Counting over 90+ eggs, the top winners received gift baskets left on their porches.
- We're encouraging residents to continue celebrating Thirsty Thursdays but at a social distance. Feel free to walk around and wave and say hello to neighbors on their porches from 5-7.

b. Upcoming

- Our typical 4th of July parade plans are on hold, but we would possibly like to hold a safely facilitated cook out. Too soon to tell. Details to come.
- Save Saturday September 19th for our neighborhood-wide Clean Up Day.
- If you have any virtual event ideas, please send Patti Meier an email at patti.meier@outlook.com so we can put them together!

3) Community Garden Committee

- #### **a. Update from Ryan King**
- We have officially opened our first community garden next to "The Taco Bell house" between 3512 and 3520 Pennsylvania St.
 - KC Life generously has funded this project, completely overshooting our proposal, hiring crew to level the ground, construct the beds, run the water line, fill the beds

with nutritious soil, and lay the surrounding gravel. Huge help and thanks to their generosity.

- We are still waiting on the permit from the city for the water line but have a community hose set up, running from the neighboring house.
- All 50 seasonal beds have been reserved by residents by this time.
- Email vnagardens@gmail.com for more information about getting involved.

4) Valentine Neighborhood Sign at Valentine Road & Summit Road

- We've weeded it, trimmed it up, and mulched to generally clean it up.
- We're eager to reposition the rose bushes and invest in some new perennials but are waiting until the fall so they establish better
- Bought and set up these fancy solar lights but the streetlamp at that corner is too bright for their sensors – I bumped into Ryan who suggested trying to cover them with something semi-transparent like wax paper – haven't experimented with this yet but plan to as this overcast breaks.
- We also made contact with Becky Sims, Colliers property manager, and she happily agreed to make sure her grass cutting crew bag the grass from now on to protect the current and future landscaping.
- Pam Hoelzel (3675 Jefferson) is generously contributing multiple evergreen trees to the eastside of the island come fall!
- Email Ashley Rodney at ashleynicoleroedney@gmail.com if you would like to be a part of "The Beautification Committee", working to maintain our public spaces.

a. Other Proposed Clean-Ups

- Let's reclaim the area where Washington Street meets Valentine Road!
- Desire to simply clean it up so people stop throwing trash in the overgrown bed and feel more inclined to pick up after their dogs
- The Parks Department is supposed to be trimming down all the tall growing perennial weeds in that grassy area.
- Chris Jordan will contact Robert Thompson at the Parks Department to ask them to get back on top of mowing it.
- "The Beautification Committee" wants to tackle this area starting 5/27, shoveling away the natural muddy build up on the pathways, digging out the bed's rock boarder, and pulling out as much winter creeper as possible.
- If anyone wants to donate time, we're going to start meeting weekly to get this area under control. Next meet up date will be Monday, June 1st from 9-Noon. All willing hands welcome. Wear gloves and long sleeves for poison ivy. Lawn bag donation welcome!
- We will search for signs to suggestion dog walkers pick up after their pets!

5) Dumpster Day

- Due to COVID-related complications, we were not able to hold our spring Dumpster Day, but our fall date is slated for Saturday September 26th.

- One dumpster will be for trash and one for brush.
- You must be a VNA member to utilize this opportunity! You can become a member online, or pay via cash, checks or credit card at the site TBD.
- As usual, dumpster space will be first come first serve. Timing TBD.
- In preparation for Dumpster Day, we will organize a neighborhood-wide Clean Up Day Saturday September 19th!

6) New segment “Word on the Street” – items in VNA neighborhood you want to discuss

- Dana would like to open up a portion of our meetings to invite residents to speak up and discuss what needs attention. This week, topics brought up included:
 - Gas work is now on Jefferson – see map on valentineneighborhood.org to view the city’s plan to work in sections.
 - We think sewage line work coming?
 - The Uptown Theater is hosting a free concert called “Break Loose Baby” May 30th, 7PM, to support it staying open. It will be an 80’s live music event with social distance measures provided including digital temperature taking before entrance, no cover, and full bar.
 - Remember that even if you’re doing okay during this pandemic, not everyone in the neighborhood is. Reach out to your neighbors and friends during these times to see if you can support them in any way.
 - Adam from [The Pitch KC](http://ThePitchKC.com) shared that they’re really struggling right now. They started a membership campaign – as little as \$5 a month, to keep the pitch going! They’re shamelessly asking for memberships or donations and organizing awards for donors. Please send support to <https://us.commitchange.com/mo/kansas-city/the-pitch>.

7) Development Committee

- As many have heard, there was a recent fire at The Knickerbocker, reported about 12:30AM, ruining 25-30% of the building closest to Broadway (501 knickerbocker).
- The fire was mainly confined to that one building.
- One fireman was hurt and sent to hospital but released and recovering.
- KCFD suspects a grill in the basement started the fire by someone squatting in the building.
- According to the fire department, in the time that The Knickerbocker was built, electrical fires were more common, so engineers often installed fire-preventing beams. Thankfully the Knickerbocker had these structures, protecting it from collapsing like many buildings do today. Thanks to these beams, the building’s walls are still structurally in place.
- If you would like to get involved in ways to push The Knickerbocker rebuilding movement along, please contact Chris Jordan at cjordan@jordanrealty.us.
- The shopping center across from the Uptown Theater is still rolling and on track.
- The hotel across from the Uptown Theater is now on hold due to the status of the economy.

- 35th and Broadway St building is still under way, rumors of a planned restaurant?

8) Next neighborhood meeting will be on Tuesday, June 23rd 7pm

- How did this virtual format work?
- We'll try to get some virtual speakers for the next meeting.

9) Additional Notes from Officer Holly

- With the stay home order, KCPD is seeing residents more engaged, calling in, reporting things, etc.
- Our local officers are able to connect to residents more with them staying at home.
- KCPD is observing lots of age groups not caring about stay at home order and spending lots of energy managing that.
- With people staying home, property crimes have gone down, but mostly gang-related homicides are surprisingly at an all-time high.
- We had a non-fatal but crucial shooting at 40th and Penn involving a two car chase. The incident revolved around a juvenile gang dispute. KCPD only caught and apprehended one of the two vehicles. The second vehicle is still being tracked and investigation is still undergoing. Much activity is complicated by the proximity of state lines.
- When asked if there are any local organizations that we can support as a neighborhood that is a good partner with the police, Officer Holly stated that the majority of the crime revolves around juvenile gang activity, which is difficult because they have their own network of communication... She said she can get back to us with an answer from her lieutenant.