



From City Council meeting . . . to the Business Council

Prepared by Rich Groves, Executive Director
North Kansas City Business Council
September 6, 2022

Note: As a reminder, the notes below represent topics that, in my judgement, might be of interest to the business community. It does not include everything that was on the agenda.

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

Shared Use Path – Diamond Parkway to 14th Ave

One component of the adopted Bicycle Master Plan’s recommended network is an off-street shared use path connecting Diamond Parkway/16th Avenue to the eastern terminus of 14th Avenue underneath Interstate 29/35. This connection is a critical part of the recommended network because it provides a highly needed interstate crossing while diverting cyclists away from the 16th Avenue truck route and the 16th Avenue and Interstate 29/35 interchange.

A presentation by Laurel Harrington with consultant Horner & Shifrin explained the status of the project. The proposed pathway would go from the east end of E 14th Ave under I-35/I-29 alongside Duke Rentals to connect with 16th Ave where the bike trail on Diamond Parkway ends. Both MoDOT and the BNSF Railway are reluctant to have a pathway close to their properties.

City Councilman Jesse Smith cautioned the consultant and Xue Wood to be very cautious about considering a possible dedicated bike path along 14th Ave to the west from the proposed underpass. He is aware that there will be serious objection by those who are familiar with the heavy use of that route by large trucks.

Gateway & Wayfinding Signs

The City completed a branding project in 2014 that resulted in a new brand position (including the tagline “Virtually Urban, Supremely Suburban”) and brand standards. One finding of the branding project is that North Kansas City has little brand recognition within the metro area and that some area residents cannot distinguish North Kansas City from the surrounding communities.

The City desires to distinguish its gateways as part of an overall strategy to raise its profile as a key destination within the metro area. Therefore, the Gateway Signage Plan was adopted to establish the desired aesthetic appearance of these new gateway signs to compliment the City’s heritage as well as its vision for the future. This plan also explores potential locations for these signs and includes recommendations for incremental implementation to guide the City’s improvement efforts over the past several years.

As of today, the Archway and several wayfinding signs in Downtown area have been installed. Upon the requests received by Community Development, an overall update on the implementation of this plan will be given at the City Council work session along with a PowerPoint presentation. The primary consideration at this time is to have distinctive monument signs at all four “gateways” to the City – Burlington at 32nd Ave, 10th and Burlington, Armour at I-35 (near QT), MO 210 and Chouteau.

The next phase is to move forward with wayfinding signs for directions and specific locations such as City parking lots.

Concern was expressed by City Councilman Jesse Smith about the very high quoted cost of the gateway signs (more than \$200 thousand each). He also questioned the marketing value of gateway signs but endorsed signs identifying parking lots. City Council representative Lisa Tull took the opposite position favoring gateway signage.

Some of the City Council members expressed dissatisfaction of the branding and tagline adopted in 2014. City

Concerning wayfinding signs for parking Councilman Wes Graves expressed frustration with parking related to high school events that overflows into residential areas when there is available parking in the high school’s parking lots.

There seemed to be resistance by several City Council representatives to treating these signs as a priority. A “pause” was recommended except for parking-related signs.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public

Zach Clevenger commented on the discussion about signage during the Work Session from the perspective of one of the City Council members when the original marketing study and signage plan was approved.

Approval of the 2022-23 Budget

City Administrator Mike Nichols acknowledged the excellent work of Deputy City Administrator Kim Nakahodo and others putting the budget together. The budget was approved.

Commerce Bank to handle Banking Services for the City

After an RFP process Commerce Bank was recommended to handle the City’s banking and treasury services. This also includes banking services for the North Kansas City Hospital. Approved.

Approval of the Contract for Services with North Kansas City Business Council

The Consent agenda included official approval of renewing the contract for services between the City and the North Kansas City Business Council, with payment of \$35,000 for defined services which mostly relate to communication with and in behalf of the entire North Kansas City business community.

Reimbursement Request for Internet Costs for Gallery Lofts

Gallery Loft Investors, LP deliberately chose to install (City-owned) liNKCity/KC Fiber internet access into Gallery Lofts, but costs exceeded what was planned. The developer requested reimbursement for the extra costs. But apparently the City has no legal mechanism to make a reimbursement for an expenditure that was made without getting change order approval before the fact.

The full agenda for this meeting with links to critical documents is available on the City's website www.nkc.org under the heading of Agendas and Minutes. As always, additional details about City Council agenda topics are often available as attachments on the City's website www.nkc.org and later as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-6WpmTG2Ss> part of the approved minutes.