Volker Neighborhood Council
Meeting Notes April 21, 2010

Attendance: Ken Spare, Les Cline, Carol Thrane, Sandra Petersburg, Jim Wanser, Keith Spare, Beth Brubaker, Bob Simmons, Dee Evans, Kimberly Johnson, Durwin Rice, Michele Taylor

Ken Spares, President open the meeting with introductions. Review of the January 20, 2010 meeting notes; Carol Thrane motioned to approved, Jim Wanser Seconded notes were approved.

Ken reviewed the Strategic Plan Annual Progress Report which included a progress report summary by the president that outlined the order in which the by-laws were adopted as well as the selection of working committees. Areas of progress included: Parking, Maintenance and Landscaping and setting priorities and developing plans; Residential Parking process was completed and submitted to the city; and Safety progress included the UMKC police are attending CAN meetings and assisting neighborhood in developing safety plan.

Ken commended the VNC members and UMKC for the progress over the last year. He expressed the importance of area residents serving on committees and that the job is getting done at the committee level. This level of work is not to micro-manage but to compliment the university on its successes.

Progress report recommends 2010-2011 goals and objectives
- Implementation Service Level Agreement
- Review Executive Order approve and get it signed
- Review Neighborhood Sign Policy approve
- Continue monitoring of successes with maintenance, landscaping and parking committee
- Obtain Residential Parking permits
- Schedule meeting with Trustees

Committee reports:

Real Estate report was submitted by Donna Strode in her absence. Council would like clarification of the comments related to the relocation of another sorority, location of fraternity and sororities. The council requested a maintenance list with addresses of houses which are scheduled to be done. The would also like a list of the homes where the major repairs for example full painting, replacement of hand rails, gutter etc were done so as to document the successes and not to micromanage the process. Beth Brubaker indicated that in her Combat position she is currently a volunteer inspector and will be issuing citation for any overgrown weeds, trash etc. in the 49/63 neighborhoods which includes west of Troost to Oak.

Greek House Taskforce Committee: Eric Grospitch followed up with a brief report that the Greek Housing Task Force was at a standstill at the request of the Vice Chancellor. Ken suggested that the task force include additional VNC members to assist in the progress.

Property Maintenance, Parking and Landscaping Committee report given by Les Cline. Les reported that the committee made great headway in establishing: Basic priorities and overarching principles for property maintenance; review draft of service level standards; and submitted a landscaping plan currently under review.

Bob Simmons followed up with other areas of progress: 1) remove gravel lot Unews; 2) creating rain garden and pave remaining lot to be completed summer 2010; 3) The Service Level Standards had been submitted to Dennis for review of committee recommendations.
Bob updated council on the Oak Street West Development III that only discussions continue and the concept for office/space is placed on back burner. There will be a move forward of the Young Matrons. DST continues discussion with the Grocery and will report to VNC or request special meetings when the project is back on track.

It was suggested that a special meeting be scheduled related to the move of the Young Matrons within the next 30-60 days with the Crestwood neighborhood.

**Residential Parking Committee report given by Ken Spare.** Ken reported that the parking petition was submitted to the city March 30th. There had been a delay due to transportation to get the survey completed timely before students left for the summer. Ken placed a call to Councilwoman Gottstein office and Jim Giles will follow up on the timeline with the department. An overall 93% of residents supported the petition.

**Crime and Safety Committee report given by Beth Brubaker.** Beth announced that the Neighborhood Watch needs Block Captains; burglaries have increased in 54th and Harrison. Special Property Crime Unit Metro Patrol has been established. The 49/63 CAN (Community Action Network) has moved to 5418 Lydia. UMKC police are working with the neighborhood.

**New Business**

Presentation was given by Durwin Rice, on the corner of 54th & Troost project sponsored by Southtown Council. Durwin submitted a landscape drawing of year round garden with design component that includes pathways and a community garden further to the back. It is anticipated that the UMKC houses would be coming down at 53rd Troost this summer and the two corners would be an anchor along Troost.

There were expressed concerns about who would coordinate the effort and maintain the garden. Keith Spare motioned to endorse the project with Southtown Council as coordinator; Les Cline seconded; further discussion: would this be a partnership with Southtown, UMKC and neighborhood? Jim Wanser suggested that since VNC is an advisory council to UMKC that UMKC would have to be supportive of the project.

Revised motion by Keith Spare VNC endorses the partnership Southtown and UMKC pursuing the ideal of community garden at 54th & Troost noting that this was only temporary solution for beautification and using the Property Maintenance, Parking and Landscape committee as an avenue for reporting. Les Cline seconded motion passed.

**Nomination Committee presented slate of officers by Jim Wanser.** The nominating committee included Keith Spare, Carol Thrane, Beth Brubaker and Jim Wanser. Jim submitted the slate of office for the 2010-2011 year as follows: Ken Spare, President, Jim Wanser, Vice President and Beth Brubaker Secretary.

Carol Thrane motioned to accept slate as presented by Jim Wanser, Keith Spare second, motion passed.

Ken requested volunteers to the **Rockhill Crest Standing Committee** to review the Executive Order and Signage Policy. Members are: Kimberly Johnson, Donna Kerr, Carol Thrane, Les Cline, Chair (President of Rockhill Crest) and Ken Spare.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm