

Western Heights Resident Meeting



Neighborhood Transformation

- Western Heights and the surrounding neighborhood have been on both the KCDC and City of Knoxville radar for a makeover
- Over the last 12-18 months we have held several meetings about different grants, funding and programs that we may be able to use to help with the transformation
- Most recently we met about the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)

Neighborhood Transformation (cont.)

- The tool we want to talk about today is the Choice Neighborhood Grant.
- Be aware that we will continue to bring new information about this and other opportunities for your neighborhood as they become available.

Choice Neighborhood Grant

- There are two types of grants that HUD Offers under the title Choice Neighborhood Grant:
 - Planning Grants
 - Implementation Grants
- Currently KCDC is looking at applying for the planning grant.
- Our application is due in mid-September and we expect/hope for an announcement of awards by the end of the year.
- This is a competitive grant. KCDC will compete with other Housing Agencies for this award.

Purpose of This Meeting

- For you to learn more about the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Process; and
- How we will seek your involvement if we are successful with the grant.

Neighborhood for Planning

Generally Beaumont Avenue on the South, Tennessee Avenue on the North, Western Avenue on the West and I-275 on the East.



We Need a Plan

- Our goal is to come together to create a plan that examines existing conditions, listens to experts, residents and other stakeholders, and work together to create a workable plan to revitalize the Western Heights/Beaumont community.
- We expect to start the planning process before the end of the year and we would expect (if successful with the grant) to spend at least all of 2021 in the planning process, with completion of the plan in 2022.

Planning Focuses on 3 Main Areas

- **Neighborhood**: Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.
- **People**: Improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education.
- **Housing**: Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood

Next Steps

- KCDC is submitting a significant amendment to our annual and 5-year plans as required by the Notice of Funding Availability.
- KCDC is working on the actual grant application, identifying potential partners and leveraging resources.
- KCDC will be in touch as soon as funding announcements are made.

What if we DON'T get this grant?

- No worries. KCDC and the City of Knoxville are committed to the revitalization of the Western Heights/Beaumont area
- There are additional funding tools out there to be researched and applied for
- Regardless of where the funding comes from, you are important to Western Heights Planning and we value your input.

Have Questions or Comments?

Visit
www.kcdc.org
and click on the
Western Heights Planning
button at the bottom left of the page.

- There you can ask a question
or provide a suggestion.
- You can also view updated, posted materials.

FAQs from Zoom Tenant Meetings and KCDC Website

- Can you just give us all vouchers and get us out so this place can be torn down?
 - We are not quite that far along in the process, but be aware that if the community input and expert reviews of the structures suggest that the best plan is for all or a portion of Western to be demolished, we will listen.
- We need playgrounds for the younger kids and speed bumps so the cars slow down when they are out playing.
 - A lot can be done in this planning phase to make dreams like playgrounds and play spaces a reality.
 - Typically in a large Neighborhood plan like we are imagining for Western, a lot can be done to manage and control traffic during the design phase.

FAQs from Zoom Tenant Meetings and KCDC Website

- We have many drug and safety issues at Western. I hope this makes our neighborhood safer.
 - The exciting thing about addressing a neighborhood vs. just its buildings, is that KCDC and residents will have opportunities to look at things that will help reduce crime, such as building new buildings farther apart so criminals don't have places to hide, creating through-streets so that people can easily get in and out of the neighborhoods, putting in new lighting, and other such safety measures.

FAQs from Zoom Tenant Meetings and KCDC Website

- I don't like parking situation, the drinking and drugs around the community or the ganging up at post boxes area after office closes.
 - A planning grant would allow us to look at these concerns and suggest ways to make these issues better for tenants.
- I wish there was more for younger kids to do, like playgrounds and organized activities for the school-aged and little kids.
 - This is an area that KCDC is also interested in affecting; we will be planning with you related to the dreams we have for the children in the WH community.

FAQs from Zoom Tenant Meetings and KCDC Website

- Are you going to move everyone?
 - It is likely that there will be some relocation related to this Neighborhood Revitalization. However, we are currently looking at 18 months or more before this is a concern. Any families temporarily relocated due to demolition or rehab would have the right to return to the site.
- I tried to get in the meeting but it was not working.
 - Note that at the beginning of the second meeting held 9/1/2020, there were some technical difficulties. They did get worked out, but you may have had issues. If so, we greatly apologize, but ask that you review this presentation and feel free to send any questions or comment via the comment area under the Western Planning Tab at www.kcdc.org.