

Bingham Interim Uses Discussion

Waldo Tower Homes Neighborhood Association - General Meeting Notes

July 8, 2017

Kansas City Public Schools attended the Waldo Tower Homes Neighborhood Association meeting on July 8, 2017 in order to provide an update and to solicit feedback on appropriate interim uses. Shannon Jaax, Director of Planning and Real Estate Services, advised the attendees that Bingham has been removed from KCPS' surplus list and will be held for future school use. In the meantime, KCPS aims to reduce its holding costs and identify interim uses that could benefit the neighborhood.

Attendees shared the following feedback regarding possible uses of the site:

- Community center
- Exercise stations for walk (similar to Mill Creek park)
- Community garden
- Want parking to be on-site & not on Wyandotte (no matter what the use)
- Dog park (note: a dog park is scheduled at S. Oak Park)
- Community park / gazebo / stage / Waldo Fall Festival / exercise equipment / track
- Community center / outdoor greenspace / try to identify reuses that could coexist when a new school is built
- Is KCPS interested in a 3rd party group to manage (yes, this is something KCPS is looking for in order to reduce our holding costs for the site)
- Lack of wrap around services add value to existing school districts
- Community pool (like Fairway) + tennis court. Schools could use free
- Soccer – area schools don't have access to fields in the area
- No easily accessible pool in the area (note: Robeson redevelopment will include a pool)
- Concerns about sufficient parking
- Can someone tent tennis court or pool or fields
- Tiny homes village could address some of the challenges created by increasing property values (concerns expressed about cost of providing utilities - could increase costs significantly and not coincide with future school use)
- If KCPS would consider selling entire site or a portion, multifamily would be better than retail for long-term use. Would not support market rate / luxury. No option can afford
- Would support townhouses that are owned
- Hold onto property – need good community schools
- Greenspace to hold in reserve
- Would Parks Department be interested?

Attendees also advised of the following:

- Construction fencing falling down
- Took down no parking signs 82nd/Oak (note: this is a City of Kansas City action, not KCPS)

- Needs lighting—field is very dark
- Homeless are staying on the site/ hole in fence near Firestone dumpsters

Attendees also asked about the next steps. How would KCPS make a decision about how to proceed?

Ms. Jaax advised the group that notes from the meeting would be shared on-line and that community feedback would be factored into a decision. Once a decision was made about how to solicit interest from groups interested in managing interim uses for the site, KCPS would distribute that information, including an email out to the meeting attendees.