

Swinney

Thursday, May 26, 2011

5:30 – 7:30pm

30+ attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DC, FB)

Site Significance

- Went to school here in 4th grade
- Closing didn't affect me
- Use to meet here with neighborhood home association
- Central for neighborhood
- Voted here
- Interaction with neighbors
- Sad school closed
- Student from K-7
- Worked in woodshop in exact room exploratory meeting being held
- School board forgot about school after closing
- Tattered flag when school was open
- Lost a resource – public school that neighborhood children can walk to
- Magnet school for a period
- Proud of school when I went here
- There was excitement in neighborhood with the new principal – enrollment doubled
- Number of students with ethnic backgrounds/school diversified the neighborhood a bit

Strengths

- Surrounding land use/density
- Redevelopment /reinvestment of neighborhood
- Apartments have been converted to condos in the area
- Range of housing values in neighborhood
- Low number of foreclosures in community
- Don't have empty houses or empty storefronts – when there is business turnover, new businesses come in quickly
- Young/seniors in neighborhood
- Location: proximity to Plaza
- Building is solid and “redeemable”
- Hardwood floors are great/ Floors could be great for dance
- Textured windows on closet door
- Size of classrooms are great
- Structure allows for multiple uses

- Natural light
- Exterior architecture is quite nice
- School was bilingual when open

Challenges (Interim solutions in blue)

- Getting lawn mowed
- Elevator shaft has a sump pump that pumps out front of school (mosquitoes) (Pump water elsewhere or have it cleaned; re-routed to sewer or used to water lawn)
- Bad sidewalks when school was open, worse now that it's closed. Sidewalks need repaired (Have city look at sidewalks)
- Crosswalk markings at 47th/Holly were removed after school was closed leaving a destroyed street beneath (City resurface street)
- Site is becoming blighted: lawn + sidewalks
- Young families are going to Kansas schools and leaving neighborhood b/c of the "lack of a good public school"
- Deferred maintenance, leakage in auditorium, upset by the lack of care for the interior of building (Weatherizing bathroom the auditorium backs up into)
- Maintenance has gone down since building was closed
- Plumbing: building had major plumbing issues in its last year. Had to bus kids elsewhere to use the bathroom
- Not neighborhood school, a lot of students were bused in
- Sidewalks not shoveled in winter

Community Needs

- We want KCMSD to get themselves together!
- Senior services for independent living seniors
- Food- no neighborhood grocery store
- Good automotive parts store nearby
- Education/schools (elementary public/magnet)
- New housing (ownership)
- Parking is a problem. Condos across the street are short 40 off-street parking stalls : District could make money by leasing parking to nearby residents

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Retirement home
- Senior activities
- Multi-purpose center: garden, canning, organic gardeners'/educational learning how to prepare foods and garden (concern expressed about whether this was the best location – maybe it would be better in another location)
- No to new charter/ okay for existing high-performing charter school
- Must be an accredited school

- Small private school with affordable tuition, might be ok but public school preferred
- Small business incubator – “professionals”
- Small business/professionals Incubator
- No strip joints
- Nothing that will be a drag on the district
- No business that will be odious (odors, etc)
- Condos
- Concern about traffic issues and parking in set use
- Arts organizations – concern about capacity of shares use from successful non-profits
- Public use
- East and west side could be used for parking

Feedback on Informal proposals:

- Housing: not a fan of concentrated affordable housing. Already have quite a bit in the neighborhood. Prefer affordable housing to be distributed throughout community
- Private Recreational Club: concern about traffic issues and parking. Already have Woodside nearby; traffic would be a concern; may not be financially successful if start up; if existing that may be okay; not enough details
- Boarding school: plumbing would be horrible; would need more detail to give feedback
- Charter school expansion: If successful, okay

Parking Lot

- Are all rooms wired with technology capability?