

West Rock Creek Site Tour

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

5:30 pm- 6:30pm

6 attendees

BREAKOUT SESSION (DC)

Site Significance

- All 5 children went to school here
- Went to the school for school plans, basketball games, sports
- Hard to hear that they closed: empty building = vandalism
- Children still use the playground to ride their bikes, basketball games
- Local residents use the ground for exercise
- Used to be local until students began to be bussed
- Used to be Jackson County, KCMUSD
- This was a junior high for the first couple of years while Nowlin was being built

Strengths

- Condition, brick work “really good shape”
- Some like the secluded nature of the site (could help/hurt with vandalism, dumping)
- Increasing Spanish-speaking population, close knit families
- Kids are using playground
- Located adjacent to a city park

Challenges (Interim solutions in blue)

- Mowed only 1-2 times last year (**mow more often**)
- Empty houses, not good condition
- People breaking in windows—on northeast side (**one window needs to still be boarded up**)
- No central place for the neighborhood
- Dumping along walkway
- Empty homes in area as community has aged and people moved out/on

Community Needs

- Central location for people to meet

Reuse Options (that could address community needs)

- Retreat center/nature center: resource to explore wilderness for those located in the urban core (located near a park)
 - Camping , animals, “might see something”
 - Wild turkeys, deer

- Campgrounds for groups
- No prison
- Demolished? Rather see building reused rather than tear it down as a last resort, rather not
 - Property value-some say good, neighborhood says not, a lot of vacant land, hilly
- Senior housing= assisted living
- School-several children in the area
- Parks department- best if reuse is community based