

Askew Reuse Discussion @ Blue Valley Neighborhood Association
Blue Valley Park
May 19, 2022
9 attendees

The following provides a summary of the discussion and information shared regarding the current repurposing efforts for the Askew School Site:

ASKEW UPDATE

- This year, KCPS moved 2 additional sites to the surplus list and is about to start marketing those sites and working with the community to identify what reuses they'd like to see happen. As part of that, KCPS is doing a new marketing push for Askew, Meservey and Pershing. As we get ready to do that, the district wants to provide updates and get feedback from members of the Blue Valley neighborhood.
- Last met with Blue Valley in 2017 when Hope City submitted a proposal for a church and prayer ministry. The feedback we received from community members at the time was mixed and we had a leadership team that wasn't comfortable moving forward without addressing community concerns. Hope City moved forward with purchasing the site they had been leasing. We haven't had any proposals since that time.
- Building has suffered from additional vandalism and deferred maintenance. We have a sump pump that has been going out; roof issues over the gym; no heat/cool so the walls are peeling. Redevelopment is definitely still doable, but it will require extensive renovation.

2022 MARKETING EFFORT

- In early June, the marketing blitz by Block Real Estate will begin. Five sites in total. KCPS hopes that having the 2 new sites will draw more interest and attention and that will also get fresh eyes on Askew.
- Block will be holding a site tour for interested parties in mid/late June. Date is TBD. In order to ensure safety/security of everyone in the building, Block will have to limit the # of participants, so folks will be required to register in advance.
- Proposals will continue to be accepted on a first come, first served basis.
- If KCPS receives a viable proposal(s), the repurposing team will bring those to the neighborhood so community members can learn about the proposals and share your feedback.

2022 KCPS PRIORITIES

KCPS has made a few changes to the repurposing process/agreements. Always had a focus on wanting to ensure that reuses are things that the community supports.

- One way KCPS has tried to accomplish this is by asking developers to identify in their proposal how their project will benefit the community (and how they are responding to community feedback received during our meetings).
- KCPS also requires a Property Use Restriction Agreement that gets filed with the deed – ensure developers build out what they tell us they are going to do. Also ensures that if they need to make major changes, they come back to KCPS and we hold an additional meeting. Rather
- Started memorializing community benefits in Benefits Agreements. This has been done on the last few sites, and a several others are in process. This can include things like neighborhood association offices in the building/community access to a gym, community
- KCPS' leadership team is also prioritizing projects that address affordable housing needs of our teachers, staff and community members. This is incorporated into the information that is provided to interested buyers.

REUSE DISCUSSION

The following summarizes the feedback received from meeting participants. Note: this information does not indicate consensus, but feedback from individuals.

Support for the following:

- Senior housing
- Affordable housing
- Community center (one-stop services)
- Educational programs for youth (like Upper Room)
- Non-profit offices
- Transitional housing may work depending on the program
- Nursing home

Lack of support/discourage the following:

- Drug rehab facility (not appropriate for a site tucked in the neighborhood)
- Halfway house

Reuses need to:

- Have appropriate security
- Fencing

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The group discussed what kinds of community benefits would be desirable to be included in a Benefits Agreement:

- Blue Valley Neighborhood Association lacks meeting space
- Programs that serve youth in the neighborhood