

UK Master Plan Update

Neighborhood s Group II Meeting Minutes

Location: King Alumni House
Date: September 18, 2012

Neighborhoods Represented: Elizabeth Street, Seven Parks, Southern Heights

I. Introductions/Overview

Members of the Master Plan Team were introduced by Tom Harris. Greg Havens from the Sasaki Team and Martha Tarrant from RossTarrant Architects were in attendance. Greg Havens provided an overview of the master plan process including project goals, timeline and work completed to this point. Dall Clark provided an overview of the status of the new housing plan. Steve Kay facilitated a discussion of the residents' needs and their expectations for the plan based upon five areas outlined in the presentation.

II. Discussion of Overall Hopes and Expectations for This Planning Process

- That alcohol policies will be addressed and that UK will allow alcohol on campus so that students and fraternities will not have to take their parties into the neighborhoods.
- That parking will be addressed. Students do not want to live in a place where they don't have parking nearby. The parking situation on campus discourages students from living there.
- That storm water issues along Limestone/Nicholasville will be addressed.
- That Central Baptist will be included in discussions about planning on this side of campus.
- That UK will listen to the good ideas that residents have for their neighborhoods.
- That UK will take the lead in addressing historic preservation and environmental initiatives like LEED projects.
- That the lack of green space will be addressed. Need intimate parks that provide a place for respite during the workday.
- That the Newtown Pike Extension will be taken into account when planning that side of campus.
- That the neighborhoods will remain involved in the planning process.

III. Discussion of Potential Obstacles to Success for this Process

- Not collaborating with the City on projects, including funding of projects.
- UK needs to back the City up when they are changing ordinances that affect adjacent neighborhoods.
- History of a lack of communication between UK and its neighbors. Ideas are heard, but never go anywhere.
- The principle infrastructure in and around UK is old. It needs to be upgraded to accommodate the growth.
- Storm water and traffic. Our neighborhood is greatly impacted by Central Baptist traffic. Roads need to be more pedestrian and bike friendly.
- Low expectations. We don't have to expect bad behavior from students. My street has several 'vinyl boxes', some being used as supplemental party houses for fraternities. One

Sunday morning a person was found lying across the railroad track, passed out from the night before. UK needs to buy up houses and resell them to faculty and staff.

- The cost of living on campus. How can UK entice students to live in the residence halls when it costs less to live off campus and they have more freedom off campus?

IV. Discussion of Principal Issues and Opportunities Relative to These Themes

Issues

- School bus going down our streets at 2 am keeps us awake. There have also been instances of the buses clipping automobiles parked on the street because the parking is so tight in the neighborhoods.
- The Drunk-bus idea is disgraceful.
- Can we restore our neighborhoods? What is the tipping point?
- The building codes are either too lax or draconian. Can the City and UK come up with a something that hits the middle ground? We have vinyl boxes on one hand and historic regulations that make it too expensive to renovate on the other.
- Need to redesign the bike/ped crossing on Alumni Drive and expand the bike paths around campus.

Opportunities

- Expansion of the Live Where You Work program. If it is still in place, it is hard to find and to use.
- Create incentives to restore and recapture the neighborhoods.
- UK can play a meaningful role in helping smaller landlords maintain their properties by offering incentives.
- Using examples that have worked on other campuses to solve our issues.
- UK could have a 'Get to Know Lexington' course that the students could take where they learn about the history of the town and other things that would make them feel like they were part of the community as a whole.
- Students feel more involved if they live on campus. A nicer, easier to use campus will enhance their living experience. Glad UK is thinking this way. It looks like the Master Plan is headed in the right direction.
- Use and Expand on Omar Blaik's report, especially the recommendations concerning grocery stores and other services that are missing.
- Adaptive reuse of existing buildings and dorms on campus.
- Burying of power lines when development occurs.

V. Discussion of Themes and Topics to be Included in the My Campus Survey

- Include off-campus travel patterns.
- Where do you party?
- Why do you leave campus? What would keep you on campus?
- Why do you drive to campus as opposed to walking?
- What things do you use on campus? What things do you want to use that are missing?

VI. Discussion of What You Like Most About Your Neighborhood

- Close to campus.
- Work, school, amenities and opportunities are all nearby.
- Can commute by bike.

- Quality of construction of older homes.
- Architecture of the older neighborhoods.
- Diversity of ages of residents from students to older people.
- Diversity of income levels in the neighborhoods.
- Being near a learning center.
- Beauty of my neighborhood.
- Sporting events that happen at the University. Tailgating.
- Walk to work.
- Homes have amenities that you can't get in newer homes.
- Historic neighborhood.
- Canopy of trees.

VII. Other Needs and Concerns

- Progress is not always a bad thing. The arboretum was opposed to at first to the point of being vandalized during construction. Now it is considered a big asset.
- Are there any studies being done on affordable housing for students?
- How can we get other landlords involved in caring about the neighborhood and houses?
We purchased our house with the intention of selling when our son graduated from college. We still own and rent it, and we are very conscientious of who rent to as well as keeping it maintained.
- Are there plans to change Alumni Drive?

VIII. Closing

President Capilouto was in attendance. After listening to the discussions, he closed by stating that the University is committed to working with the neighborhoods throughout the master planning process.

Minutes prepared by Judy Needham.

These are intended to be a record of the general issues discussed and are not meant to be a quotation of any individual(s) attending the meeting.

cc: website