



## June 11, 2024, Meeting Notes

### **Opening**

Troostwood Neighborhood Association (Troostwood) held a membership meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The meeting began at 6 p.m., and there were approximately 38 people in attendance according to the sign-in sheet. To ask questions about the meeting, please email [troostwoodkc@gmail.com](mailto:troostwoodkc@gmail.com). (The UMKC Center for Neighborhoods website has a page for Troostwood at <https://cfn.umkc.edu/troostwood> with links to the bylaws, recent meeting minutes, and more for anyone interested.)

Troostwood President Alfredo Garcia opened the meeting. He thanked Rockhurst University (RU) for providing a meeting space and encouraged everyone to enjoy the food from Blackhole Bakery. He asked attendees to approve the meeting notes from March 9, 2024. View the notes at <https://bit.ly/Troostwood2024MarchMeeting>. Brett Pool made a motion to accept and multiple people seconded. The notes were approved by verbal consent and a show of hands with no one opposed.

### **Presentation from the Kansas City Police Department**

A presentation by David Ferber and David McKinzie, our new Community Officers from the Kansas City Police Department, was on the agenda. These community partners were not present, so Troostwood will attempt to reschedule for a future meeting.

### **Neighborhood Rising Fund Grant**

Alfredo announced that Troostwood effectively used the \$4,000 Neighborhood Rising Fund (NRF) grant received last year and was just awarded a \$5,000 grant in spring 2024. He opened discussion on how residents want to use the funds for revitalization of the pocket park/green space at Troost Avenue and 49th Street, neighborhood events, and communication and marketing needs.

The grant has \$2,000 earmarked for improving the pocket park. Treasurer Laura Spencer-Morris mentioned opportunities for partnering with the Missouri Department of Conservation through the Discovery Center on Troost and helped lead the conversation on what people would like to see in that space. Suggestions included more cleanup plus a pergola, water features ranging from a fountain to water collection for use in the park, composting, bee hives, more plants, tables, seating/benches, ways to have shade and lighting, and more. It was decided by consensus that an ad hoc group would form to look at options and what might be doable with current funds to enhance the park. Volunteers signed up during the meeting and will present recommendations in the coming months.

The grant also has \$1,500 earmarked for neighborhood events and there was discussion on what

Troostwood can do to build on the success of events in the last year. People liked the idea of continuing to host neighborhood parties with food and live music as a way for residents to get together. Other possibilities included a movie night. Plans are in the works for an event at the curve around Forest and 49th Terrace.

The rest of the grant funds will help with communication to reach all residents, property owners and renters. There is an email list, public Facebook page, and private Facebook group, but printed items are needed to try and ensure everyone is aware of meetings and events. Past grant funds helped pay for yard signs that are displayed and items such as post-it notes with info that can be placed at each house. Consensus was that printing items such as post-its or flyers are useful and funds should continue to support that, and that block captains can assist in distribution. There was also a mention that the Communication Committee required in the bylaws needs volunteers.

### **PIAC Update**

The 2023 application for new sidewalks south of 51st Street in the neighborhood was not approved. Troostwood will try again this fall and is preparing the application. There were questions about sidewalks blocked by trees and trash, especially on Paseo, and residents were encouraged to submit reports with pictures using the myKCMO app.

### **Finance Update and Grant Applications**

Laura reported the Troostwood account has around \$9,000 right now made up of the \$5,000 NRF grant that was just received and \$4,000 in other grant funds previously awarded that we're still in the process of using, most of that being the Neighborhood Empowerment Grant (NEG) from the City of Kansas City.

The deadline for another NEG application is coming up, and residents were asked to offer input on what Troostwood should apply for and that discussion focused on safety. There was a conversation about possibly buying cameras and debate on if they could be a practical and effective use of funds. Some residents will work on more research and getting information from other neighborhoods that have bought and installed cameras.

Concerns were raised about safety, traffic, and parking on Rockhurst Road. It was agreed that structural changes might be needed to address issues. The neighborhood will look at options for talking with RU and the city (such as booking another walking tour with our Councilwoman) about security and ways to potentially pursue improvements. There was also a suggestion to ask for funds for pocket park ideas that exceed the costs of available NRF money.

### **Closing**

Alfredo had to adjourn the meeting due to reaching the end time of 7:30 p.m., but thanked everyone for the robust conversation and helpful ideas. Everyone was encouraged to enjoy the remaining food and take time to chat with each other. People were asked to attend the rest of the 2024 meetings which are scheduled for 6 p.m. on September 12 and 10 a.m. on December 7.