



Presentation by Ian Graves at the Overland Park Historical Society



Panel session by county and city leaders at Overland Park City Hall: Ian Graves, Curt Skoog, Kristy Baughman and Leslie Karr.

MARCH: ATTAINABLE HOUSING

For March's session, we explored the housing market and the unique challenges multiple jurisdictions face on each side of the state line. Every city around the metropolitan encounters different circumstances, but affordability was the common denominator of the day.

The day began at the Overland Park Historical Society's offices with a presentation by Ian Graves, city council member of the 6th ward of Prairie Village, KS. As we had previously discussed in our February session, Prairie Village was established as an affordable housing option by JC Nichols Co. for post World War II families. Today, this is a far different situation as many Kansas City area families cannot afford to live in the city. Ian Graves explained to the group the dynamics that challenge Prairie Village from the lack of housing types to the economics behind the "scrape and build". The group discussed the advantages of diversifying housing types around the city to make it economically feasible for members of the community like teachers, firefighters, and other service providers to live within city limits. Ian and fellow city council members are hoping to make this possible by amending the city's zoning regulations.

The session then moved on to Overland Park's City Hall for a panel discussion with Ian Graves, Curt Skoog, Leslie Karr, and Kristy Baughman. At Overland Park, we discussed the housing issues plaguing Overland Park and Johnson County as a whole. As Curt Skoog, Overland Park's mayor stated multiple times, the city and county are facing a housing shortage crisis. Besides building more single family homes, Overland Park is working on projects utilizing duplexes and pattern housing. The panel also introduced the group

to Johnson County's housing study recently completed evaluating every city in the county's current housing situation. It also creates a toolkit for jurisdictions to improve housing within their market.

After crossing the state line, our final stop of the day was a tour of the Marlborough school owned by the Marlborough Community Land Trust. The tour led by Meghan Freeman, executive director of the Marlborough Community Land Trust, walked us through the empty school which will serve in the future as a neighborhood asset for low rate commercial rental by community members managing small businesses. The discussion then shifted to what a land trust is and how the Marlborough community plans to grow housing options. Land trusts act as transition housing for qualifying families working to build equity from renting to being able to purchase a market rate home of their own.

The day's session concluded with a happy hour and March Madness basketball at the Well bar in Waldo.



Tour of the Marlborough School