



AIA Kansas City

CITY HALL DAY 2020 Kansas City, Missouri

The following are notes from the AIA Advocacy Committee Virtual City Hall day meetings. Most meetings were around 30 minutes in length, and committee members compiled key points from each discussion (below). We will use this information to continue conversations with the Kansas City, MO Council Members, as well as guide our conversations with other municipalities.

District 1 - Heather Hall, Kevin O'Neill (Oct. 22)

- We briefly talked about the status of the building industry, jobs, and future projects.
- We briefly discussed project delivery methods which lead to a discussion about building materials, and the quality of such materials.
 - We discussed architectural building standards and regulations. We gave feedback on cities regulating material use.
 - We discussed tax incentives and their timeline as it related to the durability and long-term condition of buildings constructed. An example was stated that a 10-year tax incentive might be given, but the building is already falling apart with material failures, and the project hasn't even reached its final year of incentives.
 - I mentioned the decisions that cities must make. Essentially choose higher maintenance cost or spend more on longer lasting materials.
 - Councilman O'Neill suggested that architects need to serve on more boards like Port Authority, TIF, PIEA, etc. Our voice would be valuable and informative.
- We discussed Vision Zero
 - Councilman O'Neill seemed to be in favor of it and thinks this can be implemented in the Northland.
 - Councilwoman Hall is not in favor of it.
 - I mentioned the Shoal Creek Valley area, being an up and coming, mixed-use neighborhood where I live. But 152 highway (MODOT) bisects the neighborhood and hurts walkability. I mentioned the idea of a pedestrian bridge to be built at Shoal Creek Parkway.
 - Councilwoman Hall mentioned all the concerns with the idea of building this bridge. Bridge height for semi-traffic, ADA accessibility, cost, etc. She was not confident that it could happen.
 - She also mentioned that these two nearby intersections have the most fatalities and car accidents of any intersection in the rest of the City.
- Councilman O'Neill emphasized the importance of using local firms for local work. (Airport example)

District 2 - Dan Fowler (Oct. 22)

- He expressed his opposition to the Gould Evans proposed infrastructure plan presented by Dennis Strait, AIA (Councilman Fowler saw that Sam and Jay from Gould Evans were on the call)
 - Jay Campbell, Assoc. AIA spoke persuasively about the Gould Evans plan, and by the end of the call Councilman Fowler was open to having an additional discussion with Dennis to see how we can incorporate their needs as well

- He likes green space, yards, not being on top of his neighbors. Did mention that he liked a “diversity of living opportunity” but does not like residential in commercial.
- City Manager position was discussed. Councilman Fowler was disappointed overall by the candidates, but thought his candidate would do a good job
- He prefers design/build delivery method as he says it is cheaper and more efficient
- Anticipates 75,000 new residents in his district over the next 20 years, so proper planning and development will be critical.
- Line Creek Village is an example of blight.
- Affordable Housing - he would prefer \$75 million trust fund be through a foundation, not City money.

District 3 - Melissa Robinson, Brandon Ellington

- Connected with Councilman Ellington through email only. He requested and we sent the list of agenda items we had put together and associated talking points: Project Delivery Methods, Climate Action & Resilience, Accessible Housing and Vision Zero
- He was most interested in learning about project delivery methods; I sent him the graphics I had put together for Design/Build, CM@Risk, and Design/Bid/Build. He did not schedule a follow-up meeting.
- Councilwoman Robinson is on the selection committee for the Barney Allis Plaza Design Build project, so it would be good to stay in contact with her about project delivery issues
- Councilwoman Robinson helped us with the Design Award announcements and seems to be appreciative of architecture and design.

District 4 - Eric Bunch, Katheryn Shields (Oct. 19)

- Six AIA KC members met with Councilman Bunch; Councilwoman Shields was not available.
- Councilman Bunch’s interest and knowledge on planning and design issues were apparent, with his background as co-founder of BikeWalkKC.
- We discussed the upcoming/ongoing comprehensive plan and how AIA KC can get engaged in offering expertise and knowledge
- Housing policy is another area of his interest and would benefit from ongoing conversations with AIA KC members
- Climate Action plans are coming along and being promulgated by the City. Ongoing AIA KC leadership is appreciated
- Vision Zero to reduce pedestrian, cycling, and auto accidents is an initiative Bunch has authored and is actively seeking support from AIA KC members
- Councilman Bunch is very interested, and suggested, ongoing conversations similar to this format to gain/share/exchange information and knowledge. Initially this is seen as a quarterly conversation

District 5 - Ryana Parks-Shaw, Lee Barnes, Jr. (Oct. 19)

- Six AIA KC members met with both Councilmembers.
- Councilman Barnes asked the group: “how does your group envision helping with affordable housing and Vision Zero?”
- As an example of how we can lend our expertise, we recounted the involvement of Pillars 2016 class in developing a master plan for Oak Park Neighborhood Assn that eventually was approved to implement.
- Councilwoman Parks-Shaw is on the Housing Committee.

- After the meeting, we sent the link to the Oak Park story (on our website) and an AIA online resource.

District 6 - Andrea Bough, Kevin McManus (Oct. 29)

- Four AIA KC members met with Councilwoman Bough.
- As a former real estate attorney, the councilwoman is generally aware of and supports our industry. She suggested additional conversations moving forward.
- She is excited about the new KCMO City Manager, Mr. Platte
- We discussed barriers and red tape to city procedures that we see. One was the coordination between different city departments, like Water.
- Incentive reform - we need guidelines and consistency in application
- We discussed the KCMO playbook/comprehensive plan and how our chapter had grassroots involvement.
- Discussed the need for the City Architect to be different from a facility manager. Need the position to be for someone with grand vision.
- Councilwoman Bough discussed a desire to create a metric for what “affordable housing” means in Kansas City. She strongly supports improving neighborhoods.