

**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, October 2, 2017**

The meeting of the Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee was held on Monday, October 2, 2017, at 5:13 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Walker, Chairman; Commissioners McKiernan, Townsend (via phone), Murguia (via phone), and Walters. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell and Joe Connor, Assistant County Administrators; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; Patrick Waters, Senior Attorney; Chris Slaughter, Land Bank Manager; Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Maureen Mahoney, Asst. to Mayor/Chief of Staff; Jeremy Rogers, Parks & Recreation Director; Alan Howze, Chief Knowledge Officer; and Brett Deichler, Director of Real Estate Revenue Collections/311 Director.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and members were present as shown above.

Chairman Walker said we have one item there was a blue sheet distributed, to be added to the agenda: Item No. 4 on Google Fiber's Community Connection's Program.

Approval of standing committee minutes from August 14, 2017 meeting. **On motion of Commissioner McKiernan, seconded by Commissioner Walters, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 171299...LAND BANK BUSINESS

Synopsis: Request approval of the following applications, submitted by Chris Slaughter, Land Bank Manager.

Transfer to Land Bank

12543 Hollingsworth Rd. from Prairie Oaks Homeowners Association, Inc.

(Property was purchased from the Land Bank on January 14, 2014. The property has special assessments levied by the City for public improvements for years 2000 – 2007.)



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TRANSFERS TO THE LAND BANK
 12543 HOLLINGSWORTH RD –
 PRAIRIE OAKS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

- ▶ Property was purchased from the Land Bank on January 14, 2014
- ▶ The property has special assessments levied by the City for public improvements for years 2000 - 2007.
- ▶ Land Bank is requesting that the property be transferred into its inventory from the HOA.
- ▶ We will then ask the Board of County Commissioners to have the special assessments abated.




Chris Slaughter, Land Bank Manager, said we have a few items to discuss. First, we're going to talk about a transfer to the Land Bank. The address is 12543 Hollingsworth Rd. Currently, it's in the possession of the Prairie Oaks Homeowner's Association, Inc. On your map, you can see it's outlined. It's kind of shaded green here. It used to be part of the Dub's Dread Golf Course. I think at one point it was like a par three course but that's the property in question.

This property was purchased by the homeowner's association back in January 2010, I believe. That should be 2010. The property had special assessments levied on it by the city for public improvement. It was for a sewer upgrade for the years 2000 – 2007. Now the reason we're asking for the transfer is they've asked to have those taxes abated.

We will also tonight be presenting a resolution for you guys to have the authority to grant that. After the assessments have been abated, then we will then also tonight ask to have that property transferred back to the homeowner's association.

So the first request tonight is the transfer of the property from the homeowner's association to the Land Bank so we can abate these taxes.

Action: **Chairman Walker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.**

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**WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAND BANK
TRANSFERS TO LAND BANK**

REQUESTING APPROVAL
OF THE TRANSFER REQUEST
& TO BE FORWARDED TO THE
LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR FINAL APPROVAL

Commissioner Walters asked what kind of sewer; storm sewer. **Mr. Slaughter** said I believe so, yes. **Commissioner Walters** asked it was a special assessment for the neighborhood or just for this parcel. **Mr. Slaughter** said I believe so. That's the one specific assessment that the Land Bank doesn't have the authority through the statute to abate; only the Board of County Commissioners can. So we're not asking the Land Bank Board of Trustees to abate the taxes. We're just asking them to approve the transfer in and then eventually out of the Land Bank.

Commissioner Walters said I'm just interested in what happened to the costs of the improvements. Do the taxpayers pick that up then? **Mr. Slaughter** said well, they're still outstanding with penalties. They'll be abated so in a way it's kind of like a wash. **Commissioner Walters** asked what do you mean it's a wash. **Mr. Slaughter** said we're going to abate them so there will be no payment on the taxes. **Commissioner Walters** said right so the taxpayers paid for the cost of that upgrade and will not recover from the landowners.

Chairman Walker said the homeowner's association pays. The people that live in the homeowner's association are going to be the ones to pay for it, and they are the ones that are asking to have this abated. The back channel here was this property was acquired by them in a tax sale. They did that in order to prevent acquisition by somebody who might want to build something inconsistent with the homeowner's association kind of as a protective manner.

Apparently, at the tax sale, and I'm taking the word of the people who were there. I wasn't there so I don't know. Nothing was mentioned to them about the special assessments on this property when they acquired it. It turns out the special assessments were substantial and the homeowner's association would have had to levy substantial amounts of money against each of the properties in the homeowner's association as fees to pay this. The end result being, these are the people that are going to pay for it anyway. It's going to be spread over a number of years so yes, but there are no people not benefiting who are going to be asked to pay. This way they can get the property clean, that way they can control what the future use of that property is. It's consistent with the rules and guidelines of the homeowner's association. In other words, neither Brian nor I are going to be paying any taxes that pays these special assessments. Would that be correct, in summary form? **Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel**, said that is correct, Commissioner.

Commissioner Walters asked aren't we asking for the special assessments to be abated. **Ms. Green** said the way the special assessments work, they are divided out over all of the parcels that benefited from the sewers. Most of its already been paid by all of the other homeowners in that subdivision. It was separated among all of the parcels. The only part that is associated with this parcel is just what was that parcel's particular share of all of the assessment for the sewer improvements. Most of its already been paid by being spread out among all of the other parcels anyway. It's just a small portion that wasn't paid. I believe what happened was because it fell off after 2007, it wasn't appearing on the tax rolls anymore so it just got missed. It was just a mistake that it wasn't included to begin with or asked for it to be abated at that time.

Commissioner Walters said I'm having a hard time understanding. So, there was a special assessment on this parcel. It was never paid and we're now going to say it will never be paid. Is that right? **Ms. Green** said that would be correct for this particular parcel, yes. **Commissioner Walters** said okay. Thank you.

Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Walters, Murguia, Townsend, McKiernan, Walker.

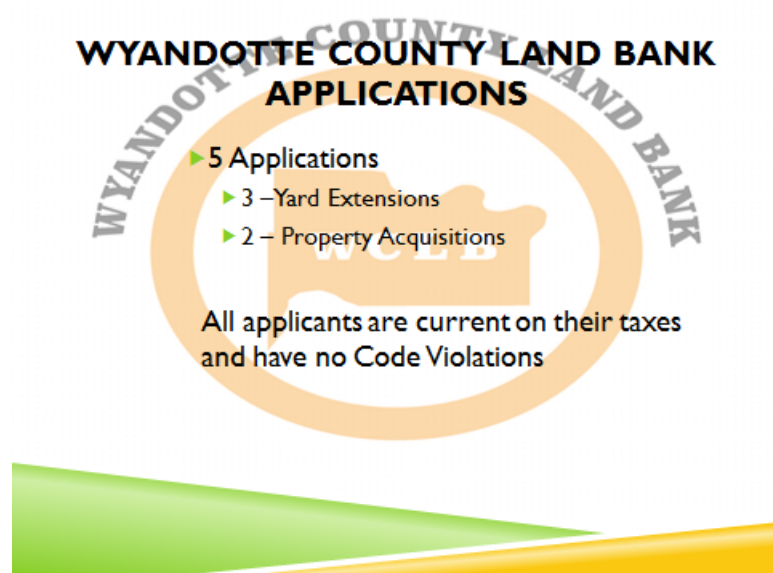
Transfer from Land Bank

12543 Hollingsworth Rd. from Prairie Oaks Homeowners Association, Inc.

(Property was purchased from the Land Bank on January 14, 2014; the property has special assessments levied by the City for public improvements for years 2000 – 2007.)

Mr. Slaughter said the next ask will be that after the taxes are abated we will then transfer it back to the homeowner's association from the Land Bank. **Chairman Walker** asked are there any questions?

Action: **Chairman Walker** made a motion, seconded by **Commissioner McKiernan**, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Walters, Murguia, Townsend, McKiernan, Walker.



Applications for yard extension
 1609 New Jersey Ave. – Cristofer Estrada
 811 Stewart Ave. – Angel Alvarez
 610 Sandusky Ave. – Bryce Workman

Mr. Slaughter said next is just our general applications. We have five tonight: three yard extensions and two property acquisitions. As always the case, all applicants are current on their taxes and have no current code violations.

The first is both a yard extension and property acquisition: 1609

YARD EXTENSION – 1609 NEW JERSEY AVE PROPERTY ACQUISITION – 1517 NEW JERSEY AVE

- ▶ CRISTOFER ESTRADA
- ▶ 1601 NEW JERSEY AVE
- ▶ AV: \$740.00 (combined)



New Jersey Ave. and 1517 New Jersey Ave. as you can see in the middle is the property at 1601 New Jersey.

YARD EXTENSION – 811 STEWART AVE

- ▶ ANGEL ALVAREZ
- ▶ 2040 n 8TH ST
- ▶ AV: \$170.00



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Next, we have a yard extension at 811 Steward, which is right here on the corner. The shaded red is the Land Bank property.

YARD EXTENSION – 610 SANDUSKY AVE

- ▶ BRYCE WORKMAN
- ▶ 612 SANDUSKY AVE
- ▶ AV: \$1,170.00



610 Sandusky—the applicant lives here at 612. Again, shaded in red is Land Bank.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION – 1031 RIDGE AVE

- ▶ JOSE MENDEZ
- ▶ 1029 Ridge Ave
- ▶ AV: \$400.00



Applications for property acquisition
 1517 New Jersey Ave. – Cristofer Estrada
 1031 Ridge Ave. – Jose Samuel Mendez

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The property acquisition at 1031 Ridge. The property owner is at 1029 Ridge which is right next to it.



Advisory recommended forwarding these for final approval and Board had no questions. That is also our request.

Commissioner McKiernan asked can you go back to the Ridge property. **Mr. Slaughter** said yes. **Commissioner McKiernan** asked the property line is where. **Mr. Slaughter** said this property right here. **Commissioner McKiernan** said I'm going to acquire—**Mr. Slaughter** said the one here in red. **Commissioner McKiernan** said a little sliver. **Chairman Walters** said maybe to build a garden maybe.

Commissioner McKiernan said I have a clarifying question. In the agenda there were actually five properties or do you have the property acquisition alone coming up next. **Mr. Slaughter** said the one property acquisition was the Ridge and then the very first one we discussed, he had a yard extension and a property acquisition. **Commissioner McKiernan** said there we go. That's it.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walters, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Walters, Murguia, Townsend, McKiernan, Walker.

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**WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAND BANK
DONATIONS TO LAND BANK
1213 BUNKER AVE – SHARON MUSHANEY**



Donation to Land Bank
213 Bunker Ave. – Sharon Mushaney

Mr. Slaughter said the last we have is a donation to the Land Bank, 1213 Bunker Avenue. The property is outlined here in black. As you can see, there is substantial Land Bank property next to it. That is basically the reason we're asking for the donation. We now would have one larger or the combination of two properties for possible development in the future. **Commissioner McKiernan** said I just want to clarify, that's 1213. The agenda had 213. **Mr. Slaughter** said it is 1213, yes. **Commissioner McKiernan** said the property owner is not in the neighborhood. **Mr. Slaughter** said no. That's a Merriam, KS, address. **Commissioner McKiernan** asked are there back taxes on the property to be donated. **Mr. Slaughter** said no.

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**WYANDOTTE COUNTY LAND BANK
DONATIONS TO LAND BANK**

**REQUESTING APPROVAL
OF THE DONATION REQUESTS
BE FORWARD TO THE LAND BANK
BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR
FINAL APPROVAL**



Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Walters, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Walters, Murguia, Townsend, McKiernan, Walker.

Chairman Walker said I believe that concludes the portion with Land Bank properties. **Mr. Slaughter** said yes. Thank you.

Item No. 2 – 171297... RESOLUTION: ABATEMENT OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Synopsis: A resolution continuing authorization of the abatement of special assessments levied to finance public improvements for any property acquired by the Wyandotte County Land Bank pursuant to K.S.A. 19-26,111, submitted by Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel.

Chairman Walker said I assume this is on that property that we just spoke of. **Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel,** said the reason for the resolution coming into effect was because of that specific property, but what we realized is there could be more out there that would have a special assessment for a municipal improvement that might need to be abated. Rather than do a general resolution so that every time a property went into the Land Bank, the special municipal assessments automatically got abated, we didn’t want to do that. We thought it should be on a case-by-case basis because there may be some instances where we want the people that are

acquiring the property from the Land Bank to have to continue to pay those special assessments for public improvements. What this resolution does, it has the Board of County Commissioners authorizing the Board of Trustees for the Land Bank to agree that a special municipal assessment should be abated as it is brought up to them by the Land Bank. So when the Land Bank would come in and ask for a property to be acquired, they would also at that time ask for the property to have the special assessment contributed to the municipal improvement abated as well. It would have to only be on a case-by-case basis.

The statute's very clear that special assessments for public improvements are not automatically abated like other special assessments and taxes when property is transferred to the Land Bank, and they can only be abated by authority of the Board of County Commissioners. That's why a resolution to that affect would be necessary. If we have the general resolution on the books, if we came up with another property down the road that also had some special assessments for public improvements on there, then at that time if the Land Bank thought it appropriate to have these abated as well, it could simply ask when it was asking to have the property transferred in to the Land Bank if those special assessments could be abated and then it could all be approved at that one time. It would then be on a case-by-case basis and not just a general approval for all of those to be abated every time a property goes into the Land Bank.

Commissioner McKiernan said so a case-by-case basis. Like this example we have now, that parcel will be abated but that assessment will still be spread among the remaining parcels that were originally part of the assessment area. **Ms. Green** said correct. It was spread out already. **Commissioner McKiernan** said it's already been spread out so in effect, all of those parcels will still pay the assessment but theoretically there could be other cases where there is not.

As Commissioner Walters brought up a moment ago, where there is not already someone who's assigned or who will pick up the assessment and so your ability then would be to make sure that nobody can get a special assessment abated when there is no other vehicle for collecting that money. Am I getting that right? **Mr. Slaughter** said I think a good way to look at this is if we take a property in from a tax sale or a donation and maybe there's an assessment levied against it because of trash or mowing, we just abate those once we get those because the statute gives us that authority. We don't present that to you and ask you guys to approve that. These are a little bit more special or kind of specific situations.

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I'll also add I don't know how many more are out there. We'll have to do some reporting on that but this is the first one since I've been with the Land Bank for nine years that we've ever come across one. There's probably not that many. I think as the resolution says, we would still come to you and make you guys aware of what's going on in those situations.

Chairman Walker said that's my question. Do we really need this? Like you said, in the four years I've been sitting here and the years before in my other role, I don't ever remember this ever coming up. I really think the final decision on whether special assessments should be abated for a given piece of property, and it could be on a myriad of factors, ought to be up to the commissioners. It should not be up to the Board of Land Bank Trustees or the Advisory Board.

Ms. Green said first, that's why the resolution would have to come before the Board of Commissioners first and then I suppose when it comes to the standing committee, then you all would hear it too in that situation so you would be made fully aware. At that time if you weren't approving that it be abated, I would think that you could strike it at some point.

Chairman Walker said, so before this property is going to be sold at a tax sale, the Commission will get an opportunity to decide whether to abate the special assessment. **Mr. Slaughter** said, Commissioner, it would have to come into our possession first. We're not going to have an interest in a property that we don't possess to abate special assessments for city improvements, but if it were to somehow come into our possession...**Chairman Walker** said oh, I'm sorry, of course.

Ms. Green said I think it's a very unique situation. I don't think it happens very often but if it does happen, it does have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. It's not just the Board of Trustees for the Land Bank that can make that decision. The Board of Trustees for the Land Bank first has to have the authorization of the Board of County Commissioners because by statute, it's the municipal taxing entity or the municipal entity that levied the actual public improvement special assessment that gets to decide whether or not it's abated. That's why the resolution has to come in front of the Board of County of Commissioners first and then the Board of County Commissioners would then decide if it wants to authorize this.

Just the procedure is what we're trying to get at. Where it could also be we could change it so that it was just specific to this property. If we have another come up, we would have to also have a very specific resolution to abate the public improvement special assessments on that particular property. It would either need to be a general resolution allowing the Board of Trustees to make that decision or we would have to come back to the Board of County Commissioners with a specific resolution for each property every time it came up and the need was there to have them abated.

Commissioner McKiernan said I just have a question. Give me the timeline again on this. When would this come into play in the timeline? Before the Land Bank acquires a property or after it acquires it? **Mr. Slaughter** said this assessment was put on the property before it came into the Land Bank's possession. We did not have any knowledge of these assessments on the property until the individual at the homeowner's association brought it up to our attention. So normally if we would have caught that and they would have made application, we would have probably had to go through this process before we could even consider the application because we wouldn't want to sell someone a property that had these assessments on it, nor would they probably want it if they knew we just couldn't abate it because it wasn't just a non-city improvement assessment. More than likely, that was probably what put it into the tax sale, got it into 2010, and then it came to the Land Bank. With us not being aware that those assessments were on it, we sold them the property and then I guess recently been made aware that they had those on there.

Commissioner McKiernan said I guess I'm still not following. In the future you get a property that is similarly assessed, then the Land Bank could simply—**Mr. Slaughter** said we would probably come as a specific item on an agenda to say here's what we found, that we found these on there and then ask the Board of Trustees' permission to go ahead and have those abated. **Commissioner McKiernan** said that's the question I was looking for.

Mr. Slaughter said I think the other side of this discussion is, do you guys want to see this twice on say a night because we would have to come to you as Land Bank, then we'd have to deal with

it as the Board of County Commissioners and then again come to you as Land Bank. I think generally what we're trying to do is just give the Board of Trustees that authority for specifically Land Bank properties that have these situations.

Commissioner McKiernan said that was my question. These will not be administratively abated. Th will still come before this group for approval for passing to the full Commission. Correct? **Ms. Green** said correct. Just like any other property that's acquired by the Land Bank comes through, at that time the Land Bank would ask for those special assessments to be made. **Chairman Walker** said that was the point of my question. I didn't want to delegate this to an administrative determination.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Chairman Walker, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes," Murguia, Townsend, McKiernan, Walker; and one "No," Walters.

Item No. 3 – 171309... DISCUSSION: ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

Synopsis: Discussion regarding Unlimited Play equipment and sample options available, submitted by Jeremy Rogers, Parks and Recreation Director.

Jeremy Rogers, Parks and Recreation Director, said as I've been saying throughout my three years of being employed here in Wyandotte County, I've been very outspoken about accessibility and inclusive play. In my previous employment with the City of Independence, I developed a relationship with Unlimited Play to build an inclusive playground. When I came here I spoke to many of you guys and have gotten your buy in and slowly getting the community to buy into accessible play so I invited Unlimited Play here tonight. This is Natalie and Jim from Unlimited Play. I will turn it over to them. **Commissioner Walker** said welcome. Alright, I'm anxious to hear.

Natalie Mackay, Executive Director/Founder of Unlimited Play, said my son was born with a severe disability. You'll see him in just a second in a video. My background is recreation management. I took every course in college that taught me how to create ADA (American

Disabilities Act) inclusive environments. I really appreciate the American with Disabilities Act but I did not realize it did not serve our needs until I had a child with a disability myself. So I took Zachary, when he was just little, to the playground. I put him in an infant swing and I pushed Zach only one time and his little body just slumped over. That day I went home really upset, upset at the parks' directors who thought ADA truly created an inclusive environment. The college classes that I took that taught me that would be enough.

As Zach grew older, I watched as I would take him in his wheelchair and he would sit. ADA says that a transfer station is considered accessible, which for my son means he would have to pull himself out of his wheelchair crawl up the stairs and across the platforms and somehow, we say that's okay. Jim and I were sitting with some business owners the other day and they sat back in their chairs and said, Natalie, I couldn't even imagine if I hired someone and I said my office is inclusive. Park your wheelchair at the bottom of the stairs; crawl up to your office and at the end of the day you can crawl back down the stairs. We'd all be sued but in the park industry, we've said okay to that.

So, we're here to say that truly inclusive playgrounds are so much more than just ADA standards. Mulch and pea gravel, my son still gets stuck in even with his powerful electrical wheelchair. He cannot get through those and will get stuck. As Jim and I have presented all over, we've met more and more people and some I didn't realize are veterans. Years ago I presented to the Veterans Organization and a gentleman stood up and said Natalie, we have more veterans returning home with disabilities than ever before. Our medical capabilities are outstanding, yet they come home and they need time with their families. Please continue to build these playgrounds.

Then when we've met adults that have—there was a mother that had multiple sclerosis and she was in tears at the end of one of our presentations saying she has a two-year-old and a four-year-old and she can't take them to the playground because if they get injured on the top, she can't walk those stairs to get to her own children. So what was my story, my son in his wheelchair, has transformed to so many more stories and so many more people that need these playgrounds.

As you watch this video we're about to show you, you'll meet a family that has a little boy with autism. It's one of the calls we get most frequently. I didn't realize that children with autism don't understand boundaries and they often run. So, there's an entire community not

bringing their children out to our playgrounds because they cannot keep them safe from running into the streets and the parking lot.

So those families clear back—it's the ten-year anniversary of Zachary's playground, our very first playground. Clear back then, those families called after we opened really and said can you fence in your playground. So we fenced it in. They called us back and said good try. Can we come and walk the playground with you and teach you what our families need the most? So that's one of our requirements that you'll see in here. As you watch the video, I want you also to realize as I looked through vendors' catalogues back then, I saw endless ramping. I was fearful that if we just built a playground focused on ramps, people would pull up and think it's just a park for kids with disabilities and they would pull away. My intention was to build the coolest playground you've ever seen; to draw national attention and the inclusive, accessible part of that playground is just hidden in the background so all of those interactions with kids with and without disabilities naturally happen, as everybody is having so much fun. We just opened this playground last fall, almost a year ago.

(Unlimited Play video presentation)

Jim Vollmer, Unlimited Play, said that was as Natalie said a playground that we opened. I want to just take you back a little bit in time. Ten years when Natalie, actually it was fourteen years ago, it took her four years to develop the very first inclusive playground. I was a parent watching this from a distance trying to figure out what is this inclusive playground. What is it this all about? She was on the news. She was the driven mother and she was all over finding donors, finding ways to do this, learning about inclusive play. It took her four years.

Ten years ago, she opened up Zachary's, the very first playground. My son at that time was put into a wheelchair and so we went out there not really knowing what it was but it absolutely changed our world. It changed our family's dynamic; it changed our community coming together. My son gained confidence. He got a lot more friends and it broke down those barriers. That's what inclusive playgrounds do. So kids would come up to my son, who's in a chair, and they'd say what's wrong with your legs and he would say they just don't work so well. Okay, let's go play and that's the beauty of the inclusive playgrounds. Natalie, although she doesn't admit it, is the expert in this country on inclusive playgrounds. Ten years ago she started

this and has not stopped learning and educating everyone all throughout the country on truly what inclusive playgrounds are and we design them differently.

We are a non-profit and so it is truly a mission of ours. Five years ago my son passed away and I had been involved with Unlimited Play and helping raise funds and do this, but I came to work with Unlimited Play. It truly is our mission. Over these years, it has developed into a program that we come in, we enter with the city, we help build a foundation, our committee to help find these funds and honestly we have a packet that thick and I call it Natalie's brain, but it's all these years of how to engage into a professional type of foundation, how to find the money, how to do a prospectus throughout the community, understand where we can find the money, how to set up this committee with not just your neighborhood friends but businesses, entrepreneurs and people of that nature who can reach out and of course we can help write grants. People tend to give money once they understand more about what fully inclusive is. They tend to give money to non-profit agencies. We come out, we tell our stories, and we explain the beauty and the magic that you see on these playgrounds to these different entities and hope that they donate and they want to sponsor a piece of the program.

I won't go into the entire details of the program but it is extensive how we engage the community, how we educate the community. It's not just about building the playground, of course it is but throughout this whole process we're educating to what inclusive means, how to break down barriers, proper language, everything and it's amazing how communities come together, rally behind it. They start to see the design which we have tonight. As we implement this program, the amazing things that happen all the way up and until we have the grand opening and the community comes together and people have donated money and we do a community build. We get different organizations who have donated to come out and help put a hand in developing and building the basics of the playground.

It's not just here's the design, build the program. We implement the build a project. We implement an entire program to engage your community and educate them and of course the fun is when the playgrounds open, the ribbon cutting and all the kids and magic happens. It's truly, truly incredible. We are extremely excited. We have the design. We're working with Jeremy. We can talk a few minutes about the design if you'd like.

Mr. Rogers said first, before we get to the design, we just finished our master plan that you guys voted on and approved. Out of that master plan, it was determined that this is needed here in Wyandotte County. Seventeen percent of Wyandotte County lists themselves of having some disability of some sort. There's obviously various, the scale is so wide, but 17% of Wyandotte County claims disability. The national average is 13% for a town our size. Obviously, the need is here. All we have is ADA here currently. We have bits and pieces of inclusivity throughout our play pieces, but we don't have a playground that is specific for inclusion. That is why we invited Unlimited Play here. That's why we partnered with them and I will let them talk about the design that they have brought forth. This is just a sample of what it could look like. There are various pieces and I'll let them talk about that specifically.

Ms. Mackay said so each of our playgrounds always has a theme to help it not just look like a bunch of ramping and give it something unique for your city. So Jeremy had us focus on just the history and the city itself. It has things like the Sawyer Castle, Station No. 9, Boulevard Drive In, barbeque climbers, Sporting KC climbers, and a Kansas City Speedway panel. You'll see train car themeing that has our typical monkey bars and then we drop one down to wheelchair level within that. Your farming history is represented in our 2 – 5 sections and then a panel for the T-Bones that's a game that we can play within that.

As you look at the design, there are pieces like the roller slide that you saw in our video. So, individuals with cochlear implants can't use the plastic slides. The static electricity would discharge the implant. The roller slides, the most popular slide you see on that playground and it works for individuals with cochlear implants.

You'll see the spinning net with deck, so when the families with children with autism started calling us, they not only said fencing, they said our kids love to spin and they love to climb. We go back to the office thinking how do you do that and have it be inclusive? So, the piece you see on there has a cutout that allows an individual like my son to slip underneath and he can lay down on the deck. Kids can climb all up that structure and the entire thing spins also. It is one of the most popular features on there. You can get up to the very tallest slide within that.

Our swings have high backs with harnesses on them. **Chairman Walker** said they're trying to figure out whether we can get those on the screen so people at home might be able to

see it better. Do you have them on a disc? **Ms. Mackay** said you know what, I have them on the computer but I don't have them on my flash drive. I can send them out. **Chairman Walker** said that's fine. We're trying to see here what he can do. Go ahead. I'm sorry to have interrupted.

Ms. Mackay said no, that's okay. I was talking about the rev spinner that's similar to a merry-go-round. It has a harness on it. You saw that in our video. We can also swap that piece out for a brand new one. There's only one we've ever installed that is a merry-go-round that's flush mounted and wheelchairs roll right onto it. You don't even have to get out to participate on that. One of the things we talk about a lot is parallel play. So as you're going along on the ramp, anybody, we want to challenge kids where they are at so you can come up to that system through a bunch of different climbers and all play side-by-side as you're getting to the same area.

One of the other things we're really excited about is a new system called Beba. My son cannot bowl like the rest of us do, but you better believe he can beat any of us in Wii Bowling so we have added some technology to the playground that allows kids to play games within the playground with their iPads or iPhones that challenges them to keep moving and keep going and play within a team bringing both the fitness and the technology aspect to the overall playground. That's about all the highlight right now.

Instead of extensive ramping, we use a berm that goes up and around. That sidewalk that you see that allows us to get to the taller heights that we need through ramping but not pay for the extensive ramping required if we took it from the bottom all the way to the top.

The surfacing is going to be tile surfacing. We've done a lot of poured in place surfacing, some poured in place surfacing in the past and feel like that gets worn too quickly. The warranty is not as long and it's harder to replace. The tiles you just pull in and out individual pieces. In order to do that, we always do a concrete surfacing under there. One of the ways that we fundraise is starting to look for those in-kind donations, so someone to donate the concrete, someone to donate the fencing around the playground, the site work. As we get those things donated, it dramatically cuts down on the cash required to purchase the playground.

Chairman Walker said, Jeremy, since you're internally the spearhead as we talked about a little while ago, what is administration doing to generate additional funding for this project that has already been committed. **Mr. Rogers** said we added a portion of the price of this into our 2018

Budget. In our 2017 Budget, we had a portion to go but it's a very large cost for this. We still have a long way to go for our fundraising and hoping people will step up.

Chairman Walker asked has the Administrator put anybody or created this committee of interested community leaders, business people. I think it's a great idea. Maybe it's not been something that's been thought of, but you know we can't—you know everybody's got personal stories. I was blessed that I did not have children that needed a park like this. In being married for more than forty years, I've come across friends who have been in that circumstance and there was nothing available for them. A few pieces of equipment here and there that may or may not have been suitable for their particular child's needs.

Our community is no less worthy of something like this than the one in Independence, which is where I first encountered it. I was doing some legal work for a friend's estate and one day I discovered this park and it was just packed with kids. I was just astounded by it. I thought, you know, that'd be great over here someday. Well, I didn't know at the time that I was going to run for the Commission or that I would be elected and would ever have an opportunity but we—I would hope—we need to get serious about this, and you can carry the message to Doug.

You know business leaders, there are people out there that know people. I don't care what their motives are, as long as they pony up something to make this happen in my lifetime. I don't know how much—Tom Petty was younger than me and I'm thinking oh my gosh a tragedy like that can happen anytime.

I have left this in the hands of administration because being an at-large commissioner; I wasn't trying to channel this to any particular location in the community. I think that is a determination that collectively needs to be made by administration and by the Commission that ultimately sees this through to completion.

I know that you've indicated to me there are several requirements that are necessary and there are but a few parks that may have the requisite space needed to do this. Again, I think it needs to be while we say accessible, it needs to be actually from a transportation standpoint in our community, accessible. Wherever this park goes, this playground goes, I almost feel like we have to have public transportation available to get there or at least that be part of the bigger vision.

Having given my little spiel, I'm 100% for this. I had my personal reasons why I advanced it. I hope the rest of the Commission, anybody feels differently, they've never bothered to speak to me about it.

I agree that a few pieces of equipment, Heather and Young, I don't want to take that equipment away from those parks because there will be times when there will be kids who can benefit from that, but I want a special park in this community and we've got—the biggest tragedy is the anonymity. Outside your circle of family and friends, do you ever really see how many children there are in this community that would benefit from a park like this? Unless you're interested in the subject, I doubt most of you have. I have no doubt that this park will not only be fully beneficial to our community, but will draw people from other communities because their children will need it.

It is my honest wish that this Commission carry this project on and we find a way to accelerate the funding process. That's going to have to be by an active group of people out there knocking on doors, begging for whatever we can. Make sure Doug knows that. His evaluation is coming up by the way. Thank you, Jim.

Commissioner Townsend said, Mr. Chairman, I would just echo your sentiments. I have family members who would benefit from such a playground as well. Thank you. **Commissioner McKiernan** said I had a sister-in-law who was a wheelchair user for over 30 years of her life. One of the things that I learned at least as she modified the place she lived was that building accessibility actually made it better for everybody, even if they didn't have any sort of physical limitation. I would hope that we would be picking your brain and coming up with some design—I'm sure there are design guidelines that could be implemented in any park, in every park that we have that would improve the accessibility and the experience for everybody who visits that park regardless of their ability level. I'm hoping that we will try to find ways to incorporate design guidelines in all of our parks as we go forward.

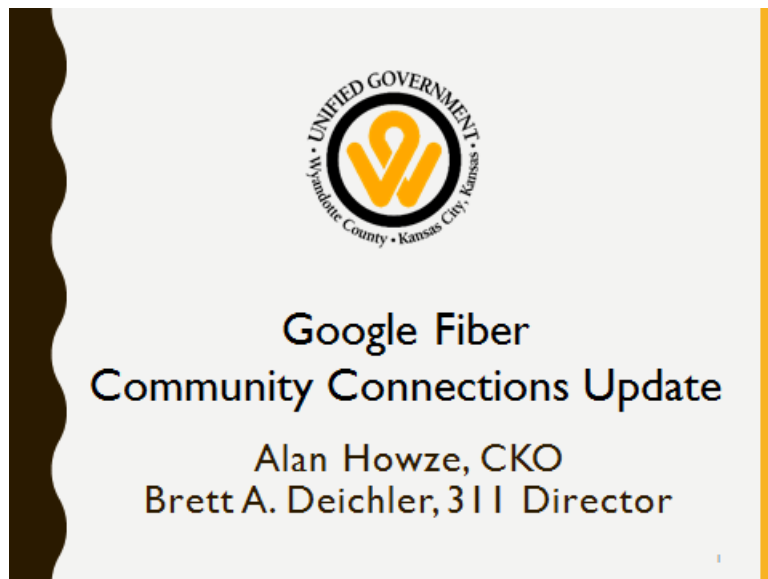
Chairman Walker said I want to thank you both for coming. I really appreciate your comments, and I hope I'm still around to see this thing when the ribbon's cut. I intend to be very vocal about this. Unless you don't want to hear from me anymore on this, get moving on this, commissioners.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 4 – 171319... UPDATE: GOOGLE FIBER’S COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Synopsis: Update on Google Fiber Community Connections Program, submitted by Alan Howze, Chief Knowledge Officer.

Chairman Walker said we have a blue sheet, Item No. 4, which is an update on Google Fiber Community Connections, presented by Alan Howze, our Chief Knowledge Officer.



Alan Howze, Chief Knowledge Officer, said we’re here before you for an informational item this evening. We wanted to come and provide an update on the Google Fiber Community Connections Program and give you a status of where we are and some next steps that we’re taking to finish making the connections to the locations across the community here. A quick background, the Community Connections Program is an outgrowth of the agreement between the Unified Government and Google when located here as the first in the nation location for Google Fiber.

October 2, 2017

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AGREEMENT

- Community Connections agreement between the Unified Government & Google Inc.
 - 130 Locations
 - March 29, 2011 through March 28, 2021 – initial 10 years of 1GB speed (free) w/successive five (5) year renewal term option(s)
 - Locations required to be within a Google build zone or Fiberhood
- Google placed all Community Connection construction activities on-hold in March - then restarted in July - with all sites to be connected by end of 2017

Unified Government / Google Fiber – Community Connections 2

As part of that agreement, there were 130 community connection locations that were agreed to. Those have been laid into place over time. They provide 10 years of 1 gigabit speed access through March 28, 2021. The stipulations for where those locations are, they have to be in a Google build zone or in a Fiberhood. There's been an ongoing process here since Google first arrived. Brett Deichler has been very involved in that along the way and has led that effort within the organization and we'll give you a detailed update on where those locations are.

Earlier this year, Google came to us as they're going through some transitions internally as well as an organization and said in March we're putting a stop to this or we're putting it on pause. They restarted that again in July and looking to connect the remaining sites by the end of this year.

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CURRENT SERVICE LOCATIONS

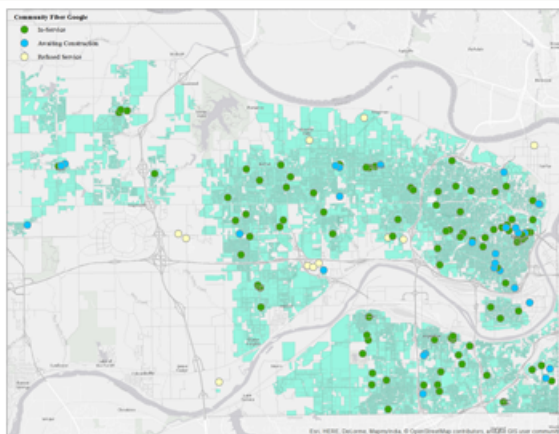
- 102 locations currently receiving Community Connection service
- 28 remaining Community Connections available
- 18 sites identified for service installation
- 10 additional sites available
- Connections:
 - UG Facilities - City Hall, Courthouse, Memorial Hall, Health Dept., Jack Reardon Center, etc.
 - 17 Police and Fire locations
 - 64 Schools
 - 6 community centers: Argentine, Armourdale, Bethany, Beatrice Lee, Kensington, Kane (connecting)
 - 3 libraries: Main Library, West Wyandotte Library, Argentine Library (awaiting site inspection)
 - 5 Kansas City Kansas Housing Authority Locations

Unified Government / Google Fiber – Community Connections

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Where are we? We've got 102 locations that are currently receiving this Community Connection service. That leaves 28 remaining connections. There have been 18 sites identified for service installation, leaving an additional 10 sites that are really available. We're looking for potential candidate organizations for hookup. The types of connections we're talking about here, there are a number of these connections within UG facilities: City Hall, Courthouse, etc. Police and fire locations have connections here to Google Fiber. There are 64 schools across the community that have connections, 6 community centers, 3 libraries, and 5 Kansas City Kansas Housing Authority locations.

CONNECTIONS MAP



Unified Government / Google Fiber – Community Connections

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Just to give you a quick visual of kind of where those locations are, we put it onto a map for you. The green ones are the ones that are currently in service, where there is that service available. The light blues are where you've got connections that are in various progresses. We expect that they will be connected up here shortly. The yellow ones are ones where there was service identified as potential locations but because they didn't meet those stipulations about being in a Fiberhood, etc., those locations were denied.

Chairman Walker asked is the colored shading behind the dots indicative of where Google is. **Mr. Howze** said you're exactly right. The green shading behind it shows you where Google has service today.

Chairman Walker said I'm going to divert you at the end with—the biggest complaint I get is from those people who are without Google service, not from school districts or libraries or other public facilities that are awaiting their Google connection. In fact, this very afternoon, although I was apparently not aware that this was going to be a revision, I got a call and a lament that out west, this particular person lives in another commissioner's district, that they were never going to get high speed internet. I want to go back to that at the end but proceed with your presentation.

I guess the whole question I have is are they basically in compliance with the agreement or are they not. **Mr. Howze** said I didn't come prepared to answer that particular question. In terms of focusing on the Community Connections portion of it, that's what we came here this evening to discuss and give you an update on it so the broader question—**Chairman Walker** asked why isn't community connections portion. **Brett Deichler, 311 Director**, said I would say they are at this point in time, Commissioner.

Chairman Walker asked what are we here for then. What is this entire meeting presentation if we're not here to know what's going on with compliance with the agreement? Did anybody from Google show up tonight? **Mr. Howze** said what we want to do is give you an update in terms of where these locations are, what's remaining for available locations, and kind of walk you through what we're doing to try and identify those additional remaining locations, and to seek Commission input on potential locations that we might want to identify for Community

Connections as we're passed the halfway point on the ten years of free service. I want to ensure that the full community benefit is realized. **Chairman Walker** said okay.

Commissioners Townsend and Murguia, did you hear all that? **Commissioner Murguia and Commissioner Townsend** said yes. **Chairman Walker** said okay, I hope you have some additional places you want this to go.

Commissioner Murguia said Commissioner Walker, I'm unaware of any place within my district that doesn't have access to Google Fiber but I like you, I just want to add to the record—I, like you, get a number of calls from outside my district, kind of in the midtown area. Unfortunately, I'm on the phone so I can't see the map, but I would tell you I get a lot of calls and complaints about people in the midtown area that are in compliance and still not able to access Google Fiber. I just want to say it's concerning, I think.

Commissioner McKiernan said I was really surprised back at the end of August to read, let's see this is from motherboard or whatever. The headline is "Kansas City Was First to Embrace Google Fiber, Now It's Broadband Future Is 'TBD'." Subheading "the dream of a fully-connected gig city may never come to be. I'd be curious if you've seen this article and if you have any reaction to it because it says, five years after hooking up its first Kansas City, KS customers, expansion of Google Fiber, the tech giants foray into internet service provision offering gigabit per second download and upload speeds has come to a screeching halt. Has it in fact?

They go on to say, "thousands of customers who had preregistered for guaranteed service when Fiber made it to their neighborhood were given their money back earlier this year, and told they may never get hooked up." I was actually pretty concerned when I read that. I was curious if you read that and if there's any substance to what this article says. If there is what options do we have for finishing the coverage of the city. **Mr. Howze** said we are tracking the evolution of Google Fiber as a business. Certainly, it's an area of interest for the community. I think if you go—there are a number of those sort of articles. They've gotten new leadership. Google, Alphabet has gotten new leadership. There's new leadership in Google Fiber. They've had several turnovers in their top ranks. They are a company and an organization in transition, and I

think there is a question mark as they've pulled back in other jurisdictions where they initially said they were going to come as to whether in fact they are going to follow-through on that.

I think there is an open set of questions around kind of what this means, and again, that wasn't exactly why we came here this evening so we'd be happy to tee up that conversation around the broader question/issue of connectivity that certainly ties in with the work that Joe and I and others have been working on which is a broader fiber plan for the community given the importance of connectivity for residents in whether that's connecting to educational opportunities, jobs or the importance to businesses as they're seeking to locate, grow or expand. Those all now require as centrally a utility level function of connectivity. That is all part of the mix you know whether we can't and don't control the decisions of—there's Google, Spectrum or AT&T on where and how they're going to expand their networks. That is one of the challenges I think, as a community is that we don't.

Commissioner McKiernan said so relevant to this particular presentation, the slid before said there were 102 community connections currently in service. There's 28 remaining Community Connections available. We've identified 18, 10 more. Has Google committed to hooking up those 28 remaining community connection sites? **Mr. Deichler** said they have. **Commissioner McKiernan** said okay.

Chairman Walker said I really don't—as chairman, I'm going to recommend—I appreciate what you've done here, but I don't need to have this kind of information presented to me in a meeting. I can read it. You could have written me a memo and it would have been just as sufficient. What I need to have is a presentation on what is Google's purpose in the future and where are we going with it. I'm getting, well, I won't say battered because that sounds like there's a deluge, but there's hardly—certainly over the time that they've been around, that has been one of the issues.

It's also one of the issues with Spectrum and Time Warner. They want to come in here and cherry-pick business where there's a lot of houses and a lot of commercial and take advantage of our right-of-ways and our infrastructure. At the end of the day, those people that live in western Wyandotte County in a more rural area where the houses are spread farther apart, because they don't see the cost benefit analysis working in their favor, those people are just left

out. They're left with satellite, I guess, or Dish. No system is perfect. I know people that have those methods and they have complaints.

I have to tell you, when it comes to Google, I'm glad they're doing so well with their Community Connections and you know they're going to complete their obligation. Is there anything else that really needs to be said about that? **Mr. Deichler** said, Commissioner, I actually agree with everything you're saying. I think the communities at large, talking across even the United States, have an issue. It's the digital divide. I think when you take an organization like Google, they need to examine what that—that's a two-sided coin. I mean you have fiber to the home is one of the questions that everybody asked what is that. Well that's an individual paying for that subscription.

On the backside of that, the digital inclusion or the digital divide still sits out there in the community which is part of what the Community Connections were derived for, meaning that when you try to pull in the community centers as an example, or the KCK Housing Authority sites like we're doing right now to bring in an open Wi-Fi spectrum into that community for usage amongst the people that live in those areas. Rather than go to the home, you have to answer the question, what is Google doing to bridge the digital divide, not necessarily trying to sell us a package that is fiber to the home so we, as individuals, pay that.

As an organization here, I think we need to answer that and that's a difficult question. They are in compliance with what they're trying to do. We, as an agency, need to direct these into the best areas of concentration. I think we've done a pretty good job of that so far. We're here to look on a very short timeline at the last ten to try to see if that makes sense to ask some questions about that. I'm certainly open to sit down with anyone on the Commission, our staff, etc. and discuss the next best steps to close that divide.

Mr. Howze said just to add too, the introduction of competition into this marketplace has had significant impacts, positive impacts for connectivity and sort of competition in the marketplace. In other places where you don't have, in this case three or four different providers competing to fiber to the home that you end up in much more of a monopoly situation of lower speeds and higher costs. That's kind of like sort of a net to net analysis of where we've been; what are the benefits. As you said, there's a lot more to go in terms of both finishing the job of bringing connectivity to people as well as in this case, completing those community connections.

I mentioned through the utility model, and that is, I think, becoming the way to look at it. You think about electrification in rural electrification sort of followed a similar trajectory. Right? You go where the most concentration is first and then it worked its way out into it and actually found a different model for getting to those last mile homes in those rural areas. There may be, in fact, something as we think about, what are the overall ways to achieve that connectivity for the community. That's one of the things we look at.

We wanted to look at just briefly here, was as these sites are connected up, in this case the five sites to the Kansas City, Kansas Housing Authority, that is bringing a gigabit of internet service to the public spaces in those housing authority locations that have not had it before. So, residents whether they have it in their units or not now have access through the common areas to things like—you know, that they haven't had before to the internet connectivity. That's what we're trying to do finishing out the Community Connections is identify those priority areas we can bring the most benefit to the most number of people.

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AJ Hembree	Swope Health	Office # / Email	(816) 599-5769	ahembree@swopehealth.org			
Joe Fives	KCK USD #500	Office # / Email	(913) 279-2286	joe.fives@kckps.org			
Hudson Endicott	Quindaro Clinic	Office # / Email	(913) 722-3100	hudsonendicott@swbfhcs.org			
REMOVED FROM GOOGLE CONECTION REQUEST LIST (JULY 2017)							
Police South Patrol Division	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	2100 Metropolitan Ave.	Kansas City	KS	66106	Brett A. Deichler	
LOCATIONS DEEMED UNBUILDABLE PER GOOGLE							
BPU Service Center	Board of Public Utilities	R	6742 Riverview Ave.	Kansas City	KS	66102	
BPU Muncie Plant	Board of Public Utilities	R	380 S. Baltimore	Kansas City	KS	66102	
BPU Nearman Water Plant	Board of Public Utilities	R	4301 Brenner Road	Kansas City	KS	66104	
UG Court Services Building	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	711 Armstrong Ave	Kansas City	KS	66101	
Sewage Treatment Plant #20	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	2443 S 88th St	Kansas City	KS	66111	
Fire Station #3	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	420 Kansas Ave	Kansas City	KS	66105	
Fire Station #6	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	9548 State Ave	Kansas City	KS	66111	
Fire Station #10	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	2210 W 36th Ave	Kansas City	KS	66103	
Fire Station #15	Unified Government of WYCO/KCKS	R	444 Kindelberger Rd	Kansas City	KS	66115	
Hilton Garden Inn	Private Ownership (Asset Sold)	R	520 Minnesota Ave.	Kansas City	KS	66101	
Kansas University School of Medicine	Private	R	3901 Rainbow Blvd	Kansas City	KS	66103	
Maranatha Academy	Private	R	2737 S 42nd St	Kansas City	KS	66106	
St. Patrick's Elementary	Private	R	1066 N 94th St	Kansas City	KS	66112	
Turner Early Learning Center	KCKS Public Schools - USD #202	R	6425 Riverview Ave	Kansas City	KS	66102	

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Commissioner Walters said I'm looking at your page called locations deemed unbuildable by Google and I see a couple of things that caught my attention. One, is the BPU service center at 6742 Riverview Avenue and the other were several fire stations. Is that going to compromise our communication ability with any of those facilities or is this not an issue? **Mr. Deichler** said it will not compromise. They are required to have a full-time service with the guaranteed uptime behind those that we still pay for.

These are in no build zones. They are basically out of the Fiberhood. **Commissioner Walters** said well, they have deemed them unbuildable that's why they are in no build zones. I mean surely, they could get fiber to them if they wanted to. I just want to make sure that it's not compromising our ability to use our best communication efforts if we have a handful of fire stations that are not served by Google Fiber whereas all the rest of them are. **Mr. Deichler** said no, and Google Fiber is for the high-speed internet portion that's used for public emergency services. That's why those locations still will utilize as all of them in our community, that backup which they're using now which is Spectrum, I believe. **Chairman Walker** said thank you, gentlemen. We appreciate the information.

Mr. Criswell, I would think you would take back to Mr. Bach the interest of this committee in a more comprehensive, well, not that this wasn't—we'd like to hear more about Google in the future in Wyandotte County, especially in those areas where there is no service or there doesn't appear like they are going to move to add any service. Now the timeframe is up to him. It'll be an issue whether I'm here or not, but I think we want to hear more about how do we get it to different places. **Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator**, said understood, got it.

Action: Information only.

Adjourn

Chairman Walker adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

tpl