



Healthy Campus

Plan Unveiled

Mark Holland, Mayor/CEO of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and Gould Evans Architects shared a proposed plan, to an audience of nearly 175 people Thursday night for a Healthy Campus project site that is the result of a six month implementation planning process. Gould Evans was hired out of funds granted to the Unified Government by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, LISC and the REACH Healthcare Foundation. The plan, being dubbed by Gould Evans the "Downtown Central Parkway," seeks to maximize the placement of three main components near the intersection of 10th Street and Minnesota Avenue: a grocery store, new community center and expanded green space.

"Minnesota Avenue is Downtown KCK's Main Street, and momentum has been building there," said Mayor Holland. "We believe that placing our economic engines - the grocery store and community center - on that thoroughfare will encourage future investment and development. Our main transit line also runs down Minnesota Avenue, making this site accessible to more people."

Other features of the plan include a permanent farmer's market pavilion, recreational fields, housing options, urban agriculture, sidewalks and recognition of culturally relevant and historical sites.





Downtown Healthy Campus

A major cornerstone of the design is a largely expanded green space that would connect Waterway Park and Big 11 Lake. The park would reset the stage in the west end of Downtown and repurpose the space for recreational, natural and connective use.

Gould Evans has solicited

feedback from hundreds of residents and community members throughout the implementation planning process, beginning with a public rollout event in May. One issue voiced often by residents was concern about the affordability of the Community Center that will be managed by the YMCA.

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~ Mayor Holland

In response, Mayor Holland announced the formation of an Access Team that will work on the details of the development agreement with the YMCA. The Access Team will be chaired by Assistant County Administrator Gordon Criswell.

The adoption of the Downtown Central Parkway Implementation Plan by the Unified Government will include a public hearing process for review by the Planning Commission on November 10, and Board of Commissioners on December 4. The public is encouraged to participate in the creation and adoption of the plan by attending those hearings. The Powerpoint and video presentation from tonight's event will be available on the Mayor's page (wycokck.org/mayor) of the UG website tomorrow. A draft of the Implementation Plan will be available for review on October 28, 2014 at <http://www.wycokck.org/Dept.aspx?id=40218>