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Ward 9 meeting

Documenter name: Wittman Sullivan

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Summary

- [Akron Parks Collaborative](#) laid out the first steps on what will happen at [Prentiss Park](#) after it won a \$150,000 grant in the Akron Parks Challenge. They said they will use volunteers to observe people currently using the park and that they are also looking for feedback from a community survey.
- An Akron police officer said residents should lock their guns and lock their cars to prevent gun theft. He also said Kenmore is a “fairly safe” neighborhood that has a high call volume for mostly nonviolent calls.
- Council Member Tina Boyes presented an Akron City Council proclamation recognizing John Buntin for his work with the [Kenmore Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Kenmore Connections](#), a community newspaper. She said Kenmore High School students started the Kenmore Connection newspaper to highlight positive news about Kenmore.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why are call volumes in Kenmore so high compared to other neighborhoods?
- How much money from the Akron Parks Challenge is spent just on planning and community engagement compared to construction?

Notes

- Ward 9 Council Member Tina Boyes started the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Word Church update

- The [Akron Baptist Temple](#) demolition is complete and the land is being leveled according to Boyes. She said the city is pricing fencing that will be installed to prevent dumping. A community member said they saw fencing being put up. Boyes said [The Word Church](#) still owns the property and is looking to build mixed-use housing and retail on the site. This would include residential and commercial mixed-use buildings on Manchester Road and single-family residential on the rest of the property. She said there are issues with the soil in the back of the lot, which might prevent development.
- [Prime AE](#) will design the new [Miller South](#) and [Pfeiffer School](#) at the former Kenmore High School site, Boyes said.
 - The next step is for Prime AE to draft [building plans](#) and for APS to hire a construction manager. Boyes said the current Kenmore High School building will not be demolished until a construction manager is hired.
 - A community member asked if there is a cost comparison between building a new structure and revamping the current 40-year-old school. Boyes said maintenance of the current building would cost much more than constructing a new one.
 - Akron Public Schools (APS) [Superintendent Michael Robinson](#) is excited about the project and will talk about it at the next Ward 9 meeting.
 - Boyd wants the building to face Kenmore Boulevard and 15th Street so it can be a “gateway” to Kenmore.

Other updates from Boyes:

- The last [First Friday](#) is Sept. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. between 13th and 16th streets on Kenmore Boulevard. A community member said the kid zone is “really full” and that there will be free ice cream from Huntington Bank.
- Castle Homes community works hard at the former [Guinther school site](#) to improve the park. She said it is not an official city park, so it is hard to get funding.
- Boyd met with [the Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition](#) to discuss the cleanup and beautification of the canal, including removing [green algae](#).

- Boyes wants a food truck event at the former [Young's Hotel](#) site
- The [Allenside Community Group](#) will meet on Sept. 19 to discuss local services and policing. An Allenside community member said the meeting is still not confirmed.
- County Council Member [Bethany McKenney](#) will have Kenmore office hours on Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to noon at the [Kenmore Community Center](#). She said she will also host office hours at the Franklin Farmers Market and the [Clinton Apple Festival](#). She said the [Summit County Community Development Office](#) will be at the Kenmore Library to discuss flood damage relief.
- An \$8 million grant for home weatherization, supported by Summit County, [Direction Home](#) and [Unite](#) will help residents weatherize their homes and keep seniors in their homes by replacing items such as roofs, showers, refrigerators, and furnaces, McKenny said.
- Residents must use [311](#) to report infrastructure issues, including street light outages. She said residents must submit a nearby address or a pole number
- A community member asked when the streetlights on Manchester Bypass will be fixed. Boyes said a broken lamp or filament should only take a few days but other repairs might take a few weeks. A community member said the streetlight wires were taken by scrappers.

Prentiss Park update

- Boyes said [Innes CLC](#) students [nominated Prentiss Park](#) to get a \$150,000 grant, which it received. Now they need to figure out what to do with the funding.
- [Akron Parks Collaborative](#) said the organization gives \$150,000 grants through an [annual competition called the Akron Parks Challenge](#) for Akron's city parks. She said this year, Prentiss Park and Sherbondy Hill Park both won. A staff member with the collaborative said they are looking for community feedback from an online survey and from a Kenmore resident committee.
- There will be volunteer observation shifts on Sept. 27 and 28 to see how people currently interact with Prentiss Park.

- A community member asked what would happen to the recently installed playground. The staff member said the playground will likely stay there and either be expanded or an additional playspace will be built for middle school-aged kids after feedback from Innes CLC students.
- [Garfield CLC](#) plays home baseball games at Prentiss Park and that the terrible condition of the baseball field was a driver for improvements.
- Boyes said residents can hang posters and volunteer instead of attending a bunch of “boring” meetings. She walked residents through the community feedback survey and said she would leave a volunteer sign-up sheet at the door

Safety update

- The Akron Police Department is educating the public about how to prevent gun theft and how to responsibly own and store weapons in homes and cars to prevent abuse and robbery, Boyes said.
- An APD officer said APD is giving out free trigger and cable gun locks for people to use in homes and cars. He said there were six guns stolen out of cars one night last week.
- A community member asked if people are ticketed for unsafe gun storage. The officer said there is no policy that addresses that.
- Boyes said Kenmore does not have a lot of violent crime. The officer said the top 10 calls for service in Kenmore include theft, domestic incidents, criminal mischief, stalking, overdoses, breaking and entering, telecommunications harassment, fights, and suspicious persons. He said these calls don’t pose a community threat, and Kenmore is “fairly safe.”
- The officer said there is less than 1 minute between calls for police in Kenmore due to high call volumes
- A community member asked for an update on the [June 2 mass shooting](#) in East Akron. The officer said the investigation is ongoing, but there isn’t enough cooperation with the police.

Resident recognition

- Boyes said John Buntin has worked with the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce and [Kenmore Komics and Games](#), which has supported the neighborhood. She said he

has continued the [Kenmore Connection Newspaper](#) after Kenmore High School students started it to highlight positive community news. Boyes presented an Akron City Council proclamation recognizing him for publishing the 100th edition of the Kenmore Connection.

Next meeting

- Boyes said the next meeting will be Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kenmore Community Center, and they will have a presentation from Akron Public Schools about the new Miller South and Pfeiffer buildings.
- The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Notes to reader: Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at documenters@signalakron.org with "Correction Request" in the subject line.