

## Neighborhood meeting updates

May 29, 2020

06:00 – 06:49 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://kansas.zoom.us/j/95393688628>

Meeting ID: 953 9368 8628

Password: 494900

### Attendee List:

Two attend from 1274 E Sheridan Bridge Ln Olathe KS 66060 and one additional silent attendee on the phone.

### Summary:

- Opened with small talk and casual conversation.
- Presented the attached PowerPoint.
- Explained meeting orders.
- We apologize about for people who have received duplicated mails.
- We have two return mails from address 1259 and 1299 Sheridan Bridge Ln.
- Otherwise we assumed that everyone should have received the regular mail by now.
- One of our close neighbors from address 1285 will not be attending this meeting. They support our idea to move forward with backyard hens. They drive 30 miles every week to get fresh eggs.
- We don't assume that everyone will be supportive of this application, but we are open to discuss and attempt to answer any question you may have.
- If we can't answer your question today. We can do some research and get back to you in the follow-up meeting or you can call us or come and talk to use.
- We informed them that the meeting notes and attendee list will be forwarded to the City Planning Commission.
- We talked about two backyard chicken owners in our area.

Lists of questions/concerns from **1274** and our attempt to answer their questions/concerns:

#### **1- Noise pollution**

Question/concern – Chickens are too loud.

Response - Roosters are noisy and are not allowed in Olathe. Hens sleep once it is dark, and the Santa Fe Freight Train and vehicles have much more noise at night than hens.

#### **2 - Smell**

Question/concern – Chickens Smell.

Response - We have been composting our kitchen wastes in our compost tumbler for the last two and half years, and we have been very successful using - Dirt, Glass clippings, and Dry leaves to damp the moisture and reduce unwanted smell. We've been using the compost in our garden and we don't have any bad smell. For the coop, We can apply Sweet PDZ or some other type of absorbent material to keep the ammonia levels low and change the bedding frequently. Sweet PDZ naturally occurring minerals created from the earth's volcanic activity. This product captures, neutralizes, and eliminates harmful levels of ammonia and odors.

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### **3 - Rodents**

Question/concern - Are you going to have free range chickens? Seeds on your backyard can attract animals.

Response – We don't intend to leave them out of the chicken run all day long. We work full time and we only let them out when we are home. (Weekends and evenings). Where there is free meal, rodents will come. Chipmunks, Squirrels, mice and rats. We will keep our feed stored in rodent proof bins. Plastic or metal. If it is necessary, we have live animal trap we can use. Capture and release per city requirements.

### **4 - Property value**

Question/concern – Is it going to lower our property value?

Question/concern - We live in a suburb b/n rural area and urban areas. Having backyard chicken is becoming a trend. Many people see added value to the property. Just like any prosperity owner, maintenance and up keeping is very import. I spend most of my time outdoors and this is my hobby. I had chickens in the past. I enjoy work around my house and maintaining my prosperity.

### **5 - Predators**

Question/concern - We have small dogs and we are afraid that some wild animal might take our dogs.

Response - Some people fear that having chickens will attract predators. They are already in our backyard! We have videos clip of a fox in our backyard, and I have seen raccoons, possums, a stray cats. Since you have double fence including a privacy fence. You are much more protected.

### **6 - Disease**

Question/concern – What if they get sick like chicken flu.

Response - You have to be engaged to your chicken. If we see a change in behavior just like any animal we will contract animal vets or do our own research online. CDC or USCA recommendations.

Chickens can be carriers of salmonella, listeria, and campylobacter, but you could get those diseases from improperly stored/cooked food. So, the simple act of keeping chickens is not going to cause an epidemic.

One of my child's daycare here in Olathe had chickens in their classroom for educational purposes this last fall. They started with egg in an incubation, chicks to fully grown chicken. The chickens had names, runaround in the backyard with the kids. It was a delightful experience for everyone. Well cared for chickens will be fine.

When I was a young boy, I grow up around family pets and farm animals. I had my own chickens and built different chicken coops. I enjoyed – collect fresh eggs, watching hens take care their baby chicks, sad moments when a falcon snitches younger chickens. Having chickens in a backyard was full of adventures and fun. I intend to share similar experience with my kids. My grandfather was a farmer. The idea of having fresh, healthy eggs from your backyard along with fresh vegetables is very rewarding experience. I believe it adds value and supports the overall ecosystem and improve health and overall wellbeing.

Ended with you are more important to us than chickens and we will do our best to accommodate your concerns. Since you are with in the 200 FT from our property, you will receive a certified mail sometimes next week with return receipts request for the Public hearing with City Planning Commission.