

Explanation of Criteria Sod Buster Category

Nominee: Lawrence Andre

City of Mission Planning Commissioner and Community Activist.

Support of Planning:

As a member of the City Planning Commission Lawrence is tireless in his commitment to projects that promote the public good. His estimated contribution of time on a weekly basis is over 10 hours/week. In addition to his work as a planning commissioner, he has been an invaluable member of many ad-hoc committees and special projects such as the West Gateway Way Form Based Code, Johnson Drive Taskforce and Rock Creek trail system. As part of these projects he has performed multiple tasks, such as:

West Gateway Form Based Code

- Raised Awareness and distributed flyers/posters to advertise meeting
- Served as Co-Chair of Citizens' committee to draft Form Based Code of West Gateway
- Served on subcommittees to thoroughly review proposed Code

Johnson Drive Taskforce

- Assisted and facilitated taskforce meetings to reach consensus on issues
- Attended and helped "staff" open houses regarding proposed improvements and educated public regarding issues

Rock Creek Trail

- Identified trail corridor locations for future construction
- Encouraged adoption of trail corridors into City's Comprehensive Plan (Trails are under construction now)

Other Activities

- Lawrence is continually invited to be a speaker at volunteer events, neighborhood meetings, etc. This has been instrumental in helping City Staff educate the community about the importance of various planning initiatives.
- Lawrence was a speaker at the 2006 American Planning Association National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. He was a panelist for the "Kansas City - First Suburbs Coalition" presentation, and provided his insight on the value of the initiatives of this coalition.

Perhaps his best qualities are his ability to see the big picture and long reaching impacts of decisions, his ability to draw connections between citywide projects and the larger community of northeast Johnson County and to encourage participation by stakeholders at all levels.

As a thorough and dedicated individual, Lawrence helps his community to create a vision and implement policies and allocate resources to achieve it.

Effectiveness and Results:

Lawrence has been very effective in formulating and implementing plans and ideas in support of good planning in the City of Mission. As a leader in the community, his participation sets an example, his achieved knowledge regarding planning issues through community and region/county provide credible information, and he acts as an effective conduit for information on planning issues to the community.

Rock Creek Trail Project

- Lawrence was the lead presenter to a panel of the local Metropolitan Planning Organization, MARC, in support of Mission's application for federal matching grants for the Rock Creek Trail Project. Mission was selected as a recipient of Transportation Enhancement and CMAQ funds thanks in part to his involvement in the process.
- Additionally, Lawrence assisted with the presentation to the County Park and Recreation Commission in order to designate Rock Creek as part of the Streamway Park System. Once the Commission approved this request, the Rock Creek trail project became eligible for county funding for the new trail.
- In support of the application for Streamway Park designation, Lawrence previously met with the district Park and Recreation Commissioner and thoroughly explained the project. This was important in achieving the support needed for Commission approval.

Lawrence's level of influence and effectiveness within different segments of the community as a volunteer member of the City of Mission Planning Commission is impressive. Because of his dedication to seek knowledge and learn new things, his credibility with the community is exceptional. As a member of the recommending body for various current and long term planning decisions, the City Council asks for and values his opinion. City Staff frequently relies on Lawrence for assistance on projects such as revisions to the zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan amendments and as a competent liaison to stakeholder groups. Lawrence is clearly recognized by his peers within the community as a knowledgeable source on city policies and programs.