



Webinar

ULI Kansas City: Equity in Parks

Date: July 23, 2020

00:01:59 --> 00:02:02: Good afternoon everybody and welcome back.
00:02:02 --> 00:02:06: It's been a few weeks since we've had a chance
00:02:06 --> 00:02:07: to be together.
00:02:07 --> 00:02:12: Welcome to another episode of Uli District Conversations.
00:02:12 --> 00:02:16: The Affordable City Series and this week we're talking about
00:02:16 --> 00:02:17: equity in parks.
00:02:17 --> 00:02:20: We're excited about this week's program for a whole host
00:02:20 --> 00:02:21: of reasons.
00:02:21 --> 00:02:23: The first one is the topic itself.
00:02:23 --> 00:02:26: You know, the essential role our parks have in the
00:02:26 --> 00:02:26: physical,
00:02:26 --> 00:02:30: environmental, and economic health of people in our
communities is
00:02:30 --> 00:02:31: undeniable.
00:02:31 --> 00:02:34: And we have an incredible system of parks and boulevards
00:02:34 --> 00:02:35: in Kansas City.
00:02:35 --> 00:02:38: The key question that we're asking is how can,
00:02:38 --> 00:02:41: how can we create an equitable parks system that
00:02:41 --> 00:02:44: works for the benefit of all residents,
00:02:44 --> 00:02:46: not just the privileged few.
00:02:46 --> 00:02:49: The second reason is the report that will be discussing
00:02:49 --> 00:02:52: today was just released hot off the presses by ULI
00:02:52 --> 00:02:55: as part of their advisory services program.
00:02:55 --> 00:02:57: So we have an All Star lineup to share not
00:02:57 --> 00:03:01: only the process but also the key findings and
recommendations
00:03:01 --> 00:03:02: in that report.
00:03:02 --> 00:03:03: And As for that panel,
00:03:03 --> 00:03:06: it's always great to have national experts,
00:03:06 --> 00:03:08: so we have a host of people on our panel
00:03:08 --> 00:03:11: this week that are respected in their fields on a
00:03:11 --> 00:03:14: national level to lend their talents and perspectives to help

00:03:14 --> 00:03:16: make Kansas City a better place.

00:03:16 --> 00:03:20: So I'm really looking forward to hearing from them today.

00:03:20 --> 00:03:23: OK, a few quick housekeeping items first,

00:03:23 --> 00:03:26: thank you to all of our ULI sponsors for making

00:03:26 --> 00:03:28: this possible.

00:03:28 --> 00:03:31: From a procedural perspective, remember chat is disabled,

00:03:31 --> 00:03:32: but the Q&A is open,

00:03:32 --> 00:03:33: so if you use the Q and a tab,

00:03:33 --> 00:03:36: that Q&A function in your zoom application or a new

00:03:36 --> 00:03:38: browser as we go through this process,

00:03:38 --> 00:03:40: please put your questions in there,

00:03:40 --> 00:03:43: because we're going to get to them at the second

00:03:43 --> 00:03:44: half of this panel today.

00:03:44 --> 00:03:46: Also remember if you don't have a question,

00:03:46 --> 00:03:49: keep your eye on those questions because you have the

00:03:49 --> 00:03:52: ability to crowd vote them up and so the questions

00:03:52 --> 00:03:54: that you would most want to see answer.

00:03:54 --> 00:03:56: Please get them up to the top of the list

00:03:56 --> 00:03:57: and we hit.

00:03:57 --> 00:03:59: Q&A will have the ability to get to.

00:03:59 --> 00:04:02: The most important questions based on what you,

00:04:02 --> 00:04:04: the the audience wants to hear from today,

00:04:04 --> 00:04:07: so don't forget that Q&A function in that crowd voting

00:04:07 --> 00:04:08: function.

00:04:08 --> 00:04:10: So a quick reminder, since it's been a few weeks

00:04:10 --> 00:04:13: since we've been together on how this works,

00:04:13 --> 00:04:16: we basically have kind of three sections to this program.

00:04:16 --> 00:04:19: The first one is we introduced the conversation with future

00:04:19 --> 00:04:19: guests,

00:04:19 --> 00:04:23: then will will expand the conversation with some additional

00:04:23 --> 00:04:25: perspectives

00:04:25 --> 00:04:28: and we'll bring our panel on,

00:04:28 --> 00:04:29: and then we have the opportunity to open the conversation

00:04:29 --> 00:04:32: to the crowd.

00:04:29 --> 00:04:32: Through that QA function and so those are the three

00:04:32 --> 00:04:32: elements.

00:04:32 --> 00:04:35: Overall, we do have kind of a four week roll.

00:04:35 --> 00:04:37: We're going to take a week off next week,

00:04:37 --> 00:04:40: but this week is really for us to introduce the

00:04:40 --> 00:04:40: problem,

00:04:40 --> 00:04:43: introduced the topic and this is this equity in parks

00:04:43 --> 00:04:45: report that was just released.

00:04:45 --> 00:04:47: So we're really going to dive into that.

00:04:47 --> 00:04:49: And then at the end of the show,

00:04:49 --> 00:04:51: I'll tell you what we're going to talk about in

00:04:51 --> 00:04:52: a couple of weeks,

00:04:52 --> 00:04:53: so let's get to it.

00:04:53 --> 00:04:56: This week, I'm joined in the conversation by Terry Renard.

00:04:56 --> 00:05:00: Terry is the director of the Kansas City Parks Department.

00:05:00 --> 00:05:03: And Terry has I can do with the parks for

00:05:03 --> 00:05:03: a long time.

00:05:03 --> 00:05:05: I don't want to overstate it.

00:05:05 --> 00:05:08: I think it's 30 plus years that you've been actually

00:05:08 --> 00:05:10: with the Parks Department,

00:05:10 --> 00:05:14: but you actually became the director for Kansas City Parks

00:05:14 --> 00:05:15: in January of 2019.

00:05:15 --> 00:05:18: I believe that's correct.

00:05:18 --> 00:05:21: So thank you very much for joining us here and

00:05:21 --> 00:05:21: Terry,

00:05:21 --> 00:05:25: I thought we can maybe start off the conversation this

00:05:25 --> 00:05:27: week with maybe a quick rundown of how this came

00:05:28 --> 00:05:28: about.

00:05:28 --> 00:05:30: So what was the catalyst for you know,

00:05:30 --> 00:05:35: this issue coming up and for getting this project started.

00:05:35 --> 00:05:39: Thank you and thank you all for joining us today.

00:05:39 --> 00:05:43: Really, in 2015 we started looking at our mission statement

00:05:44 --> 00:05:47: and how well it was aligned with some of the

00:05:47 --> 00:05:51: good advice we were getting at the national level and

00:05:51 --> 00:05:54: and we adjusted it and went with the three Pillars

00:05:54 --> 00:05:56: of conservation,

00:05:56 --> 00:05:59: social equity and health and Wellness.

00:05:59 --> 00:06:04: And then we started building our business plan around that

00:06:04 --> 00:06:04: Ann,

00:06:04 --> 00:06:07: looking deeply into how do we,

00:06:07 --> 00:06:09: our Department, 128 years old.

00:06:09 --> 00:06:11: So how do we take the rich,

00:06:11 --> 00:06:15: rich history and tradition that we have?

00:06:15 --> 00:06:20: And. Kind of adjusted to not only current times,

00:06:20 --> 00:06:24: but also future. So that was the beginning and then

00:06:24 --> 00:06:28: we had the opportunity to sign up for the 10

00:06:28 --> 00:06:33: minute walk campaign and proximity wise we looked pretty

00:06:33 --> 00:06:38: good.

00:06:33 --> 00:06:38: But when we started diving deeper and looking at the

00:06:38 --> 00:06:43: quality of those experiences in the quality of those parks,

00:06:43 --> 00:06:47: we notice that when we compared parks to each other

00:06:47 --> 00:06:51: that we have some equity concerns and and most of

00:06:51 --> 00:06:52: our parks.

00:06:52 --> 00:06:55: That are older armor in the urban core,

00:06:55 --> 00:07:00: and of course, deferred maintenance is never attractive.

00:07:00 --> 00:07:03: An always kind of takes a backseat.

00:07:03 --> 00:07:06: So what we were finding is we had this kind

00:07:06 --> 00:07:10: of tug and pull between a desire to make new

00:07:10 --> 00:07:12: things and build new things.

00:07:12 --> 00:07:16: An improved new areas of the city.

00:07:16 --> 00:07:20: Versus deferred maintenance, and some of that in the older

00:07:20 --> 00:07:21: part of our city.

00:07:21 --> 00:07:25: So we started looking around and found found that equity

00:07:25 --> 00:07:28: might be our best way to to do the things

00:07:28 --> 00:07:30: we were wanting to do,

00:07:30 --> 00:07:33: and so trying to put an equity lens on and

00:07:33 --> 00:07:34: and here we are.

00:07:34 --> 00:07:37: So 10 minute walk you referenced that?

00:07:37 --> 00:07:40: Tell me a little bit about you know what is

00:07:40 --> 00:07:43: the 10 minute walk program and an how did that

00:07:43 --> 00:07:46: fit into what you're trying to do here?

00:07:46 --> 00:07:48: I'm sure the idea is that.

00:07:48 --> 00:07:51: Everyone should have a high quality park within a 10

00:07:51 --> 00:07:55: minute walk of their house and that takes into consideration

00:07:55 --> 00:07:58: like if you had to pass over a really busy

00:07:58 --> 00:08:01: road and you know sometimes it's so.

00:08:01 --> 00:08:04: It's not just. Yeah, we used to look at radius

00:08:04 --> 00:08:07: and we would say if there's a block within,

00:08:07 --> 00:08:10: if there's a park within a one mile radius and

00:08:10 --> 00:08:12: then there were some barriers.

00:08:12 --> 00:08:15: Whether that was a major roadway or some sort of

00:08:15 --> 00:08:19: physical barrier fence or something that couldn't be.

00:08:19 --> 00:08:23: Could be gotten too, so then it went to 10

00:08:23 --> 00:08:27: minute walk and that took into account.

00:08:27 --> 00:08:31: Does does. Radiuses and then we added the Peace Ann

00:08:31 --> 00:08:35: and the 10 minute Walk campaign which is in RPA

00:08:35 --> 00:08:39: or national Parks and Recreation Association.

00:08:39 --> 00:08:42: The Trust for Public land ULI.

00:08:42 --> 00:08:46: An 200 plus mayors around the city started looking at

00:08:46 --> 00:08:48: the quality of those parks,

00:08:48 --> 00:08:50: and that's where we started noticing.

00:08:50 --> 00:08:53: Although our coverage was good proximity wise,

00:08:53 --> 00:08:56: our equity was not as strong as we feel it should be.

00:08:56 --> 00:08:57: If we're going to live our mission statement,

00:08:57 --> 00:09:00: so ULI advisory services.

00:09:00 --> 00:09:02: How did you make the connection with you?

00:09:02 --> 00:09:05: Lie Advisory services and tell us a little bit about that process.

00:09:05 --> 00:09:08: How was that to engage and and how did this?

00:09:08 --> 00:09:09: How did this proceed from there?

00:09:09 --> 00:09:12: And we learned we learned of it and started getting involved in ULI over the 10 minute walk campaign and started seeing some really connecting of what we were trying to do and what you all.

00:09:12 --> 00:09:15: I was leading the way on through the national sector.

00:09:15 --> 00:09:21: And so we found an opportunity to ask apply for a grant.

00:09:21 --> 00:09:26: Um for services panel? Our Advisory service panel and the idea was sometimes.

00:09:26 --> 00:09:32: When you're looking at your own backyard,

00:09:32 --> 00:09:35: it looks one way an when you get professionals from across the country to look at it through their lens.

00:09:35 --> 00:09:40: It presents very differently.

00:09:40 --> 00:09:45: You know, we knew we were asking some tough questions and an asking the advisory Service panel for a lot.

00:09:45 --> 00:09:46: And they delivered an I would say to anyone.

00:09:46 --> 00:09:53: Don't ask questions if you're not prepared for the answers.

00:09:53 --> 00:09:55: We ask that the panel be brutally honest and and I believe we got a very good product because we were willing to do that.

00:09:55 --> 00:09:58: I know when we were talking about that before that idea of.

00:09:58 --> 00:10:02: Don't ask questions if you don't want the real answers right.

00:10:02 --> 00:10:06: It made me think of a quote that I've always heard about.

00:10:06 --> 00:10:08: Great leaders always have an understanding and respect for history and culture,

00:10:08 --> 00:10:10: but aren't afraid to write new chapters.

00:10:10 --> 00:10:14: So it feels like that's a little bit of what this could probably lead to is the opportunity to take those things into consideration through these this national

lens while

00:11:03 --> 00:11:05: you're moving forward with these recommendations.

00:11:05 --> 00:11:07: So what was the process like?

00:11:07 --> 00:11:10: So the panel you know?

00:11:10 --> 00:11:12: How did they get involved in the project?

00:11:12 --> 00:11:14: What was the process that they went through before they

00:11:14 --> 00:11:15: made these recommendations,

00:11:15 --> 00:11:18: and how did that work?

00:11:18 --> 00:11:22: Yeah, we we challenge them with some questions and some

00:11:22 --> 00:11:24: of those were focused on equity.

00:11:24 --> 00:11:27: Some of those were focused on partnerships,

00:11:27 --> 00:11:31: community engagement. Some of the things we knew and some

00:11:31 --> 00:11:33: things quite honestly,

00:11:33 --> 00:11:35: we just wanted to know more about.

00:11:35 --> 00:11:38: So they came to town and are really cold week

00:11:38 --> 00:11:39: in December.

00:11:39 --> 00:11:42: And that's not our prettiest time of year for our

00:11:42 --> 00:11:44: parks in Kansas City,

00:11:44 --> 00:11:46: but they they stuck it out.

00:11:46 --> 00:11:48: So they spend time we toured.

00:11:48 --> 00:11:51: We talked to professionals. We talked.

00:11:51 --> 00:11:53: To staff, we talked to the community,

00:11:53 --> 00:11:55: they did.

00:11:55 --> 00:11:58: Paul is going to have to create me.

00:11:58 --> 00:12:03: 80 Some interviews with individuals in the community and that

00:12:03 --> 00:12:06: was across a broad spectrum of professions.

00:12:06 --> 00:12:10: And then we had a couple open sessions.

00:12:10 --> 00:12:14: And then an opportunity to have kind of a.

00:12:14 --> 00:12:18: First look roll out at the end of the week

00:12:18 --> 00:12:23: and then all the work started and miraculously this big

00:12:23 --> 00:12:27: report came to us and has a lot of detail.

00:12:27 --> 00:12:30: But but to your point Kevin,

00:12:30 --> 00:12:36: it really is about. Balancing tradition with future direction,

00:12:36 --> 00:12:41: it's about balancing new and deferred maintenance and it's about

00:12:42 --> 00:12:46: doing so in a way that's equitable and not necessarily

00:12:46 --> 00:12:47: only equal.

00:12:47 --> 00:12:49: And that was a that's a.

00:12:49 --> 00:12:52: That's a new concept for us in the last few

00:12:52 --> 00:12:53: years.

00:12:53 --> 00:12:57: We've always done a really good job of making sure

00:12:58 --> 00:13:01: we spend exactly the same money and.

00:13:01 --> 00:13:04: Every every part of the city,

00:13:04 --> 00:13:10: every Council district, and that doesn't fit the need.

00:13:10 --> 00:13:16: An the squeaky wheel got us in some trouble.

00:13:16 --> 00:13:18: Because we've always been very responsive,

00:13:18 --> 00:13:20: so this is this is a new approach for us,

00:13:20 --> 00:13:22: but but one that we're very excited about.

00:13:22 --> 00:13:25: Well, thank you for sharing it with us and thank

00:13:25 --> 00:13:27: you for giving us the opportunity to do this so

00:13:27 --> 00:13:29: and for giving us that background.

00:13:29 --> 00:13:31: So let's bring the rest of the panel on and

00:13:31 --> 00:13:34: dive into some of the content in the report here.

00:13:34 --> 00:13:36: And don't forget for those of you online,

00:13:36 --> 00:13:38: please look at the Q&A function.

00:13:38 --> 00:13:39: If you've got a question,

00:13:39 --> 00:13:41: go ahead and get it in there when you think

00:13:41 --> 00:13:42: of it,

00:13:42 --> 00:13:44: especially as we start to go through some of the

00:13:44 --> 00:13:47: data conversation here with the panel and also don't forget

00:13:47 --> 00:13:48: to crowd vote up.

00:13:48 --> 00:13:51: You know with the little thumbs up option to vote

00:13:51 --> 00:13:54: up the ones that you really want to see come

00:13:54 --> 00:13:55: up to the top there.

00:13:55 --> 00:13:57: So excited to introduce this panel.

00:13:57 --> 00:14:00: Like I said, we've got a national panel of experts

00:14:00 --> 00:14:02: that we want to bring on,

00:14:02 --> 00:14:04: so I want to go ahead and bring them on

00:14:04 --> 00:14:04: now first,

00:14:04 --> 00:14:09: Carlton Brown, Carlton principle it direct investment

00:14:09 --> 00:14:09: development in New

00:14:09 --> 00:14:09: York City,

00:14:09 --> 00:14:12: specifically Brooklyn. Shout out to Brooklyn.

00:14:12 --> 00:14:14: So also want to bring an ash.

00:14:14 --> 00:14:17: Alison schapker. She's a senior director for the Fairmount

00:14:18 --> 00:14:19: Park

00:14:18 --> 00:14:19: Conservancy in Philadelphia.

00:14:19 --> 00:14:22: City of Brotherly love. And Emeka Moneme, the SDP and

00:14:23 --> 00:14:26: managing director for Mickey Group in Washington DC.

00:14:26 --> 00:14:28: So we've got a great national group here.

00:14:28 --> 00:14:30: Thank you all for joining us.

00:14:30 --> 00:14:32: I really appreciate it. Carlton,

00:14:32 --> 00:14:33: I want to start with you.

00:14:33 --> 00:14:36: You have a couple of quotes in the press release
00:14:36 --> 00:14:39: that really kind of struck me when we were going
00:14:39 --> 00:14:40: through this.
00:14:40 --> 00:14:43: So the first one you have a quote in the
00:14:43 --> 00:14:46: press release that's cool as Kansas City in the entire
00:14:46 --> 00:14:50: country have been awakened to the challenges of structural
00:14:50 --> 00:14:53: racism.
00:14:50 --> 00:14:53: And how policies have created an essence two Americas,
00:14:53 --> 00:14:55: one black and one white.
00:14:55 --> 00:14:58: You well, I was already at work in Kansas City,
00:14:58 --> 00:15:00: so I guess my question is I we understand how
00:15:00 --> 00:15:03: a lot of the issues and we're listening to a
00:15:03 --> 00:15:06: lot of the conversation about structural,
00:15:06 --> 00:15:09: racial racism, systemic racism, why parks like what the public
00:15:09 --> 00:15:10: Commons like?
00:15:10 --> 00:15:13: Help me understand that the relationship here?
00:15:13 --> 00:15:16: Well, there are a couple of things to think about.
00:15:16 --> 00:15:19: You know, when we think about the public Commons,
00:15:19 --> 00:15:23: that's the public ground. Where when it's done well,
00:15:23 --> 00:15:26: is the intersection of people from various classes,
00:15:26 --> 00:15:30: various races, and it's a neutral ground where people can
00:15:30 --> 00:15:33: exchange ideas and come to understand each other,
00:15:33 --> 00:15:37: and that's what the public comments when it's working.
00:15:37 --> 00:15:39: Well, yes. Right in Kansas City,
00:15:39 --> 00:15:44: Public Commons was designed specifically to separate and
00:15:44 --> 00:15:48: isolate people,
00:15:44 --> 00:15:48: and so when you think about where the boulevards are
00:15:48 --> 00:15:48: plays,
00:15:48 --> 00:15:51: you know so that maybe you're isolated truth.
00:15:51 --> 00:15:54: So you isolated. Things below the River right?
00:15:54 --> 00:15:57: And the quality and the fabric changed North of the
00:15:57 --> 00:15:58: River and South,
00:15:58 --> 00:16:00: and then through those annexations.
00:16:00 --> 00:16:02: But from the very beginning,
00:16:02 --> 00:16:05: and then even right down to the way the Interstate
00:16:05 --> 00:16:06: system was designed.
00:16:06 --> 00:16:10: This separated people, and that was never the intent than
00:16:10 --> 00:16:13: any planner that wanted to do something that avoided race
00:16:14 --> 00:16:15: based planning would do.
00:16:15 --> 00:16:18: You would try to design the public comments,
00:16:18 --> 00:16:21: told people together, and so part of our challenge there
00:16:21 --> 00:16:23: was thinking about how can we?

00:16:23 --> 00:16:27: Re imagine the public comments in Kansas City,
00:16:27 --> 00:16:30: so it pulls people together right now.
00:16:30 --> 00:16:33: Trust me. Kansas City is not the only place in
00:16:33 --> 00:16:35: America that has that challenge,
00:16:35 --> 00:16:38: right? But I think that in Kansas City,
00:16:38 --> 00:16:42: because it's so historically is so historical.
00:16:42 --> 00:16:46: We connect it to other things that Nichols there in
00:16:47 --> 00:16:50: terms of restrictive racial covenants,
00:16:50 --> 00:16:52: right? So it is very core.
00:16:52 --> 00:16:57: Some of the fundamental thinking that has driven this.
00:16:57 --> 00:17:00: By Cardo America, right, you can trace it to some
00:17:00 --> 00:17:03: of the ideas from Kansas City so we can start
00:17:03 --> 00:17:05: to think about solving this in Kansas City.
00:17:05 --> 00:17:09: I think we can start to think about solving it
00:17:09 --> 00:17:09: all over.
00:17:09 --> 00:17:12: Thank you, um, so Allison.
00:17:12 --> 00:17:18: One of the things that was highlighted in the in
00:17:18 --> 00:17:19: the report was.
00:17:19 --> 00:17:22: This recommendation, you know there's a robot.
00:17:22 --> 00:17:25: I think it was quoted as there's a robust network
00:17:25 --> 00:17:28: of partners who appear to be able to provide programs
00:17:28 --> 00:17:30: and services as part of their core mission.
00:17:30 --> 00:17:32: This goes to the programming of these parks,
00:17:32 --> 00:17:34: but who are these groups like?
00:17:34 --> 00:17:37: Would give us some examples of when we talk about
00:17:37 --> 00:17:40: programming parts when we talk about the groups that might
00:17:40 --> 00:17:43: be connected to solving some of the problem about the
00:17:43 --> 00:17:47: vibrancy and vitality? Help us understand that that a little
00:17:47 --> 00:17:47: bit.
00:17:47 --> 00:17:51: Sure, I think every city is different in every neighborhood
00:17:51 --> 00:17:56: is different in terms of the interested parties that organically
00:17:56 --> 00:17:59: emerge out of the neighborhood and take some ownership or
00:17:59 --> 00:18:02: some stakeholder interests in the parks.
00:18:02 --> 00:18:06: We saw really strong trails organizations in Kansas City.
00:18:06 --> 00:18:10: We know that there are organizations around the.
00:18:10 --> 00:18:15: Cultural organizations we know that there are organizations
00:18:15 --> 00:18:16: investing in
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: events,
00:18:16 --> 00:18:19: sports, athletics are always really common in parks,
00:18:19 --> 00:18:23: but I think. The piece that we felt was missing
00:18:23 --> 00:18:28: is some capacity building and support around the near
neighbors

00:18:28 --> 00:18:31: and the friends of these parks in order to give
00:18:31 --> 00:18:36: them the platform to influence the programming and the
improvements
00:18:36 --> 00:18:38: that happen in the parks.
00:18:38 --> 00:18:40: So in Philadelphia for us,
00:18:40 --> 00:18:45: that's a neighborhood network of 144 park friends groups
which
00:18:45 --> 00:18:49: are neighbors who have self selected an invest their time,
00:18:49 --> 00:18:52: talent, treasure in these parks.
00:18:52 --> 00:18:56: And it's not just our wealthy well resourced neighbors,
00:18:56 --> 00:18:59: it's in some of the neighborhoods that are facing the
00:18:59 --> 00:19:00: biggest challenge.
00:19:00 --> 00:19:03: But our work has been to support those neighbors and
00:19:03 --> 00:19:06: to support the structures around those friends groups so they
00:19:06 --> 00:19:10: are able to broker effective relationships with partners that
want
00:19:10 --> 00:19:13: to come in and do things in the park that's
00:19:13 --> 00:19:15: in their backyard.
00:19:15 --> 00:19:18: And so one of the key recommendations was around that
00:19:18 --> 00:19:22: structure to allow greater participation of those friends of the
00:19:22 --> 00:19:24: park in those surrounding pieces.
00:19:24 --> 00:19:26: Can you talk to us a little bit about the
00:19:27 --> 00:19:30: this idea of a Conservancy or of a foundation that
00:19:30 --> 00:19:33: helps kind of bring those things together?
00:19:33 --> 00:19:36: Yeah, I think you know you can call it a
00:19:36 --> 00:19:38: number of different things.
00:19:38 --> 00:19:40: It can be a Conservancy,
00:19:40 --> 00:19:41: it can be a foundation.
00:19:41 --> 00:19:46: There's a number of examples around the country that don't
00:19:46 --> 00:19:48: use either of those words,
00:19:48 --> 00:19:51: but it's the idea of an entity and aboard Anna
00:19:51 --> 00:19:55: staff that is working for the greater good of the
00:19:55 --> 00:19:59: parks outside the window of each political term.
00:19:59 --> 00:20:02: So the role of the Conservancy is to act as
00:20:02 --> 00:20:03: both a broker.
00:20:03 --> 00:20:08: Between errors in the cities and from potential sources of
00:20:09 --> 00:20:11: revenue and capital in the state.
00:20:11 --> 00:20:18: But also ask convener together multiple departments and
plan together
00:20:18 --> 00:20:21: neighbors to have a common conversation.
00:20:21 --> 00:20:23: So not really replacing something.
00:20:23 --> 00:20:27: This is more of an additive function that really helps
00:20:27 --> 00:20:29: bring these things together then.

00:20:29 --> 00:20:32: Yeah.

00:20:32 --> 00:20:33: Emeka, I've got a question for you,

00:20:33 --> 00:20:35: so going back to what you know,

00:20:35 --> 00:20:38: what we're talking to Carlton about with this issue of

00:20:38 --> 00:20:39: two Kansas cities and so on.

00:20:39 --> 00:20:42: You know the panel was asked to look at the

00:20:42 --> 00:20:44: role that the parks and boulevards system has played in

00:20:45 --> 00:20:46: creating 2 Kansas cities,

00:20:46 --> 00:20:48: and so as redo the report and I was thinking

00:20:48 --> 00:20:48: about,

00:20:48 --> 00:20:51: you know, some of the things that we talked about.

00:20:51 --> 00:20:54: There was this I this Association between causation,

00:20:54 --> 00:20:55: correlation and maybe you know,

00:20:55 --> 00:20:58: what were your observations as it relates to what role

00:20:58 --> 00:21:00: the parks might have had in creating this.

00:21:00 --> 00:21:03: But then also what role do they have in sustaining

00:21:03 --> 00:21:05: the inequities that we see in Kansas City?

00:21:05 --> 00:21:11: Yeah, that's right. The history is Carlton mentioned.

00:21:11 --> 00:21:13: In Kansas City, as well as other cities,

00:21:13 --> 00:21:16: is long in terms of the way that we organize

00:21:16 --> 00:21:19: our communities to separate and we use parks,

00:21:19 --> 00:21:23: we use roadways as ways to do that.

00:21:23 --> 00:21:26: And those were basically expressions of the values of that

00:21:26 --> 00:21:27: time,

00:21:27 --> 00:21:29: right? And so it created challenges.

00:21:29 --> 00:21:33: It created gaps in opportunity for people in different

00:21:33 --> 00:21:36: neighborhoods

00:21:36 --> 00:21:39: that may have had a impact at that time.

00:21:39 --> 00:21:41: And those things continue on and you don't.

00:21:41 --> 00:21:45: You don't turn a ship like that.

00:21:45 --> 00:21:49: Investments or lack of investments in infrastructures like

00:21:49 --> 00:21:51: schools,

00:21:51 --> 00:21:54: public spaces, neighborhoods. It takes time to turn that,

00:21:54 --> 00:21:57: and so many of the things that we see.

00:21:57 --> 00:22:01: Many of the inequality we see today are function.

00:22:01 --> 00:22:05: Of those decisions. And then I think,

00:22:05 --> 00:22:09: well, Terry made a really good comment about equality of

00:22:09 --> 00:22:13: of resource equality doesn't always mean equal dollars

00:22:13 --> 00:22:16: doesn't mean

00:22:16 --> 00:22:19: equal investment is the gap that people are starting the

00:22:19 --> 00:22:23: race with is different. Somebody starting 50 yards ahead

00:22:23 --> 00:22:26: where

00:22:26 --> 00:22:29: somebody is still at the at the starting line.

00:22:16 --> 00:22:20: So I think there's a little interesting interplay is you
 00:22:20 --> 00:22:22: talked about causation versus an impact,
 00:22:22 --> 00:22:25: and I think that you know we have a history
 00:22:25 --> 00:22:28: that we have to recognize and.
 00:22:28 --> 00:22:29: See it for what it is,
 00:22:29 --> 00:22:32: and then we can make decisions going forward that will
 00:22:32 --> 00:22:32: create,
 00:22:32 --> 00:22:35: you know, create a change in the dynamic of those
 00:22:35 --> 00:22:39: neighborhoods and allow those neighborhoods to evolve
 forward in a
 00:22:39 --> 00:22:41: way that we want them to today.
 00:22:41 --> 00:22:43: So diving into the recommendation,
 00:22:43 --> 00:22:47: we got this idea of an independent broker for programming
 00:22:47 --> 00:22:49: and for friends of the park and those types of
 00:22:49 --> 00:22:50: things,
 00:22:50 --> 00:22:53: and the opportunity to create a more equitable approach to
 00:22:53 --> 00:22:54: programming maintenance,
 00:22:54 --> 00:22:57: development. Those types of issues Carson want to ask you
 00:22:58 --> 00:23:00: about another one that was in there,
 00:23:00 --> 00:23:03: and so let's talk about specifically this issue around
 resources,
 00:23:03 --> 00:23:07: municipal budget alignment, some of the things that were in
 00:23:07 --> 00:23:07: there.
 00:23:07 --> 00:23:09: It seems like there's two threads here.
 00:23:09 --> 00:23:11: One is the alignment of resources.
 00:23:11 --> 00:23:14: And how did you, what was the observation that the
 00:23:14 --> 00:23:15: panel made in terms of.
 00:23:15 --> 00:23:20: How they're aligned today, and what were the teams
 recommendations
 00:23:20 --> 00:23:20: there?
 00:23:20 --> 00:23:25: Well, I'm going to tell you right whatever we say
 00:23:25 --> 00:23:29: it in December is amplified by a factor of 1000
 00:23:29 --> 00:23:30: now.
 00:23:30 --> 00:23:34: In December, we didn't know the national and regional
 economies
 00:23:34 --> 00:23:36: were going for,
 00:23:36 --> 00:23:39: you know, right off the Cliff and what the Parks
 00:23:39 --> 00:23:41: and Recreation budget is.
 00:23:41 --> 00:23:45: Largely driven by the half cent sales tax.
 00:23:45 --> 00:23:47: Well, I imagine that Kansas City,
 00:23:47 --> 00:23:50: like every other cities, revenues himself.
 00:23:50 --> 00:23:58: Tax plummeted. The challenge that Kansas City has even
 before.

00:23:58 --> 00:24:02: This pandemic is that the parks and recreations that were
00:24:02 --> 00:24:06: were funded through this asset sales tax and the other
00:24:06 --> 00:24:09: thing was the preact budgeting process right,
00:24:09 --> 00:24:12: and So what happens is when we look at how
00:24:12 --> 00:24:14: those resources allocated,
00:24:14 --> 00:24:20: however limited, however abundant, they maybe they weren't
really allocated
00:24:20 --> 00:24:25: in a way that made sense from an organizational standpoint
00:24:25 --> 00:24:25: and so.
00:24:25 --> 00:24:30: Operational responsibilities sort of drifted down to Parks and
Recreation
00:24:30 --> 00:24:32: when no one else wanted right?
00:24:32 --> 00:24:35: And so it doesn't make for an efficient operation.
00:24:35 --> 00:24:38: And I think doing our visit there we will all
00:24:38 --> 00:24:42: surprise that we got to an intersection along one of
00:24:42 --> 00:24:42: the parkways,
00:24:42 --> 00:24:44: and someone told us, well,
00:24:44 --> 00:24:47: starting at this point, the city doesn't maintain.
00:24:47 --> 00:24:49: They don't clean the streets,
00:24:49 --> 00:24:51: they don't cut the grass,
00:24:51 --> 00:24:53: they don't do any of that.
00:24:53 --> 00:24:55: Parks and Recreation does that,
00:24:55 --> 00:24:58: and Parks and Recreation. Probably did,
00:24:58 --> 00:25:02: like was responsible for. Only a few percent,
00:25:02 --> 00:25:05: a small percentage of the total streets,
00:25:05 --> 00:25:08: right? But what that meant is they had to have
00:25:08 --> 00:25:09: an operation to do that.
00:25:09 --> 00:25:14: We visited the World War World War One museum.
00:25:14 --> 00:25:16: And it's a beautiful facility,
00:25:16 --> 00:25:19: talifero the roof leaks and all sorts of things.
00:25:19 --> 00:25:21: And there was an assessment.
00:25:21 --> 00:25:26: That said, there's probably about \$20,000,000 of work that
has
00:25:26 --> 00:25:27: to be done here.
00:25:27 --> 00:25:31: Parks and Recreation is responsible for that work.
00:25:31 --> 00:25:34: City Parks and Recreation be running a museum said they'd
00:25:34 --> 00:25:38: be running all these other things that they be cleaning
00:25:38 --> 00:25:38: the streets.
00:25:38 --> 00:25:42: They don't have the resources either.
00:25:42 --> 00:25:46: Human resources not or the financial resources so you end
00:25:46 --> 00:25:50: up with all these off balance sheet sort of costs
00:25:50 --> 00:25:54: that are gonna fall on parks and recreations at some
00:25:54 --> 00:25:56: point. It's a bomb. It is a bomb.

00:25:56 --> 00:26:00: The weight that is waiting to explode right and in
00:26:00 --> 00:26:03: the face of this drop in revenues right?
00:26:03 --> 00:26:06: That bomb is even more powerful so some of the
00:26:07 --> 00:26:11: things we think that starts to prepare you for managing
00:26:11 --> 00:26:12: more efficiently is.
00:26:12 --> 00:26:18: Putting responsibility for that responsibility should be
00:26:18 --> 00:26:22: organizationally and financially
00:26:22 --> 00:26:27: because it will work more efficiently with the dollars that
00:26:27 --> 00:26:29: you have as opposed to having redundant organizations
00:26:29 --> 00:26:31: doing small
00:26:31 --> 00:26:33: pieces of a large deal.
00:26:33 --> 00:26:36: Gotcha the other thread there.
00:26:36 --> 00:26:38: Aside from the Alignment piece and you and I talked
00:26:38 --> 00:26:41: about this a little bit and you referenced at the
00:26:41 --> 00:26:43: beginning of your answer here,
00:26:43 --> 00:26:45: which is the times were in from a budget perspective,
00:26:45 --> 00:26:48: you made a comment to me about this is the
00:26:48 --> 00:26:51: right time to be thinking about that,
00:26:51 --> 00:26:54: though this is the right time to be thinking about
00:26:54 --> 00:26:56: those resource alignments versus when you have this Sir.
00:26:56 --> 00:26:59: Plus, tell me a little bit about your thoughts there.
00:26:59 --> 00:27:03: Well I think from a business standpoint,
00:27:03 --> 00:27:06: just my personal business that we've run right what I
00:27:06 --> 00:27:08: know.
00:27:08 --> 00:27:12: Is that when resources are or most challenge that is
00:27:12 --> 00:27:16: the best time to really start to think about how
00:27:16 --> 00:27:17: to plan for abundance,
00:27:17 --> 00:27:19: right? Because if you can plan and make good processes
00:27:19 --> 00:27:22: for a time when resources are challenged when resources
00:27:22 --> 00:27:26: become
00:27:26 --> 00:27:30: abundant,
00:27:30 --> 00:27:34: you will be that much more efficient,
00:27:34 --> 00:27:35: right? So in some ways you should think as an
00:27:35 --> 00:27:39: organization that you're always challenged for resources,
00:27:39 --> 00:27:42: right? And she should drive for developing structures.
00:27:42 --> 00:27:44: And operational procedures that always stretch every dollar
00:27:44 --> 00:27:47: that you
00:27:47 --> 00:27:50: get right.
00:27:50 --> 00:27:51: So every dollar is just meant to have several functions.
00:27:51 --> 00:27:52: Use it. Just meant that once you should spend it
00:27:52 --> 00:27:53: once and accomplished several things.
00:27:53 --> 00:27:54: So if you think about that with limited dollars,
00:27:54 --> 00:27:55: that means what you have to do have a more

00:27:50 --> 00:27:51: effective resource.

00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: So now is a more effective organization.

00:27:54 --> 00:27:57: So now is the time to really think about how

00:27:57 --> 00:27:58: I organized,

00:27:58 --> 00:28:02: right? So I can imagine manage my meager resources well.

00:28:02 --> 00:28:05: Because when we get more resources would be even better,

00:28:05 --> 00:28:08: so that's what I think this is.

00:28:08 --> 00:28:11: Strangely enough, a great time for rethinking.

00:28:11 --> 00:28:13: Sure, yeah.

00:28:13 --> 00:28:17: Terry, I know I'm not crazy.

00:28:17 --> 00:28:18: You're looking at me, Oh my God.

00:28:21 --> 00:28:23: So you know, we talk about the municipal piece.

00:28:23 --> 00:28:26: We talked about the introduction of this independent third party

00:28:26 --> 00:28:27: kind of element to it.

00:28:27 --> 00:28:29: I'm going to come back to you,

00:28:29 --> 00:28:31: Allison. One of the recommendations in there.

00:28:31 --> 00:28:33: One of the pieces was around.

00:28:33 --> 00:28:35: Community engagement was really about.

00:28:35 --> 00:28:37: How do you hear the voices of the community around

00:28:37 --> 00:28:39: things like design and so on?

00:28:39 --> 00:28:40: Can you talk to a little?

00:28:40 --> 00:28:43: Talk to us a little bit about the recommendations that

00:28:43 --> 00:28:46: the panel had put in relative to those elements?

00:28:46 --> 00:28:50: Yeah, I think it goes back to building capacity and

00:28:50 --> 00:28:55: supporting the people that are already trying to become engaged

00:28:55 --> 00:28:58: with their neighborhood parks so.

00:28:58 --> 00:29:02: Whether it is through a Conservancy that is leading and

00:29:02 --> 00:29:03: managing capital projects,

00:29:03 --> 00:29:06: or whether it's happening through the city,

00:29:06 --> 00:29:10: I think there has to be a strong correlation on

00:29:10 --> 00:29:13: every one of those projects and a feedback loop to

00:29:13 --> 00:29:17: bring in that Community voice so that can be that

00:29:17 --> 00:29:20: can be things like formalizing a park friends group that

00:29:21 --> 00:29:24: is made of individual citizens that we are not looking

00:29:24 --> 00:29:27: at for their fund raising capacity,

00:29:27 --> 00:29:29: but we're looking at them for their.

00:29:29 --> 00:29:33: Local knowledge and there.

00:29:33 --> 00:29:37: Expertise on their own communities in their own stature in

00:29:37 --> 00:29:39: their communities,

00:29:39 --> 00:29:43: so building those advisory groups around each of those parks

00:29:43 --> 00:29:46: and making sure that they are at the table when

00:29:46 --> 00:29:50: projects and planning is being is starting any can see

00:29:50 --> 00:29:53: alot of time, lot of things we see is there's

00:29:53 --> 00:29:58: not necessarily a rejection from communities on project is itself.

00:29:58 --> 00:30:02: There's a rejection in terms of the prioritization.

00:30:02 --> 00:30:05: So the city is getting the order wrong and it's

00:30:05 --> 00:30:08: not reflecting where the communities need.

00:30:08 --> 00:30:10: It is in that given moment,

00:30:10 --> 00:30:12: so I think that can help a lot.

00:30:12 --> 00:30:17: And I also think developing some internal matrices around project

00:30:17 --> 00:30:22: decision making that includes capturing and recording community preferences as

00:30:22 --> 00:30:26: a formal part of the capital process is really important.

00:30:26 --> 00:30:28: Gotcha.

00:30:28 --> 00:30:31: The your role in housing and development right?

00:30:31 --> 00:30:33: So the issues related to you know as you start

00:30:33 --> 00:30:36: to improve some of the things that we're talking about.

00:30:36 --> 00:30:39: You bring on additional resources to help stand up some

00:30:39 --> 00:30:43: of the maintenance and development through a Conservancy or foundation

00:30:43 --> 00:30:45: or something like that.

00:30:45 --> 00:30:47: What is the role of kind of the mixed use

00:30:47 --> 00:30:50: environment and the residential environment around parking?

00:30:50 --> 00:30:53: What risk do you see as this starts to progress

00:30:53 --> 00:30:54: and how do you prevent that?

00:30:54 --> 00:30:56: Yeah, so before I respond to that,

00:30:56 --> 00:30:59: I do want to just touch back on the really

00:30:59 --> 00:31:01: good conversation that both Carlton analysis made.

00:31:01 --> 00:31:03: I want to make a comment about.

00:31:03 --> 00:31:06: Resources.

00:31:06 --> 00:31:09: Budgets and resources. Our budget is an expression of the

00:31:09 --> 00:31:10: communities values.

00:31:10 --> 00:31:13: That's something that I believe pretty deeply,

00:31:13 --> 00:31:16: and I think that this opportunity Carlton's talking about is

00:31:16 --> 00:31:19: an opportunity to go back and reaffirm the values of

00:31:19 --> 00:31:21: this community and invest first.

00:31:21 --> 00:31:24: What is most important in the second piece of Allison

00:31:24 --> 00:31:26: said is it is not just the voices of folks

00:31:26 --> 00:31:27: in City Hall.

00:31:27 --> 00:31:30: It's not just the voices of people with connections to

00:31:30 --> 00:31:30: donators,
 00:31:30 --> 00:31:34: it's getting the community involved in that that decision,
 00:31:34 --> 00:31:36: that allocation process, that expression of values.
 00:31:36 --> 00:31:39: In the budget, and I think that's really the great
 00:31:39 --> 00:31:41: opportunity costs and you're talking about.
 00:31:41 --> 00:31:44: Let's change that part of it so that becomes our
 00:31:44 --> 00:31:47: budget and not just the parks budget over there.
 00:31:47 --> 00:31:49: So I will come down off my soapbox and try
 00:31:49 --> 00:31:52: to speak to your your question about about housing.
 00:31:52 --> 00:31:54: But yeah, I think there's a great opportunity.
 00:31:54 --> 00:31:56: You have all these these beautiful,
 00:31:56 --> 00:31:59: potentially beautiful spaces around the city that have just
 been
 00:31:59 --> 00:32:02: neglected in terms of the care of the weather.
 00:32:02 --> 00:32:05: It's the pocket parks or some of the communities with
 00:32:05 --> 00:32:05: squares,
 00:32:05 --> 00:32:07: large squares in front of them,
 00:32:07 --> 00:32:10: with housing nearby. It's a real opportunity to kind of
 00:32:10 --> 00:32:14: take advantage of that green space that that space of
 00:32:14 --> 00:32:18: respite that space of recreation and build community around.
 00:32:18 --> 00:32:22: That really targeting clustering of mixed housing as well as
 00:32:22 --> 00:32:25: other retail activity to create a neighborhood.
 00:32:25 --> 00:32:28: And that's really one of the best values you can
 00:32:28 --> 00:32:30: see that apart can generate.
 00:32:30 --> 00:32:33: I'm thinking about a project that I've.
 00:32:33 --> 00:32:35: Had a chance to take a look at in San
 00:32:35 --> 00:32:39: Francisco where the finance ear of the projects actually
 enhance
 00:32:39 --> 00:32:42: the amount of money they were able to raise for
 00:32:42 --> 00:32:45: that development. Because they monetized the parks,
 00:32:45 --> 00:32:48: they said the parks increase the property values of
 everything
 00:32:48 --> 00:32:51: adjacent to it within a quarter mile by some,
 00:32:51 --> 00:32:54: some increment, and so that's really the opportunity.
 00:32:54 --> 00:32:57: I think what you mentioned is that the risk with
 00:32:57 --> 00:33:00: the downside is that then you have the challenge of
 00:33:00 --> 00:33:04: the potential of gentrification or exclusionary development
 that starts to
 00:33:04 --> 00:33:06: push people out because. Yes,
 00:33:06 --> 00:33:07: the property is more valuable.
 00:33:07 --> 00:33:09: Yes, I can charge more for it.
 00:33:09 --> 00:33:12: Who does that mean? Can either stay there or move
 00:33:12 --> 00:33:13: into that community.

00:33:13 --> 00:33:16: So I think you have to be very intentional about
 00:33:16 --> 00:33:18: what you're trying to create in that Community,
 00:33:18 --> 00:33:21: so take advantage of the city owned land there to
 00:33:21 --> 00:33:22: generate place,
 00:33:22 --> 00:33:25: but then work closely with your development community to
 craft
 00:33:25 --> 00:33:26: a neighborhood.
 00:33:26 --> 00:33:29: Again, it aligns with the values of that community,
 00:33:29 --> 00:33:33: which sounds like it wants to be inclusive.
 00:33:33 --> 00:33:37: I think that's really interesting because the other side of
 00:33:37 --> 00:33:40: that decision making around investing in a park and taking
 00:33:40 --> 00:33:43: care of a park in order to see economic development
 00:33:43 --> 00:33:47: is the reverse. The decision not to invest and maintain
 00:33:47 --> 00:33:48: and care for park,
 00:33:48 --> 00:33:51: and we see the opposite cycle in in terms of
 00:33:51 --> 00:33:52: economic development.
 00:33:52 --> 00:33:55: And we see these public spaces become a drag on
 00:33:55 --> 00:33:57: the communities that live around them.
 00:33:57 --> 00:34:01: And so I think it's always important to remember that
 00:34:01 --> 00:34:03: just as much as the positive is a decision.
 00:34:03 --> 00:34:06: The decision not to invest.
 00:34:06 --> 00:34:10: Also impacts the communities in the same in the in
 00:34:10 --> 00:34:11: the opposite direction.
 00:34:11 --> 00:34:14: And the thing I want to add to that is
 00:34:14 --> 00:34:17: that if we think about some of the great parts
 00:34:17 --> 00:34:18: around the world right,
 00:34:18 --> 00:34:21: most of them are activated by higher density living on
 00:34:21 --> 00:34:24: all the edges of the parking right,
 00:34:24 --> 00:34:26: right? It's higher density living,
 00:34:26 --> 00:34:30: there's retail. If you think about downtown Chicago and Grant
 00:34:30 --> 00:34:30: Park,
 00:34:30 --> 00:34:33: and everything just went ahead to Grant Park,
 00:34:33 --> 00:34:36: I can go through parks across the world and you
 00:34:36 --> 00:34:38: think about those great parks,
 00:34:38 --> 00:34:40: right? There's always this robust community,
 00:34:40 --> 00:34:43: right? Some of it just sort of evolved,
 00:34:43 --> 00:34:46: but in many cases, like in Kansas City.
 00:34:46 --> 00:34:49: You have a unique opportunity to plan.
 00:34:49 --> 00:34:51: You know you can plan it by the way,
 00:34:51 --> 00:34:55: and this is a case where land use and planning
 00:34:55 --> 00:34:59: can create more equitable communities because you can
 change zoning

00:35:00 --> 00:35:00: density,

00:35:00 --> 00:35:04: you can make requirements for affordability and you lose and

00:35:05 --> 00:35:08: you can do all of these sort of things that

00:35:08 --> 00:35:11: create a sort of fabric around those parts that the

00:35:11 --> 00:35:15: Boulevard system deliberately trying to destroy.

00:35:15 --> 00:35:18: So this is the sort of opportunity with really.

00:35:18 --> 00:35:22: Good planning when you're thinking equity and planning that you

00:35:22 --> 00:35:25: can do that is well within the realm of possibility.

00:35:25 --> 00:35:27: I think when we were riding around,

00:35:27 --> 00:35:28: we started talking about, oh,

00:35:28 --> 00:35:30: that would be a good site.

00:35:30 --> 00:35:32: Oh, that would be a great part to do that

00:35:32 --> 00:35:34: and we just talked about a hierarchy,

00:35:34 --> 00:35:38: a different locations where we thought there were these huge

00:35:38 --> 00:35:40: opportunities for the City of Kansas City.

00:35:40 --> 00:35:42: I think this specific piece was,

00:35:42 --> 00:35:45: you know, as we're going is the city's going through

00:35:45 --> 00:35:47: this new comprehensive plan.

00:35:47 --> 00:35:49: Make sure that this is part of that conversation and

00:35:50 --> 00:35:50: that was,

00:35:50 --> 00:35:54: I think, a key recommendation that came out of this.

00:35:54 --> 00:35:58: Um? Yeah I wanted.

00:35:58 --> 00:36:00: Trying to get to a lot in a short amount

00:36:00 --> 00:36:00: of time.

00:36:00 --> 00:36:03: I know we spend a few minutes talking about each

00:36:03 --> 00:36:04: one of these.

00:36:04 --> 00:36:07: There was a conversation or there was an element in

00:36:07 --> 00:36:10: this report that talks a little bit about the reallocation

00:36:10 --> 00:36:11: of some space today.

00:36:11 --> 00:36:12: That might be, you know,

00:36:12 --> 00:36:15: that could be used differently and so on,

00:36:15 --> 00:36:17: so I don't know which one of you my my.

00:36:17 --> 00:36:19: My guess is all three of you have a take

00:36:19 --> 00:36:21: on some of the projects or some of the parks

00:36:21 --> 00:36:24: or some of the land that you saw that might

00:36:24 --> 00:36:27: have different uses or or can be reimaged if you

00:36:27 --> 00:36:27: will.

00:36:27 --> 00:36:30: Well, I'll start 1st and I think one of my

00:36:30 --> 00:36:33: one of the biggest takeaway 'cause I think this was

00:36:33 --> 00:36:36: probably my second trip to Kansas City in my life

00:36:36 --> 00:36:40: even from the Midwest. But just the vastness of the

00:36:40 --> 00:36:40: city,

00:36:40 --> 00:36:43: right? It is a it's a very very big space.

00:36:43 --> 00:36:45: A lot of space and so there was a lot

00:36:45 --> 00:36:47: of both potential there,

00:36:47 --> 00:36:50: but the patterns as a city growth grew through the

00:36:50 --> 00:36:53: 60s and 70s was more suburban 'cause that's kind of

00:36:53 --> 00:36:56: where our country was and I think that one of

00:36:56 --> 00:36:59: the things we saw that the dispersion of the.

00:36:59 --> 00:37:03: Distance between many of the amenities and the anchor amenities

00:37:03 --> 00:37:04: throughout the city.

00:37:04 --> 00:37:06: Probably made May Terry's job,

00:37:06 --> 00:37:08: frankly just more difficult, right?

00:37:08 --> 00:37:10: You're? You're carrying these assets.

00:37:10 --> 00:37:14: These facilities that are expensive and there may be competition

00:37:14 --> 00:37:16: in the market like we talked.

00:37:16 --> 00:37:18: I'll just be fairly direct.

00:37:18 --> 00:37:21: We talked a lot about the different golf courses that

00:37:21 --> 00:37:23: the city is responsible for,

00:37:23 --> 00:37:26: and whether as lots of other cities are doing it.

00:37:26 --> 00:37:29: Looking at public Private partnership models.

00:37:29 --> 00:37:32: So basically unload some of the the one distraction from mission,

00:37:32 --> 00:37:32: 'cause you could argue that's a distraction from the core mission.

00:37:36 --> 00:37:36: The financial risk associated with that operation,

00:37:36 --> 00:37:39: and then there is a little bit of a equity

00:37:39 --> 00:37:41: theme in there as well as kind of where are

00:37:41 --> 00:37:44: you spending your first dollar and how are you focusing

00:37:44 --> 00:37:47: on making sure that the values again,

00:37:47 --> 00:37:49: I'll go back to the values,

00:37:49 --> 00:37:50: the values of the community are being represented and amplified

00:37:54 --> 00:37:54: by that program so.

00:37:54 --> 00:37:56: I think that was definitely one of the spaces.

00:37:56 --> 00:37:59: Was the notion of the golf courses and kind of

00:37:59 --> 00:38:02: rethinking where and how the Park City parks invests its

00:38:02 --> 00:38:06: resources to kind of create the best benefit across the

00:38:06 --> 00:38:09: entire portfolio of assets.

00:38:09 --> 00:38:11: Anybody else have anything to add?

00:38:15 --> 00:38:17: We've got some questions that are piling up over here

00:38:17 --> 00:38:20: so would love to get to Q&A.

00:38:20 --> 00:38:22:

00:38:22 --> 00:38:24: Let me go ahead and tackle the first one here
00:38:24 --> 00:38:26: and I'll just throw this out to the Group A
00:38:26 --> 00:38:29: couple of you want to take a run at these
00:38:29 --> 00:38:32: with walking slash running tracks being a huge draw for
00:38:32 --> 00:38:33: parks like Loose Park.
00:38:33 --> 00:38:36: Are there plans being considered in other parks that are
00:38:36 --> 00:38:38: basically UN walkable today?
00:38:38 --> 00:38:39: I eat Blue Valley park,
00:38:39 --> 00:38:41: etc.
00:38:41 --> 00:38:43: Um, I'll take a first stab at that.
00:38:43 --> 00:38:48: Yes, there are plans, and you know we've been hooked
00:38:48 --> 00:38:52: into this kind of citywide trail system.
00:38:52 --> 00:38:56: Of connecting basically the whole city,
00:38:56 --> 00:39:00: so think of it as the Interstate system through a
00:39:00 --> 00:39:01: trail system,
00:39:01 --> 00:39:05: and that's a regional plan and that doesn't really good
00:39:05 --> 00:39:08: job of connectivity and provides.
00:39:08 --> 00:39:13: Transportation alternatives, it connects different
neighborhoods.
00:39:13 --> 00:39:18: What we're finding, and this is a great example of
00:39:18 --> 00:39:19: it is.
00:39:19 --> 00:39:23: Sometimes people don't necessarily want to get from point A
00:39:23 --> 00:39:23: to point B,
00:39:23 --> 00:39:26: but they want to get to point A and have
00:39:26 --> 00:39:28: a very good experience.
00:39:28 --> 00:39:30: So when the pandemic first started,
00:39:30 --> 00:39:33: we actually closed off some park roads.
00:39:33 --> 00:39:36: We have an awful lot of asphalt in our parks,
00:39:36 --> 00:39:39: park rides, and we closed off some of those in
00:39:39 --> 00:39:43: hopes that they would become more attractive for spaces
together.
00:39:43 --> 00:39:46: Spaces to exercise cause quite honestly,
00:39:46 --> 00:39:48: our trails were almost overflowing well.
00:39:48 --> 00:39:52: Were overflying Ann and that worked really well.
00:39:52 --> 00:39:56: Blue Valley was one of those but I think what
00:39:56 --> 00:40:00: it told us is we can't have enough opportunity for
00:40:00 --> 00:40:04: people to get out and use that as their social
00:40:04 --> 00:40:08: space to to connect and meet their neighbors.
00:40:08 --> 00:40:12: We still have a ton of communities in Kansas City
00:40:12 --> 00:40:17: that don't have sidewalks and some communities that have
sidewalks
00:40:17 --> 00:40:19: that aren't walkable.
00:40:19 --> 00:40:22: Um, so we have kind of shifted to make sure

00:40:23 --> 00:40:26: even if the trail is only a half a mile
 00:40:26 --> 00:40:26: long,
 00:40:26 --> 00:40:30: it it serves the purpose of a program that everyone
 00:40:30 --> 00:40:34: can participate in and we seem to be getting a
 00:40:34 --> 00:40:38: very high bang for our Buck where we have done
 00:40:38 --> 00:40:43: that. You know what wonder observations we made there is
 00:40:43 --> 00:40:47: that a lot of Kansas City's parks were sort of.
 00:40:47 --> 00:40:53: Early 20th century thinking about parks is quiet meditative
 spaces
 00:40:53 --> 00:40:57: that didn't really include a whole lot of active.
 00:40:57 --> 00:41:02: You know activities right. And then suddenly we have a
 00:41:02 --> 00:41:04: planet for young people.
 00:41:04 --> 00:41:07: And that's young adults, young people,
 00:41:07 --> 00:41:08: etc. Want to be very active.
 00:41:08 --> 00:41:11: They want to be physically active,
 00:41:11 --> 00:41:14: right? And in some of the parts parks it's illegal
 00:41:14 --> 00:41:16: to be active in the parts,
 00:41:16 --> 00:41:19: right? And so if you want to really think about
 00:41:19 --> 00:41:22: as you start to rethink how aparks use,
 00:41:22 --> 00:41:25: I think you really have to think about how to
 00:41:25 --> 00:41:29: parks and work today for the population in Kansas City,
 00:41:29 --> 00:41:33: that's there now. And the notion that Kansas City wants
 00:41:33 --> 00:41:35: to attract more people.
 00:41:35 --> 00:41:39: And grow up. That you really have to think about
 00:41:39 --> 00:41:44: the parks is something that really would be very attractive
 00:41:44 --> 00:41:46: for some people.
 00:41:46 --> 00:41:47: A lot of young people,
 00:41:47 --> 00:41:51: right? If they were parks and rec activated in the
 00:41:51 --> 00:41:53: ways that people live now right?
 00:41:53 --> 00:41:56: And so again, that's a huge opportunity,
 00:41:56 --> 00:41:59: right? And it implies a different cost,
 00:41:59 --> 00:42:05: probably less for infrastructure costs then maintaining big
 passive method
 00:42:05 --> 00:42:06: of parks,
 00:42:06 --> 00:42:09: right? And so again, it gets back to that.
 00:42:09 --> 00:42:12: Point that doing this law is an opportunity to rethink
 00:42:12 --> 00:42:13: it right?
 00:42:13 --> 00:42:16: And I think what Terry spoke of is one of
 00:42:16 --> 00:42:20: the things that cities all over during this pandemic have
 00:42:20 --> 00:42:23: discovered when they close streets right?
 00:42:23 --> 00:42:27: The street certainly again turned into the public comments,
 00:42:27 --> 00:42:30: right? Because you were not in danger of being run

00:42:30 --> 00:42:32: over by a delivery truck,
 00:42:32 --> 00:42:35: right? And so when these streets will close off,
 00:42:35 --> 00:42:39: it gives you an indication about what people long for,
 00:42:39 --> 00:42:42: right? They long for that public comments where they can
 00:42:43 --> 00:42:46: meet their neighbors and where they can also be active,
 00:42:46 --> 00:42:49: so it's a chance right now to really start to
 00:42:49 --> 00:42:53: rethink about what does that mean for Kansas City and
 00:42:53 --> 00:42:55: the way you manage your parks,
 00:42:55 --> 00:42:59: I think there's another piece to trails that gets in
 00:42:59 --> 00:43:02: recreation that gets right at the heart of equity.
 00:43:02 --> 00:43:04: Is the issue of health,
 00:43:04 --> 00:43:07: so we saw during the pandemic gyms are closed and
 00:43:07 --> 00:43:10: now the entire city is forced to use the public
 00:43:10 --> 00:43:11: space.
 00:43:11 --> 00:43:14: For the first time, in order to stay healthy and
 00:43:14 --> 00:43:18: suddenly the same folks who are able to spend three
 00:43:18 --> 00:43:22: \$400 a month on private trainers are appreciating what's
 00:43:22 --> 00:43:25: been
 00:43:25 --> 00:43:28: out in their front door the whole time.
 00:43:28 --> 00:43:32: And you know, in this environment of fiscal scarcity,
 00:43:32 --> 00:43:33: it's important to realize that parks are piece of health
 00:43:33 --> 00:43:37: infrastructure,
 00:43:37 --> 00:43:42: just away that Kansas City is focused on how forward
 00:43:42 --> 00:43:43: those investments in the park should be considered an
 00:43:43 --> 00:43:46: investment
 00:43:46 --> 00:43:50: in health infrastructure.
 00:43:50 --> 00:43:52: A few years ago, the NIH came out with a
 00:43:52 --> 00:43:55: study and it said for every \$100 per capita,
 00:43:55 --> 00:43:58: a city invests in a park,
 00:43:58 --> 00:44:00: they see a decrease in mortality.
 00:44:00 --> 00:44:03: A three to four humans per 100,000.
 00:44:03 --> 00:44:07: So think about Kansas City.
 00:44:07 --> 00:44:08: Think about the health care costs that are a burden
 00:44:08 --> 00:44:11: on the entire city on its productivity on its community
 00:44:11 --> 00:44:14: life.
 00:44:14 --> 00:44:18: An imagine the way that parks can be seen as
 00:44:18 --> 00:44:21: public health infrastructure that everyone can access,
 00:44:21 --> 00:44:25: and I think that's really one of the important things
 00:44:25 --> 00:44:28: that we learned during the pandemic,
 00:44:28 --> 00:44:31: and that we cannot afford to forget.
 00:44:31 --> 00:44:35: Yeah, I might add in Kansas City and I don't
 00:44:35 --> 00:44:38: think we're unique to other large cities.
 00:44:38 --> 00:44:41: We have a life expectancy difference of about 15 years

00:44:35 --> 00:44:39: between some of our lowest life expectancy areas and our
00:44:39 --> 00:44:40: highest.
00:44:40 --> 00:44:43: And we set out a couple of years ago to
00:44:43 --> 00:44:46: focus on those areas and we consider it the life
00:44:46 --> 00:44:51: X area and so working with the Community getting engaged
00:44:51 --> 00:44:53: on how we can use these spaces.
00:44:53 --> 00:44:56: You know, at first we were just like.
00:44:56 --> 00:45:00: Everyone should get a free Community Center pass and then
00:45:00 --> 00:45:03: we found out it was way way deeper than that.
00:45:03 --> 00:45:06: So when we start looking at the quality of the
00:45:06 --> 00:45:08: parks in the life exit codes,
00:45:08 --> 00:45:12: that definitely provides us a road map for where some
00:45:12 --> 00:45:15: of those trails can be added where some of the
00:45:16 --> 00:45:18: equipment needs to be updated.
00:45:18 --> 00:45:22: And particularly where we need to identify some partners
around
00:45:22 --> 00:45:24: programming and helping us.
00:45:24 --> 00:45:28: Whether that's a farmers market or whether that is.
00:45:28 --> 00:45:31: An opportunity for arts and culture.
00:45:31 --> 00:45:36: In some of these spaces where we know life expectancy
00:45:36 --> 00:45:38: is so much so much shorter.
00:45:38 --> 00:45:41: So we talk about closing off streets.
00:45:41 --> 00:45:44: We talk about the idea of having you know healthy
00:45:44 --> 00:45:44: spaces.
00:45:44 --> 00:45:48: Did the boulevards play into any other recommendations in
your
00:45:48 --> 00:45:48: reports,
00:45:48 --> 00:45:51: or was the focus really on the part part of
00:45:51 --> 00:45:52: this piece?
00:45:57 --> 00:45:58: Continue on mute.
00:46:03 --> 00:46:05: Probably give me a little better now.
00:46:05 --> 00:46:09: There you go. I'm sure whatever you were saying was
00:46:09 --> 00:46:10: brilliant,
00:46:10 --> 00:46:11: right? So let me tell you,
00:46:11 --> 00:46:15: yeah, we did talk about the boulevards and we we
00:46:15 --> 00:46:19: talked about the boulevards as one of the sort of
00:46:19 --> 00:46:22: few places where you did have sidewalks and a lot
00:46:22 --> 00:46:27: of Kansas City, right? And then we thought that if
00:46:27 --> 00:46:32: they were more fully activated with the sidewalks and
bicycles.
00:46:32 --> 00:46:36: Why is and it was really worked at to make
00:46:36 --> 00:46:40: them connect to parks in the communities that were vibrant
00:46:40 --> 00:46:44: so that there was a reason for people to transverse

00:46:44 --> 00:46:49: these spaces, right? Right now one of the challenges with

00:46:49 --> 00:46:53: the boulevards is they're demarcations where it says you are

00:46:54 --> 00:46:55: welcome and you're not.

00:46:55 --> 00:46:58: I I grew up in the South,

00:46:58 --> 00:47:02: right Ann? There were the railroad tracks that said that

00:47:02 --> 00:47:05: you know this side of the tracks.

00:47:05 --> 00:47:07: You're welcome. That side of the track.

00:47:07 --> 00:47:11: You are right. Well, the boulevards do that same thing,

00:47:11 --> 00:47:14: right? And so to change that is going to take

00:47:14 --> 00:47:16: some intentional programming right?

00:47:16 --> 00:47:20: Given reepleople reasons to go ride their bike down that

00:47:20 --> 00:47:22: Blvd to another part of town,

00:47:22 --> 00:47:26: or walk or whatever you have the physical infrastructure,

00:47:26 --> 00:47:29: right? But there is not been an investment in the

00:47:29 --> 00:47:30: social capital.

00:47:30 --> 00:47:34: To create value so it's gotta be investment in social

00:47:34 --> 00:47:36: capital and that can be pop up.

00:47:36 --> 00:47:40: Events that can be any number of things right?

00:47:40 --> 00:47:43: But pop up events that make people that might not

00:47:43 --> 00:47:47: be from that particular community want to use that Blvd

00:47:47 --> 00:47:50: by foot by bicycle by whatever to get there.

00:47:50 --> 00:47:54: And that's how you start changing the sort of social

00:47:54 --> 00:47:58: understanding about the capacity of the Boulevard so that as

00:47:58 --> 00:47:59: opposed to walls,

00:47:59 --> 00:48:03: their connectors. Yeah, Carlton, I just.

00:48:03 --> 00:48:05: I mean, I'm thinking in my head it's you want

00:48:05 --> 00:48:07: to make it a place people want to be rather

00:48:08 --> 00:48:10: than go through right there right now.

00:48:10 --> 00:48:12: It's just a place you go through on your way

00:48:12 --> 00:48:13: where we go right?

00:48:13 --> 00:48:15: You need to create reason to be.

00:48:15 --> 00:48:18: Yeah if it's there so whatever you know.

00:48:18 --> 00:48:23: Bar traffic there for awhile and have special events there.

00:48:23 --> 00:48:26: You know that attract everyone is.

00:48:26 --> 00:48:29: Is and I think back to one of the things

00:48:29 --> 00:48:33: that that Allison talked about the power of conservancies,

00:48:33 --> 00:48:37: right? The power of conservancies is that they can create

00:48:37 --> 00:48:38: those events,

00:48:38 --> 00:48:42: right? They can develop the capacity to do that.

00:48:42 --> 00:48:46: They can bring in partners to do that.

00:48:46 --> 00:48:49: And so. It it there all these little pieces of

00:48:49 --> 00:48:53: the puzzle that are not unconnected right?

00:48:53 --> 00:48:55: And connecting them you finally,
00:48:55 --> 00:48:58: I think, get to the sort of answers that Terry
00:48:58 --> 00:48:59: and not just Terry,
00:48:59 --> 00:49:03: but the city of Kansas City is looking for to
00:49:03 --> 00:49:05: make this work better.
00:49:05 --> 00:49:07: So I want to go to another question on here.
00:49:07 --> 00:49:09: This is a great conversation,
00:49:09 --> 00:49:12: but there's one here. The questions I'd like to hear
00:49:12 --> 00:49:15: the panel address the intersection of managing natural
resources and
00:49:15 --> 00:49:16: equity.
00:49:16 --> 00:49:20: Many Disinvested communities Baron, unbalanced amount of
environmental challenges like
00:49:20 --> 00:49:21: flooding,
00:49:21 --> 00:49:24: heat islands, pollution parks, owns a majority of land.
00:49:24 --> 00:49:27: How are they addressing social justice to the and protecting
00:49:27 --> 00:49:29: nature and making nature accessible?
00:49:29 --> 00:49:33: Did the panel see this relationship and where their
conversations
00:49:33 --> 00:49:35: related to this issue?
00:49:35 --> 00:49:37: I'm happy to talk about.
00:49:37 --> 00:49:41: I don't think we particularly solve that issue.
00:49:41 --> 00:49:44: Rise to the top of our conversation.
00:49:44 --> 00:49:48: Some of the natural lands and ecosystem services,
00:49:48 --> 00:49:52: but the questioner brings up an issue that is at
00:49:52 --> 00:49:57: the forefront of managing large urban park systems all over
00:49:57 --> 00:49:58: the country.
00:49:58 --> 00:50:04: And quite honestly, what the entire conservation movement
is working
00:50:04 --> 00:50:06: through right now.
00:50:06 --> 00:50:08: Is the history of.
00:50:10 --> 00:50:16: Natural, an open spaces being unwelcome to individuals and
people
00:50:16 --> 00:50:17: of color,
00:50:17 --> 00:50:20: and that's just the history in the parks.
00:50:20 --> 00:50:24: It's also the history.
00:50:24 --> 00:50:27: In big, wide open spaces that we think of in
00:50:27 --> 00:50:29: our National Park system.
00:50:29 --> 00:50:33: One of the challenges that we have been managing through
00:50:33 --> 00:50:37: and Philadelphia and have been learning from our
community members
00:50:37 --> 00:50:41: who are out there fishing out there birding is inviting
00:50:41 --> 00:50:45: them as experts in their own natural spaces in their

00:50:45 --> 00:50:49: own communities to become program leaders and to bring their

00:50:49 --> 00:50:53: neighbors to formally bring their neighbors into these spaces.

00:50:53 --> 00:50:57: How do we provide that guy who already knows every

00:50:57 --> 00:51:00: bird in the vacant lot behind his house?

00:51:00 --> 00:51:03: How do we provide him with the resources?

00:51:03 --> 00:51:06: And connect him with other neighbors in order to do

00:51:06 --> 00:51:09: what he loves to do and does best so.

00:51:09 --> 00:51:12: We're trying to be very careful in taking a top

00:51:12 --> 00:51:14: down approach to this,

00:51:14 --> 00:51:18: but finding ways that we can lift up individuals that

00:51:18 --> 00:51:22: are that are already doing this work in their communities

00:51:22 --> 00:51:24: and then also as an organization,

00:51:24 --> 00:51:28: you cannot estimate the value of data.

00:51:28 --> 00:51:31: In understanding where to place your investments,

00:51:31 --> 00:51:35: so I talked before a little bit about decision making

00:51:35 --> 00:51:39: and prioritization and having a matrix and making sure that

00:51:39 --> 00:51:43: capturing community preferences in that it's equally as

00:51:43 --> 00:51:47: important to

00:51:43 --> 00:51:47: understand things like the urban heat island understand

00:51:47 --> 00:51:52: flooding,

00:51:47 --> 00:51:52: understand where the habitat, habitat corridors are and

00:51:52 --> 00:51:56: making sure

00:51:52 --> 00:51:56: that the full value of the natural systems are captured

00:51:56 --> 00:51:58: in the decision-making about projects.

00:51:58 --> 00:52:02: But to Carlton's point earlier about inviting people into the

00:52:02 --> 00:52:03: space.

00:52:03 --> 00:52:08: It will take a community LED effort to invite folks

00:52:08 --> 00:52:14: into these natural spaces that have traditionally been

00:52:14 --> 00:52:18: unmaintained,

00:52:14 --> 00:52:18: unmanaged, and perceived as.

00:52:18 --> 00:52:23: Light by their neighbors you know overgrown lot of

00:52:23 --> 00:52:26: big messy looking Woodland,

00:52:26 --> 00:52:31: Meadow that isn't managed to maintain those sites.

00:52:31 --> 00:52:33: Represent the light to a lot of people or they

00:52:33 --> 00:52:34: represent danger,

00:52:34 --> 00:52:36: and so maintaining and managing,

00:52:36 --> 00:52:39: signing, and programming those spaces is going to be really,

00:52:39 --> 00:52:41: really important.

00:52:41 --> 00:52:46: To start to reconcile the gap between environmental justice

00:52:46 --> 00:52:47: and

00:52:46 --> 00:52:47: social justice.

00:52:47 --> 00:52:50: Kevin thing that we notice that was kinda sorta related

00:52:51 --> 00:52:52: to your question.

00:52:52 --> 00:52:55: It was one of the golf courses that was perceived

00:52:55 --> 00:52:58: to be the African American Golf Course.

00:52:58 --> 00:53:02: That was flooded a third of the year because it's

00:53:02 --> 00:53:06: basically almost naturally occur in floodplain.

00:53:06 --> 00:53:10: To pick the override overflow from an whoever we talked

00:53:10 --> 00:53:14: to them responsible for maintaining golf course.

00:53:14 --> 00:53:17: It says, yeah, we spent a lot of money on

00:53:17 --> 00:53:19: maintaining this golf course,

00:53:19 --> 00:53:21: right? And it's out of service.

00:53:21 --> 00:53:25: Part of the year. And so the question that sort

00:53:25 --> 00:53:28: of distros to our minds there is like.

00:53:28 --> 00:53:32: Really, how many rounds of golf a plate in Kansas

00:53:32 --> 00:53:32: City,

00:53:32 --> 00:53:36: right? And do you need all of those golf courses

00:53:36 --> 00:53:39: for the number of rounds that are played right?

00:53:39 --> 00:53:40: And so if you don't,

00:53:40 --> 00:53:44: it's an opportunity to think about how else make that

00:53:44 --> 00:53:45: space be,

00:53:45 --> 00:53:48: right? Maybe some of it is re planning and then

00:53:48 --> 00:53:52: using it as a naturally occurring wetland right?

00:53:52 --> 00:53:54: And use it as an education sort of thing,

00:53:54 --> 00:53:57: right? And so I think about Little Rock AR,

00:53:57 --> 00:54:00: right? And just downtown Little Rock.

00:54:00 --> 00:54:04: There's this amazing swamp wetland right that is the favorite

00:54:05 --> 00:54:08: place for people downtown to go walking in,

00:54:08 --> 00:54:10: because what they did is they took it.

00:54:10 --> 00:54:14: They restored it with all native and or adaptive plants

00:54:14 --> 00:54:15: right?

00:54:15 --> 00:54:18: And so now is a wonderful space and it's and

00:54:18 --> 00:54:21: it was a place that flooded right,

00:54:21 --> 00:54:24: but what they did is they rethought that as this

00:54:24 --> 00:54:28: place that Fles why not making an amenity to the

00:54:28 --> 00:54:29: community right?

00:54:29 --> 00:54:31: And so starting to thinking.

00:54:31 --> 00:54:34: Creatively, how one can work with nature.

00:54:34 --> 00:54:37: You know to create things that attracted to people right?

00:54:37 --> 00:54:41: As opposed to a golf course because more to maintain

00:54:41 --> 00:54:43: because it's flooded frequently.

00:54:43 --> 00:54:46: So just thinking a little bit out of the box

00:54:46 --> 00:54:49: we think were things I don't know if it really

00:54:49 --> 00:54:51: showed up in the report.

00:54:51 --> 00:54:54: I'm not, but I do remember we talked about that

00:54:54 --> 00:54:56: thinking makeovers.

00:54:56 --> 00:54:59: The one I'm echo wasn't wonder really pointed it out

00:54:59 --> 00:55:00: on my go,

00:55:00 --> 00:55:02: alright?

00:55:02 --> 00:55:03: And there was like, if I recall,

00:55:03 --> 00:55:07: there was like hundreds of millions of dollars allocated to

00:55:07 --> 00:55:09: a combined sewer overflow project,

00:55:09 --> 00:55:12: which if you just take decimal points off of that

00:55:12 --> 00:55:13: project percentage,

00:55:13 --> 00:55:16: you could redirect your so small portion of that budget

00:55:16 --> 00:55:21: to start building and maintaining amenities that people will actually

00:55:21 --> 00:55:23: use and not just Gray infrastructure.

00:55:23 --> 00:55:26: Huge opportunity and the resources party in the party in

00:55:26 --> 00:55:27: the budget right?

00:55:27 --> 00:55:30: Yeah, just maybe record with the little bit that didn't

00:55:30 --> 00:55:33: show up in the report because I know we talked

00:55:33 --> 00:55:33: about that.

00:55:33 --> 00:55:36: I will say there are a lot of recommendations in

00:55:36 --> 00:55:38: the report and it's good work.

00:55:38 --> 00:55:40: And I know we've got a few minutes left and

00:55:40 --> 00:55:41: so there's two things,

00:55:41 --> 00:55:43: one.

00:55:43 --> 00:55:46: The reimagining of the space is the reuse.

00:55:46 --> 00:55:51: I think, the reallocation of maintenance to the maybe right

00:55:51 --> 00:55:56: buckets will call it the addition of a Conservancy or

00:55:56 --> 00:55:56: another.

00:55:56 --> 00:55:59: Fund raising and organizational arm.

00:55:59 --> 00:56:03: I think those are all recommendations around this.

00:56:03 --> 00:56:07: Larger. How do we create a sustainable economic model around

00:56:07 --> 00:56:08: the parks?

00:56:08 --> 00:56:11: Sales tax is a big percentage of kind of the

00:56:11 --> 00:56:15: revenue related to parks and maintenance I believe and so

00:56:15 --> 00:56:15: on.

00:56:15 --> 00:56:19: So what are other revenue streams that were even contemplated?

00:56:19 --> 00:56:22: Recommended? How do you think about?

00:56:22 --> 00:56:25: You know there was a recommendation of additional resources.

00:56:25 --> 00:56:27: That's a hot topic, you know?

00:56:27 --> 00:56:30: I mean, additional resources. Everybody wants additional

resources.

00:56:30 --> 00:56:32: Seems we solve every problem we have.

00:56:32 --> 00:56:36: What are other ways that the panel recommended we could

00:56:36 --> 00:56:39: address kind of sustainability from an economically said,

00:56:39 --> 00:56:41: you have to grow the pie.

00:56:41 --> 00:56:43: Emeka just gave a great option.

00:56:43 --> 00:56:47: Move some of the allocation of Gray hard infrastructure

00:56:47 --> 00:56:49: towards

00:56:49 --> 00:56:52: green infrastructure.

00:56:52 --> 00:56:56: We see this happening all over the country because the

00:56:56 --> 00:57:00: Co benefits of green infrastructure and the long term

00:57:00 --> 00:57:02: maintenance

00:57:02 --> 00:57:05: of green infrastructure is so much so much better than

00:57:05 --> 00:57:06: a pipe and a tank hidden underground so.

00:57:06 --> 00:57:09: And a lot of lot of times the money is

00:57:09 --> 00:57:12: already there,

00:57:12 --> 00:57:13: but I think the role of a Conservancy or foundation

00:57:13 --> 00:57:16: is to begin to figure out how do you grow

00:57:16 --> 00:57:19: the pie?

00:57:19 --> 00:57:20: How do you begin to tap into corporate dollars?

00:57:20 --> 00:57:23: How do you begin to tap into high net worth

00:57:23 --> 00:57:26: individuals?

00:57:26 --> 00:57:30: How do you begin to tap into the work that

00:57:30 --> 00:57:33: foundations are already doing in your city,

00:57:33 --> 00:57:37: but that fund raising that development program takes a

00:57:37 --> 00:57:39: theory

00:57:39 --> 00:57:44: of change and a strategy of change.

00:57:44 --> 00:57:47: That has to come on a multi decade horizon that

00:57:47 --> 00:57:48: sits outside the election cycle.

00:57:48 --> 00:57:53: So This is why you need an organization with their

00:57:53 --> 00:57:57: eye and their staff on that 10, 15, 20 year

00:57:57 --> 00:58:00: vision.

00:58:00 --> 00:58:04: And that's able to advocate for that vision and develop.

00:58:04 --> 00:58:07: Trust and reputation is an honest broker because,

00:58:07 --> 00:58:10: like Kansas City, is not unique but no one wants

00:58:10 --> 00:58:12: to give their hard earned dollars to the General Fund.

00:58:12 --> 00:58:15: It's just a fact, no matter how well managed.

00:58:15 --> 00:58:16: So that's that's one of the ways I think you

00:58:16 --> 00:58:20: can grow the pie.

00:58:20 --> 00:58:22: Great, I think that when we talked about growing the

00:58:22 --> 00:58:25: pie as I recall,

00:58:25 --> 00:58:28: it was kind of like a three legged stool approach

00:58:28 --> 00:58:31: and I think what Allison does.

00:58:22 --> 00:58:26: Allison just spoke out with one of those things Conservancy.
 00:58:26 --> 00:58:29: Coml think in Emeka just spoke of another one.
 00:58:29 --> 00:58:33: This re allocating resources that are already there so that
 00:58:33 --> 00:58:38: they are managed more efficiently which essentially creates more resources

 00:58:38 --> 00:58:41: and the third one was looking at at zoning density
 00:58:41 --> 00:58:46: around the parks and. Thinking about actually selling privatizing some

 00:58:46 --> 00:58:48: of the parts right?
 00:58:48 --> 00:58:52: Some portions of the parts thinking about changing the zoning

 00:58:52 --> 00:58:56: decety rate and let developers essentially pay you fees to
 00:58:56 --> 00:58:57: develop around the park,
 00:58:57 --> 00:59:01: right? And so you, you do these things overtime.
 00:59:01 --> 00:59:04: You have to have a sort of master strategy to
 00:59:04 --> 00:59:05: do them right?
 00:59:05 --> 00:59:08: But as you take this three legged stool,
 00:59:08 --> 00:59:10: different ways of getting resources,
 00:59:10 --> 00:59:14: right? You're doing it without raising the tax base.
 00:59:14 --> 00:59:17: Yeah, yeah, because when you say we're going to raise
 00:59:18 --> 00:59:19: taxes to do this.
 00:59:19 --> 00:59:22: In less Kansas City is different from every other city
 00:59:22 --> 00:59:25: on the planet you're going to get run out of
 00:59:25 --> 00:59:26: town on a rail,
 00:59:26 --> 00:59:28: so.
 00:59:28 --> 00:59:31: Well, yeah no. I appreciate that's gonna have to be
 00:59:31 --> 00:59:32: a wrap on this conversation.
 00:59:32 --> 00:59:35: We didn't do the 45 minutes we went to an
 00:59:35 --> 00:59:38: hour and I knew that I wouldn't be enough time
 00:59:38 --> 00:59:39: for this conversation.
 00:59:39 --> 00:59:42: So for the audience, thank you for attending.
 00:59:42 --> 00:59:45: Don't forget these conversations are recorded.
 00:59:45 --> 00:59:47: You can go to kansascity.uli.org.
 00:59:47 --> 00:59:50: You can go to the National ULI website under their
 00:59:50 --> 00:59:53: knowledge Finder you can go to the Kansas City Parks
 00:59:53 --> 00:59:55: and org Casey parks.org website.
 00:59:55 --> 00:59:57: You can find this report and get a view of
 00:59:57 --> 00:59:58: it as well.
 00:59:58 --> 01:00:01: These sessions are recorded. Be on the lookout for a
 01:00:01 --> 01:00:02: follow up email.
 01:00:02 --> 01:00:04: We have a lot of questions we didn't get too,
 01:00:04 --> 01:00:06: but we're going to be able to follow up for
 01:00:06 --> 01:00:07: a couple weeks on this conversation.

01:00:07 --> 01:00:09: There's a lot of areas that we can go deep
01:00:09 --> 01:00:10: on,
01:00:10 --> 01:00:12: which is a quick reminder that on August 6 we're
01:00:12 --> 01:00:13: actually going to talk about,
01:00:13 --> 01:00:15: you know what does equity in parks mean?
01:00:15 --> 01:00:17: We're going to go little deeper in terms of what
01:00:17 --> 01:00:19: does equity in park stand for?
01:00:19 --> 01:00:20: What does it mean to the community?
01:00:20 --> 01:00:22: So come back and share your lunch with this on
01:00:22 --> 01:00:23: Thursday,
01:00:23 --> 01:00:24: August 6 and will be doing that.
01:00:24 --> 01:00:27: Also, don't forget quick reminder to join us for Coffee
01:00:27 --> 01:00:28: Connect tomorrow at 8:30.
01:00:28 --> 01:00:31: We're going to hear from Catherine Carter from KCK Waco.
01:00:31 --> 01:00:34: Radio from Tim McKeon in Olathe and we're going from
01:00:34 --> 01:00:37: McDowell at least summit and hear their respective cities
priorities,
01:00:37 --> 01:00:39: so join us for coffee connect tomorrow.
01:00:39 --> 01:00:42: There's information on the ULI website and hey.
01:00:42 --> 01:00:44: Thank you Terry. Thank you for your leadership.
01:00:44 --> 01:00:47: Thank you for doing this into our our panelists this
01:00:47 --> 01:00:47: week.
01:00:47 --> 01:00:50: Carlton Allison and Mika. Thank you not only for coming
01:00:50 --> 01:00:53: to Kansas City sharing your perspectives with us.
01:00:53 --> 01:00:55: We really appreciate that so thank you.
01:00:55 --> 01:00:57: All for your time and most of all.
01:00:57 --> 01:01:00: Thank you for all of you who joined us this
01:01:00 --> 01:01:02: weekend will see you all next time.
01:01:02 --> 01:01:04: Thank you very much.

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