

were particularly keen on the inclusion of Swope Park. On the one hand, it was suggested that the time and distance required to tour Swope Park might distract from other Kansas City amenities. On the other hand, broad public admiration and the belief “that the entrance to the park was as beautiful as any in the country” led several committee members to argue, “protests would be citywide if Swope Park was omitted.”<sup>80</sup> As a compromise, members endorsed “placing a marker at Linwood and Benton and another some place on Meyer Boulevard, making it clear that Swope Park lay south and east respectively, thereby giving tourists the opportunity of going there if they wished, but at the same time retaining the inside route much the same as used during the G.O.P. Convention.”<sup>81</sup> The decision to designate a permanent scenic route reveals the link between the City Beautiful movement, which had established the park system, and efforts to cement Kansas City’s reputation as a tourist attraction following the 1928 convention.

### Ten-Year Plan

The creation of the Ten-Year Plan for Kansas City represented a continuation of the civic pride and organizational momentum created by the 1928 Republican National Convention. When Conrad Mann, following the summer gathering, became Chamber of Commerce president, he “brought 600 business men to their feet as they cheered his declaration that ‘Kansas City is going to have a civic awakening.’”<sup>82</sup> The Ten-Year Plan reintroduced municipal projects that had failed to gain voter approval in 1928 and also identified new priorities. The Convention Committee, for example, noted during a meeting in July that despite the success of the 1928 Republican National Convention, Kansas City failed to land numerous other national conventions due to inadequate meeting space and facilities. Members were optimistic, however, that “if the Chamber of Commerce and the public in general decide to endorse a ten-year program . . . a new convention hall can be included in such a plan.” Members noted that Cleveland, which had hosted the 1924 Republican convention, had recently finished a new municipal auditorium in 1922 and St. Louis was also planning a new facility.<sup>83</sup>

In order to ensure broad citywide support, thus avoiding the failed ballot results of the previous year, Mann spearheaded a Civic Improvement Committee. The *Kansas City Star* noted that the committee’s structure mirrored what had been used in Chicago to create an “outstanding city . . . in the manner of city planning.”<sup>84</sup> To avoid the segregation on planning committees for the Republican National Convention, African American members were included on the Civic Improvement Committee. For example, both Thomas Unthank and Fred Dabney, who had been late additions to the General Executive Committee for the Republican Convention, were appointed to the committee. Other African American members of the Civic Improvement Committee included Chester Franklin, Mrs. Myrtle F. Cook, Edwin