



*Pillars enjoy lunch & a presentation at Strang Reserve*



*Brad Moore shares about the Overland Park Historical Society*

## JANUARY: GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

The January Pillars session braved the cold after the big snowstorm and explored the relationship between government and development, focusing on the City of Overland Park. In this session, the group explored how Overland Park's past has led to one of the largest and most successful suburbs in the Midwest, how government attempts to guide and encourage development, and what the results of those efforts are.

Overland Park traces its roots back to 1905 with the arrival of its founder William B. Strang Jr., who platted subdivisions, including one named "Overland Park," along a military roadway southwest of Kansas City. Strang envisioned a self-sustaining, well planned, "park-like" community that had strong commerce, quality education, vibrant neighborhoods, convenient transportation, and accommodating recreational facilities. The city today encompasses 75.6 square miles of Johnson County, and has more than 200,000 residents, making it the second most populous city in Kansas and metropolitan Kansas City.

The session started with lunch at Strang Reserve and a presentation on the history of Overland Park by Brad Moore of the Overland Park Historical Society. The group then walked past the Farmers' Market, which is currently under construction. The award-winning Farmers' Market is undergoing a \$34 million renovation to expand the layout and add an indoor pavilion. The group then continued to the

Overland Park Historical Society's current office, where Brad told stories and showed relics from OP's past.

From there, the group walked through downtown OP to the Strang Depot Building. The Depot Building was a stop on the Strang Line Interurban Railroad in the early 1900's and is currently being restored to serve as the new office for the Historical Society. A round table discussion was held at the Depot with Jack Messer - Asst. City Manager for the City of Overland Park, Hal Shapiro - Founder and Managing Principal Partner of REAL Property Group, and Kristina Stanley - Manager of the Overland Park Farmers' Market. The discussion focused on the government's efforts to encourage and guide city growth and the resulting benefits and challenges for developers, the community, and AEC industry.



*Panelists discuss OP government efforts in the city's future development*