

ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

YOUR NAME: jacki becker

1. From the website: The purpose of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is to facilitate understanding with the City of Lawrence and Douglas County; to maintain and enhance living conditions; to foster communication in East Lawrence and to maintain good relations amongst neighbors, businesses, organizations and other neighborhoods in Lawrence.
As a board member, how would you contribute to ELNA's mission?

Having lived in east Lawrence for quite some time now, I am involved in volunteer organizations that love to be apart of the east side (KVKL / Fall Ball / Free State Festival). I also have represented the east side for years as a member selected to the cultural board. I own a small business and work out of my home on the east side along with working downtown and I feel these all make me a very active part of my neighborhood.

2. How many full ELNA meetings have you been to in the past 12 months?

I try to attend every ELNA board meeting, but I also work at night if I have a concert, so this year I believe I made 9 meetings, plus innumerous additional ELNA meetings involving 9th street, the cultural district, the free state festival and the dept of arts & culture workshops.

3. Have you volunteered, donated, or attended ELNA events? If so, which?

Absolutely. Volunteering is the best part of being on ELNA. I donate my time to the yart sale (coz there's always free pizza), I have helped clean up the river, dug up brick sidewalks, I have made baked goods to sell at the KVKL game of the week, I donated both concert tickets, t-shirts and my entire sound system to the ELNA block party.

4. What kind of project(s) would you like to pursue for the neighborhood?

I think working on getting proper zoning for our neighborhood is essential. We are a mixed-use neighborhood and it's important that we make sure single-family homes remain single-family homes. Its also important as development occurs in our neighborhood that we are keeping in mind that we want to offer housing that is affordable and brings families to the neighborhood whose kids will bike/ walk to our fine new york elementary school. I am a long term supporter of public transportation / bicycling in our city and would love to see the Burroughs trail extended through our neighborhood, to the river and continuing the idea that Lawrence should have a walking/ biking path that connects our entire city.

5. How long have you lived in East Lawrence? Why did you move here?

It's been twelve years now. I moved here because it is close to downtown and had the right amount of funkiness that I was looking for in a neighborhood. East Lawrence is a "working" neighborhood. There is always work being done here, whether it's a project on ones home, garage, garden or car, or being done at one of our numerous art spaces, or being cooked, created, curated, filmed or roasted at one of our many local small businesses, our neighborhood has so much going on, and that is a huge reason why I moved and love living here.

6. What are the major issues facing East Lawrence today?

We are currently a neighborhood that is experiencing growth and transition. There are families who have lived here for generations, there are buildings that have been vacant for decades that are now being filled, there are homes being both saved and remodeled and unfortunately homes that are being demolished. People want to come and live and work in our neighborhood which means a lot of new faces, new ideas wanting to join in what is known as the east side. Acknowledging this movement and finding a way to listen and respect both our long term working class history while also embracing the new families, empty nesters and businesses who see potential in the place we call home is vital at this point. No we are not always going to agree on everything, but making sure we take the time to listen, respect and work together on keeping our neighborhood the best around is key.

7. How would you characterize the essence of the neighborhood?

Our neighborhood is always working hard on something and that is good.

8. What other community / city boards/ groups do you belong to or attended regularly this past year?

I have been active on the 9th street project for years, I have been on the ELNA board for six years now, I am one of the longstanding board members of the Kaw Valley Kickball League, I belong the the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and am a long time supporter of KU women's swimming.