

## ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Josh Davis (Penn St.) \_\_\_\_\_

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?

I feel like I have a good understanding of the things going on in the neighborhood, all the various moving parts and how they relate to each other. I like to think I'm good at hearing people's viewpoints, and contributing to helping their voices be heard.

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

All but one if I remember correctly.

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

Yes. Pretty much all of them at some point.

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

I'm excited for the 9<sup>th</sup> street topic to settle down so we can focus on some other topics! On the serious side of things, I want to try and advocate for families with young children as I have supporting New York and in regards to the potential bistro/bar on Pennsylvania. On the lighter side, I'd like to be a part of organizing an "Alley Tour" in the neighborhood. Similar to how other neighborhoods might do home tours... but focusing on the utilitarian side of the house, not the public. However, I should note that I've been wanting to work on this for several years now... so hopefully this will be the year we can get around to it!

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

15 years. My wife and I originally moved here when we were young because of an opportunity to work on a house that was slated for demolition. With a second kiddo, we eventually moved from there all the way to a house a block over, because it's East Lawrence and by that time we were hooked.

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

We all know East Lawrence is a neighborhood in transition. This transition is not unique to our neighborhood, it's the sort of thing happening all across the country. It just so happens that all of the national trends encouraging walkability, urban living, the arts, and appreciation for history are offered here in East Lawrence (by the truck load!). The major issue to me for East Lawrence is maintaining its identity through all of the changes. I like the mix of people, the mix of socio economics, the mix of trades and professions that we have. I don't mind change, and recognize its inevitability, I just hope we can preserve those special mixes, and maintain our spunky live-and-let-live attitude along with them.

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

Oops. I think I answered this with my long winded answer above.

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

My wife and I had a new baby last year (to go along with our older boys). I was President of ELNA at the time and also volunteered in other groups. For the sanity of my family, I stepped down from everything but my ELNA board seat, so this year that's been my only community board I've been on. Prior to this year I have been on the New York Elementary site council (including Chair), the Lawrence Preservation Alliance Board of Directors, the steering committee for Save Our Neighborhood Schools, and represented the New York community on the Elementary School Consolidation Working Group.