

ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

YOUR NAME: Joshua Davis (New York 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?

My background is in communications and much of the ELNA mission revolves around communications. The current board does a good job, as a whole, in highlighting key issues for the community. I do believe that the current approach can be a bit hostile to those outside of the board and especially to entities outside of East Lawrence. To that point, it is my hope that whatever composition the 2016 Board has, there will be a greater consideration of views beyond the core of most active participants and that the board will work to get input from more East Lawrence residents.

In addition, the "enhance living conditions" part of our mission should be looked at in a proactive manner. I would like to be part of active projects that address a number of quality-of-life issues including housing (see question 4).

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

Four

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

Yes.

River Cleanup (volunteer)

Block Party

Wrapping for Adopt-A-Family

YART Sale

Forums on East Ninth project

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

Being part of a committee to address housing issues

-Affordability

-Zoning

-Appropriate Development

-Property tax freezes, if certain conditions are met (length of ownership, age of owner, property tax % increase).

Communications

The ELNA newsletter is one of the few interesting pieces of print mail I actually receive. I would like to help ensure the excellent content created for the print and email newsletter gets conveyed via social channels to reach all audiences, and then encourage everyone who could use the information to

consider signing-up for the e-newsletter. I view it as a cycle where, in the end, everyone is better informed.

Encourage Active Participation and Reporting on City Advisory Boards, Committees and Task Forces

East Lawrence has, for at least the past decade, had a greater number of individuals in these groups than population size alone would dictate. I would like to see that continue. It keeps our community informed. It gets our neighborhood a place at the table. To continue that...

- Get current participants to get more involved in ELNA and report on their respective meetings, even if just occasionally

- Provide regular updates on vacant spots

- Encourage East Lawrence residents who have an interest and background in committee vacancies to apply

Picking up trash

I like to pick up trash. I do that now just when I walk, and I would like to be involved in more organized efforts around that simple act (similar to the River Cleanup). I spend a considerable amount of time on a computer each day, so that is something basic that I enjoy doing.

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

Eight years. I went to school at KU and then lived a number of places for the next decade including Victoria, BC, Central Kansas and the Mississippi Coast. After Hurricane Katrina, I moved back to Lawrence, and after spending time in East Lawrence over the next two years decided I wanted to live here permanently. I chose East Lawrence because of its unique mix of individuals, friends, openness & walk-ability.

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

Affordable Housing

Infrastructure improvements

Inclusion of multiple voices in representation and discussion

Job creation

Long term planning to continue to build on the success of New York Elementary

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

An amazing group of eclectic individuals who, as a whole, care more about their neighborhood than anywhere I have ever lived. It is a neighborhood where you know your long-term neighbors, you often know someone on every block, and you even get to know the college student just passing through because the whole neighborhood leads to connections. East Lawrence has an appreciation of the small things like a simple walk or the big things like helping neighbors, preserving history and being active in discussions.

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

Social Media Club of Lawrence (Past Chair, Past Programs Lead, Attendee)

City Commission (Attendee, comment contributor)

East Ninth Citizen Advisory (Attendee)
Lawrence Preservation Alliance (Member)
Relay for Life (Volunteer)