

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
Minutes: Monday September 10th

Present:

Aaron Paden, Brad Gibson, Catherine Reed, Cindy Suenram, Connie Fitzpatrick, Dave Lowenstein, Eric Jay, Jennifer Distlehorst, Joe Bickford, Joshua Davis, Judy Romero, KH, KT Walsh, Lane Eisenbart, Matt Pool, Mike Anderson, Nate Morsches, Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Todd Foster

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Here are the minutes based on the agenda.

1. Introductions
2. Housekeeping Announcements
 1. Meetings will be on the 2nd Monday of the month starting in January
 2. March 11th, 2nd Monday, USD 497 Spring Break, meet at DSC? We'll decide this later.
 3. Board Elections in November. Those who want to run for the Board must declare their intentions by/at Oct 1st meeting.
3. No approvals this month.
 - a. REMINDER: CDBG quarterly report: fill in meetings attended, especially BOARD members.
4. New business
 1. Downtown Plan. The city manager will hire a consultant to advise on the downtown master plan. There will also be an 18-person committee to help with this, one member from ELNA. Todd Foster volunteered and was elected. He will report back to ELNA and ELNA will empower him to make decisions. Pam will back him up.
 2. Block Party -- September 22nd. It is coming along. Raffle items are still needed and can be dropped off at Lane's pink house at 1229 Pennsylvania. Lights are also needed.
 3. RiverKings -- new letter to Depot and City. Phil will write this and bring it to the October meeting.
 4. Lawrence Loop Letter of Support for a grant from the DOT to complete the area near K10 and 29th St. Aaron will write the letter, moved, seconded and approved. To complete the area along the unused railroad track will take time. The Hobbs Park-downtown connection is also being studied.
 5. Epicenter, new group in Lawrence - Dave L. and Connie F. Epicenter is a new arts/culture space for intercultural and underrepresented communities. They are looking for models throughout the US of spaces where people can make art, explore their heritage and record local history. They have applied for and received several grants. More information can be found on their Facebook page, Epicenter, and they will have a table at the block party.
5. Recurring Updates
 - a. 13th St bicycle boulevard. Money is available to do this now, after many years, \$100,000.00 each for 13th and 21st Streets. Lively discussion ensued: for many reasons, 14th St. would work better for bikes than 13th. Can ELNA influence this? Phil will check the timeline.
 - b. Arts Place Grant, Rebuilding East Ninth Together update. Lane and KT will be on the advisory committee for East Lawrence, Alex Olson will represent the Arts Center. The Art Place Project Facilitator position is open.
 - c. Rebuilding East 9th, City portion, update. Over 400,000 bricks have been unearthed.
 - d. Downtown Grocery Store. There is a new investor.

- e. Conservation Overlay. No action this month.
- f. Home Tour -- October 13th. Tickets have been printed and will be for sale at Cottin's, Decade, BonBon, the Brewery and the ELNA picnic, where there will be an informational table. Yard signs will be put up, plus a big sign. About 30 volunteers are needed for 3-hour slots, 10-1 and 1-4. Bootees have been ordered. Eric will do more postings with Lane's help.
- g. Splash Park. This is now scheduled for 2023. We can urge Parks and Rec to speed this up by attending their meeting, right before ELNA. We could also recruit people from other neighborhoods at the block party. KT will write a letter to Lane's contact, the preschool teacher.
- h. Hike Through History. Nothing new, Lane will follow this.

6. Reports

- a. President. Phil went to the affordable housing board. A study will be done on the demographics of renters, and how to make more affordable housing available. He has completed the CDBG report. The Planning Commission is soliciting feedback about their procedures. Phil will send an e-mail to the Board, and attend the Parks and Rec meeting.

b. Vice-President. Grilling at games netted \$544, about \$1200 for the year.

c. Treasurer. We have \$2040.00 in the bank.

d. Coordinator. Lane met with the new principal Ms. Halstead. We should think ahead to the Nov/Dec newsletter. Lane is working on the block party, and will be starting work on the website to archive documents.

e. Committees

- i. Budget/ Fundraising Committee. No discussion.
- ii. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. They are looking for input on planning, as noted above.
- iii. Planning Commission. No discussion.
- iv. Historic Resources Commission. Suzan Hampton alerted us to upcoming remodeling at 1213 Delaware. Phil will follow up with Suzan, Aaron will write a letter to the HRC. KT urged more people to attend the meetings.
- v. City Commission. Their offices are moving to the Riverfront Mall. KT is urging the Commission to update their website to list all the city laws, including one that forbids walking in the street.
- vi. CDAC. There are 3 positions vacant.
- vii. New York PTO/Site Council. No discussion.

7. Updates / Announcements

A. Vanessa Reynaga will no longer be able to serve on the board as she has moved to Barker.

B. Nate and his business partner Matt are looking for a location for their new business, Trader's Cache, a bar/restaurant with a library of board games, to open in about one year. They came to introduce themselves and hear any concerns ELNA might have.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. Minutes prepared by Catherine Reed.