

ELNA Minutes – February 8, 2021

Present: Phil Collison, Josh Davis, Will Averill, Lane Eisenbart, Aaron Paden, Sakthi Kasthuriangan, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh, Pam Blackburn, Desmond Granger, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh, Pam Blackburn, Sacie Lamberton, Brenda Nunez, Frank Janzen, Suzan Hampton, Boog Highberger, Joe Carpenter

Meeting called to order by Barry. KT moved and Phil seconded to approve the agenda and the December, January minutes. Motion passed.

Will and Desmond from The Willow gave a presentation on their organization. The Willow was founded in 1976 as they began offering shelter to abused women. Services today include all individuals who are abused, including trans people and men. They operate in Franklin, Jefferson, and Douglas county. The Willow is about to open their 2nd shelter. It was started as crisis intervention. Services are now wider and include emergency shelter. The new shelter will provide 9 more bedrooms for a total of 20 beds. The duration of stay will increase from 30 to 90 days to transition out of the situation. Allows clients to find employment, documentation and housing. 80% of people in transitional housing move to regular housing. Tenants to homeowners manages the housing. Willow does referrals. Services also include Human trafficking survivors program, court advocacy program goes to dockets and sit/support survivors thru the process. Community advocacy assistance helps with rent and other necessary items. They arrange for transportation to appointments and job interviews. They also have services for youth transitioning out of foster care. A transition house for these youth has been opened giving them a place to live for up to 2 years.

The willow is funded by federal and state grants. 15 to 20% of their funding is from individual or corporate donations. The city and county also contribute. There is a staff of 30, 2/3 are direct staff and 1/3 are community outreach.

Sakthi K talked about expanding the neighborhood refrigerator programs. He is looking for a program similar to Sunrise but more accessible. There is now a refrigerator at KU and downtown, with more places to come. Looking for ideas for where to put one in other places, like East Lawrence. They are recovering extra food from restaurants to stock the refrigerators.

Key Boards

LAN: next meeting is in a couple of days. Phil will forward the results

HRC: Memorial by swimming pool. Juneteenth was discussed.

LPA: Will be at next LAN meeting. Reaching to more neighborhoods to recognize people making good improvements to their homes.

Safe Neighborhood Speeds Campaign will be starting very soon.

Sidewalk Inspection program: this year there are some sidewalks in our neighborhood. Generally they are targeting sidewalks used by students going to middle school and NYE. No brick sidewalks are involved.

Phil, Sacie, Barry meeting with city hall about how / where to repair brick streets and sidewalks.

Covid Vaccination info / outreach: Sr center available to assist people without computer access to help people get on the list.

CDBG Grant Application submitted.

Wildlife Conservation Area restoration and cleanup: down by river, N of train station, invasive species to be removed. Trees to be planted.

The BIG Event: any ideas for projects? KU volunteers in april

New York School / LMCMS updates: any one interested in attending meetings?

Grant Seeking: Douglas County Heritage Grant

Accessory Dwelling Units in RS-5 Zones: Planning is investigating allowing ADUs on RS5 lots. Rules are that the owner must live in one unit. ADU cannot be more larger than the current building. Must have 6000 sq ft lot. Need to be ready for when this topic is hitting committees.

Douglas county Heritage grant: Native American recognition, signage. Who was here before? And how do we find out? Paid consultant to local tribe(s) plus artwork for signage.

Kaw rock to be returned to the Kaw nation. 1st step is do research of what should be done. Lane, Dave, KT and Phil to help organize a meeting.

Funding, including 501c3: Boog volunteered to help with organization of steps. Filing fee is \$260. Kt moves for Boog to file paper work for ELNA becoming 501c3 in April. Aaron 2nds. Filing fee should be < 500. Motion passed.

President: Met with Michael Almon, VP of Brook Creek. ELNA March meeting speaker will be from Lawrence transit on bus route changes in august.

Treasurer \$3997.38, paypal: 563.32; \$11 from recycling

Coordinator: talking to Trinity Lutheran church for a film festival in March in the parking lot. Needs Assessment : more than 20 people responded. They all indicated that they read the paper newsletter

Meeting adjourned.