

ELNA Minutes – May 10, 2021

Present: Phil Collison, Pam Blackburn, Lane Eisenbart, Barry Shalinsky, Aaron Paden, Patrick Watkins, Lisa Larsen, KT Walsh, Jim Carpenter, Ellen Paulsen, Josh Davis, Stuart Boley, Marci Francisco, Brenda Nunez, Joe Bickford, Frank Janzen, Sacie Lambertson

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved. April minutes were approved (KT moved and Phil 2nd).

Patrick Watkins came to talk about 1306 NH in the south RI historic district. It is a non-conforming duplex. He wants to add 67 sq ft to the main floor to support an upstairs bedroom. He is working with Mike Meyers and contractor Stan Hearnly to rehab. It will remain a duplex. He is hoping to apply for tax credits.

8th St Quonset hut project (Tony) is asking for a change in zoning from industrial to commercial. Zoning designation is from previous use. Any change triggers a historic review. The 2 parcels will eventually be combined. Tony will redevelop property accordingly to meet preservation guidelines. The intention is for a restaurant to occupy the building with open space and parking. Tony has a consultant to monitor the covenants. The soil cannot be disturbed. The parking lot is intended to use pervious surfaces to improve water runoff.

Depot Parking Lot Construction: design updates are being made due to discovery of old brick surface. This appears to be the floor of the original freight depot. 70% of the bricks will be part of the parking lot. The remaining will not be removed.

City Commission: Budget, Neighborhood Plan, ELNA operating funds. Thanks to the commissioners for instructing staff to make city budget amendment to provide 5 months of funding for neighborhood associations. This is resulting in \$400 a month from August to December. Lisa Larsen said talks were beginning about items that should be in the budget.

The detailed report is due to be released on 5/25 for the police study containing what the consultants feel policing should be in Lawrence. City is working on better allocation of money for projects. Hopefully, a plan for live commission meetings will be complete soon.

Downtown Master Plan: Concerns expressed about the released plan in particular the Post Office. It is felt that city services are important to remain downtown to keep downtown vital.

Trash (blowing, overflowing from dumpsters at LDCHA property). Staff has picked up trash and put it back in dumpsters. Neighbors appreciate the attention to the problem.

Multi-modal transfer facilities is looking for public input. The main hub is intended to be at 15th & Crestline. Looking at 3 different sites for a downtown subhub, 1 on Vermont & 2 on NH.

Neighborhood Traffic Management Pilot Traffic Calming Study application: Neighborhoods can put in applications to apply for specific area to receive traffic calming installations. Just identify area/intersections. Then nearby organizations and neighbors need to agree. Any potential areas in EL? They are re-envisioning the process. The 25 mph speed limit in all city neighborhoods came out of this group.

901 Pennsylvania Community Garden Mural: Dave will be coordinating putting a mural on the concrete wall on the south side of the building. This is planned to be starting in the next few months. A letter of support to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission, City Commission, and City Manager in support of the mural is needed. Pam moved that ELNA write a letter of support, seconded by Aaron. Motion passed. Barry to write letter.

Jungle House is looking into outdoor lighting improvements. It was suggested they contact the Lawrence Loop to see if lights were part of the Loop improvements. No new news.

City Sidewalk Inspection & Repair program is temporarily on hold. The 9th street improvements made the 9th & Pennsylvania corner not ADA compliant. The current concrete steps are irregular and dangerous. Owner (Phil) would like steps removed.

Boog let us know that this year's Juneteenth celebration will be virtual. More details to come.

NYE & LMCMS: will be needing volunteers to help with the garden.

Parks & Rec: the splash pad at Burroughs Creek Park and restrooms at Edgewood park are on the list for this year!! They are on the June 1st agenda.

Funding, including 501c3 application. We must amend our bylaws to include mandatory wording required by federal government. We must give 30 day notice to change the bylaws. It was announced in the last newsletter. Changes will be posted to our website and will be voted on in the June meeting. We will then be able to apply for 501c3 status. This change of status will allow us to apply for more grants.

When can we meet in person? Soon.

Officer reports:

President: met with City Manager. Barry had an excellent discussion on funding and updating our neighborhood plan. He asked if we could be one of the 1st groups. The city is beginning the process to hire more staff to support this. Logistically new HR staff must be hired first then other staff. East Lawrence will be the first neighborhood that the new planners will work with in 2022.

Jim Carpenter agreed EL is first on the 2022 list. Consultant is coming soon to overhaul land use to the 2040 plan. July 1st will be a discussion on the future of city government structure. Considering a directly elected mayor and whether to continue the commission as an at large group or district representation.

Treasurer: \$3286.90, paypal \$895.

Coordinator: city is taking reservations for parks. Should we reserve for our neighborhood block party on 9/25?

Meeting adjourned.