

## ELNA Minutes – March 14, 2022

Present: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Joshua Davis, Lane Eisenbart, Krista Gentry, Dave Loewenstein, Kate Lowder, Brenda Nunez, Aaron Paden, Julia Patterson, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh

Lyle Seger, Nancy Kelly, Ellen Paulsen, Michael Almon, JT Thornburg, Stephen La Cour Jr, Joe Bickford, Frank Janzen, Marci Fransico

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved (Josh D moved & KT 2<sup>nd</sup>). February minutes were approved. Josh D moved & KT 2<sup>nd</sup>.

826 RI is currently being rehabbed.

Lyle Seger & Nancy Kelley spoke about Building Peace. This New Restorative Justice Initiative is called Building Peace. This is the first full year of operation. It constitutes a group of 5 to make a difference in the neighborhoods by helping with juvenile and 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders. They help mediate disputes, including neighborhood disputes, to help resolve conflicts. The group sits down with both parties to discuss what the action does to the whole community. Everyone takes ownership on how to address the harm. Building peace tracks progress, reports back to DA and hopefully no charges will result. Neighborhood accountability board is focusing with juvenile & 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders, helping them understand and change their lives. They are looking for others to be trained in this activity. There is a \$30 fee for training. Signups at [Buildingpeaceks.org](http://Buildingpeaceks.org). The organization is not religiously affiliated. Fees based on resource based graduated scale. Everyone signs confidentially agreements.

Traffic Safety: Michael Almon from Sustainability Action Network (SAN) spoke. The city is inviting people to submit ideas for capital improvements. Submittals opened 2/22 and close 3/22. Burrough's creek trail will be extended thru 8<sup>th</sup> St. Tony is considering donating property to connect to the Amtrak station. SAN is proposing a connector down 7<sup>th</sup> street to downtown. SAN hopes to add bicycle protected area for a safe route. The proposal would modify 7<sup>th</sup> St on the north side of the street, from Amtrak to NH (in current west bound lanes, including right turn at NH for this bicycle lane giving a two-lane protected bike track. 7<sup>th</sup> St. will not be as wide as it is now for cars. City seems still committed to completing loop thru downtown. SAN hopes to apply for a large grant.

Pam B moves that ELNA write a Letter of support for this endeavor. Krista 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Barry to write letter.

We have applied for a CDBG grant for 20 mph pavement markers on Delaware.

Rezoning Request for Quonset Hut property at 620 E. 8th Street update

Planning staff recommended commercial rezoning with 45-55 alcohol to non-alcohol ratio. Planning Commission voted 6-4 to recommend approval to City Commission. Owner Tony Krsnich made a pitch for a 60-40 alcohol to non-alcohol ratio. The Planning Commission split 5 to 5, but one Commissioner switched thier vote to move the proposal forward. Parking, noise, outdoor activities and late night hours are concerns, along with alcohol. Phil moves we address the city commission when rezoning comes up. Kt 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.

Proposed Apartment Development 1000 Block of New Hampshire

ELNA wrote a letter identifying concerns with massing, height, parking. We liked the setback for buildings. HRC has sent the project to architectural review. Adding angled street parking to project has been talked about. Preservation advocates suggest having height step down towards the Lutheran Church. Now it goes back to HRC with proposed changes. Tony K plans to construct a stick building, not steel frame.

New York School Montessori update: kindergarten in 2022-23 would be Montessori and the rest of school would be a traditionally structured school. Families choosing traditional education would be offered the opportunity to transfer to Cordley. Some members commented this does not seem to be equitable. Puts current NY students in the cross hairs for either choice. The New York Site Council continues to discuss the idea, and public meetings will be announced in the future.

Housing Policy Discussion: apartments are being built with 1 bedroom. The neighborhood needs more apartments with more bedrooms if we wish to promote East Lawrence as a family friendly place to increase enrollment at New York Elementary and Liberty Memorial Central Middle Schools. Studios / 1 bedroom gentrify east Lawrence into downtown. What can we do to support tenants to homeowners? And to encourage affordable housing in East Lawrence? There is a need for workforce housing. This is what is purportedly being built, but housing sales are anything but affordable for people of moderate incomes. Recent housing has emphasized demolition and new construction instead of rehab. Krista would like to be involved in further discussions about this.

Internal Neighborhood Engagement Discussion (Membership and Newsletter)

Any volunteers to hand deliver newsletters? Tell Barry. Joe Bickford wants to help.

Officer / Staff Reports & Miscellaneous items

President (City Neighborhood Engagement Program)

Four former CDBG neighborhoods met with city staff to discuss a Neighborhood Engagement Program, with future funding from City General Funds. ELNA to receive \$5000 during 2022.

Treasurer Report 1788.81 bank; 443.47 PayPal; 348.55 Wishing Bench dedicated PayPal

Coordinator (Yart Sale and Merch): Kaitlyn Stanley to organize neighborhood garden and Murphy-Brommelsick House cleanup on May 1 Sunday. Yart sale is Sat 4/9. Phil & Mick are organizing music. Volunteers welcome for both events.

Adjournment Josh D moved , KT 2<sup>nd</sup> , passed.