

## Minutes for the ELNA Meeting January 9, 2023

Brought to order at 7:06

Attendees: in person: Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh, Phil Collison, Lane Eisenbart, Joe Bickford, Jan Butin, Pam Blackburn, Aaron Paden, Sacie Lambertson. Via zoom: Walt Clogston, Krista Gentry, Kate Lowder, Ellen Paulsen, Julia Patterson, JT Thornburg.

KT moves to approve agenda, Krista 2nds all in favor aye, approved

Election of Treasurer,

Aaron nominated and accepts. No one opposed, Aaron is still treasurer.

\*\* 900 Pennsylvania St. City Commission approved zoning change to IL from IG. A parking variance request went in front of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the variance passed to require only 4 parking spaces, down from the 21 spaces normally required. Staff recommended denial of variance, BZA board members overrode that. Walt asks what happened? 21 to 4 parking spaces. Do we support the project? We really want them to integrate into the neighborhood and are trying to push them to do that. Sacie asks can we have any input on site plan? It'll be hard to have an impact at this point. There is an appeal that can be done with the CC and the group of neighbors may do that.

\*\* East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan. The City has gathered information and is now putting together a draft. There may be a draft available in March/April timeline for this. KT asked Lynne Z (HRO, historic resources officer) if we can have any input on the draft and there is a path for limited input. Aaron says neighborhood "Plans should include free recreation".

\*\* Parks and Rec proposal to charge money to enter Community Buildings. Parks and Rec (PnR) has a budget crisis. Capitol improvements are now a part of PnR budget. That is not covered in the budget. They want to generate revenue to help meet that shortfall. 20% to 35% increases in all the other fees PnR charge. They hope to recover 1 million dollars. One quarter of one percent of the whole city budget. "We are affordable and can walk in for free is one of those things that make us unmistakable" and "it fits right in with all of the City's strategic plans". "Don't make PnR a revenue stream. The idea that charging people makes sense is no surprise to anyone." We took in an additional \$6 million sales tax revenue for the year. Aaron was able to speak to the parks and rec board and laid it out in a positive manner. Was anyone in favor of this? No, "only Derek Rogers". JT is watching the meeting and it will go on for a long time. Barry thinks, "we just made Lawrence Transit Free for all riders. B/C we prioritized riding the bus for free. We can now ride the bus to the community building for free but now have to pay to go in there." Stay tuned! "We should write a letter to the City and tell them this is not a real budget issue. There is a surplus available in another part of the budget. We have some of the best PnR activities going." Phil moved that Aaron should write a letter to CC reflecting AP, LE, P Blackburn's thoughts. Can't put a dollar value on that community spirit. Barry reiterates that tracking system's cost a lot. Pam sez PnR got stuck with paying for all the landscaping for roundabouts with no addition to their budget for that. Still not enough to justify charges. Kristi sez when she moved here she had to show something to prove she lives in Lawrence to enter. Then they went to a card system. Aaron brought a van load of kids and they didn't all have their fob and they wouldn't let him in. "Pretty soon they are going to make a fee to submit public comment." KT recalls that there is no data of who goes there and that is the reason for the fob. Sacie points out that she asked to see the budget and it is integrated into the whole city, so you can't see just the PNR budget. Zoom chat showed question 'what about homeless impact?' Can't get to showers, etc. to use facilities. Is this related to why they are charging?

**Action item:** Aaron will write a letter.

\*\* City historic resources ordinance. KT and Barry went to one of the public comment meetings. Their take is that ordinance hasn't been updated for a long time – 20 years. Not consistent with current state standards. Many of proposed changes make ours conform to recently changed state law. Gears more towards administrative approvals rather than in front of boards. With less oversight there is less transparency. We know that the HRO is under a lot of pressure to do things that make it easier to navigate the ordinances. Barry sez, once you open the can of worms and the can of worms is open, there are forces that want no historic protection and they have a tremendous influence on policy. We will need to keep showing up. LPA will need to keep showing up, bc developers will keep showing up.

\*\* Traffic Safety. We're going to go after 8<sup>th</sup> and CT signage and crosswalks, crosswalks all down 9<sup>th</sup> street and also a sidewalk spur and crosswalks at 10<sup>th</sup> and Delaware Streets.

\*\* USD 497 futures planning. Walt reports it is a regular board meeting. The futures planning is on Wednesday. They may be getting data that will supply fodder for that futures planning. On Saturday Barry saw Carol Cadue-Blackwood from school board. She noted the direction school board is going will result in some school board battles. Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Free state HS and the 18<sup>th</sup> at LHS discussing what came from futures planning meeting. See Julie Boyle's email from today? We're predicting Pinkney and Woodlawn are at risk of being closed. NY may be spared b/c of Montessori. Central is at risk, too. Are the consultants taking into consideration that the Battery factory is coming and we'll get a lot of folks moving in? Pam read the paper and those increases in population are 5+ years out and too far to factor in. We don't have enough housing stock to supply them. Would we go on record tonight that we support keeping Central JHS open? And that it is an important part of our neighborhood fabric. ELNA Board takes the stand that LMCMS should stay open. Motion passes. Phil moves, Aaron seconds, and it is passed.

**Action Item:** write a letter and submit. (Who was going to do that?).

\*\* Updates on:

**CC:** Courtney Shipley wants to meet with Barry and KT. Lane hasn't seen anything scary in the agenda recently.

**Planning Commission:** Nada. Walt asks about neighborhood plan. Draft expected in March/April.

**LPA:** Nada

**HRC:** is working on ordinance.

**LAN:** Holli Joyce is the new Prez of LAN. She asked, "Did we get any funding from the City for this year?" Parking Permits were discussed and the City is working with neighborhoods surrounding downtown on a permit plan. (ELNA has not been informed of that). There is a City Parking guru named Brad Harrell. [bharell@lawrenceks.org](mailto:bharell@lawrenceks.org) he works under transit group.

**NY Elementary Chili Feed** on Tuesday Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. 6-7:30 at same time as school board meeting about futures planning at FSHS. There's only a couple signups left open for on site workers at this point. Take desserts to the school window inside the main entrance.

Barry's getting yard signs made at LFK Press that announce meeting is happening. We'll use them to put out signs to raise awareness of our meetings. Also talked with them about stickers that say we support ELFK. We have a page of all the businesses in EL and the ones who support us.

Newsletters are getting delivered by hand but Barry had to do 5 routes. Many helped by doing or 1 or 2 routes.

We had a brief discussion on status of our web site. It could use a re-do. We'll be pondering that for a future meeting.

City was going to form a committee to reduce the boards and committees to 10? There will be a load of complications from that. (In my opinion). JT will be following along with that process. The

committee is being formed and they will have 60 days to come up with a report. It is a burden for the staff liaisons to keep up with.

**\*\* Officer and coordinator reports.**

President. Today was a gorgeous sunny day and Barry went to the inauguration.

VP. Nuff said.

Treasurer: Paypal has 1845.88 and the bank account is about \$6000. I got a subsequent update and the bank balance is \$5206.60.

**Coordinator (Lane):**

Judy Romero's mom passed away last friday. Can we send flowers? Yes. \$75-100. Paypal has a function where a 501C3 can waive fees. Lane will pursue.

Yart Sale. On March 25<sup>th</sup>. We have to arrange with Ms Saltz to let us in and lock after us for our needs so we don't have to pay for the rental...

Barry wants to mention next month will feature Suzan Valdez our DA as a speaker. He's lined her up and hopes we can get a lot of folks out to hear what she's got to say.

JT says PnR is done with public comment. Ready to move on.

Next meeting is Monday 2/13. Meeting adjourned.