

## ELNA Meeting February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Attendees: [(z) = on zoom] Board Members / Staff: Barry Shalinsky, Lane Eisenbart, KT Walsh, Kate Lowder (z), Phil Collison, Aaron Paden, Sacie Lambertson, Krista Gentry, Julia Patterson (z),

Lots of visitors! Walt Clogston (z), Ellen Paulsen (z), JT John Thornburg (z), Mayor Lisa Larsen, Sarah Melody (z), Suzan Hampton (z), Eddie Lasher, Julie Trowbridge-Alford, Joe Bickford, Mark Rutledge, Steve Cadue, Jan Butin, Tom Harris. Also special guest Suzanne Valdez DG CO District Attorney and her Public Information Director Cheryl Cadue.

Barry Shalinsky, President called meeting to order shortly after 7.

We started with introductions.

-Accept Minutes, motion to approve Sacie L, Kate L seconds, Minutes reflect someone was going to follow up with the school board. Barry will do that.

All in favor, no one opposed.

Krista moves to approve agenda, Sacie second, all in favor, Agenda approved.

Introduction of guest speaker, Suzanne Valdez, District Attorney.

Paraphrased discussion. Wants to get feedback, answer questions. Wants an interactive discussion. Can't talk about pending cases. Glad the Mayor is here, and Mr. Cadue, Public information officer is his daughter. Cheryl Cadue started job as PIO with the DA's term. DA has lived here for 30 years. Likes to hear our stories. They're working on a new website. She's a state elected official, but all employees and website are from the county. Grateful for the county funding her office. Her #1 obligation is public safety. By law.

She can run an Alternative Court with Prosecutorial discretion.

Recently attended Natl conference of DA's. They emphasized 3 areas of importance.

1) Gun violence, too many young people with guns. Too much youth violence. Fentanyl deaths. Too many. Public outreach to High Schools starts Thursday. Her brother died of an OD. Lawrence has been hit hard with dangerous drugs.

2) Mental Health Problems. Treatment and recovery center in Lawrence is not open! Need to get it open. Keeps people out of jail! We can protect folks from themselves. Get them help. Asking for seed money from feds which is out there.

3) Police reform. Timely need based on what happened in Memphis. More Training needed. Police reform is on everyone's mind. DG Co has "Brady/Giglio policy" (see <https://www.douglascountyks.org/depts/district-attorney/county-news/2022/01/10/district-attorney-announces-formal-brady-giglio>) that helps us get to credibility of testifiers. Some DG Co and LPD have been id'd as untruthful. DA Office will not put those persons on the witness stand. Relation with Authorities is strong. Papers like to exaggerate disputes. She is proud of her position on this topic.

Prosecutorial discretion: Jaywalking is still a crime. Is it a public safety issue? We don't prosecute jaywalkers. Adultery is still a crime. No prosecution there either. These are examples of easy discretion, based on safety and community standards. What and who we charge and the manner are discretionary. No jaywalk, adultery, and door knocking for voter registration by "person impersonating an election officer". All examples of DA prosecutorial discretion.

Public Safety concerns, state laws, ethical consideration. Know a crime occurred but can't connect person to it. A case ended last week in a hung jury, sexual assault. Neither person lives here anymore. How do we move forward with a case like that.

Folks don't want to see prosecution of pot possession. Will look for distributors. Have to weigh available resources. Another example. Last Summer there was a rash of drivers in pursuit. Speeding. 4 or 5 instances. Excessive speeding. In neighborhoods. Need to crack down. So her office did.

Krista asks about Meth issues. There's lots of it going around. Ans. Beyond pot they are prosecuting. Discussion about how to get folks into drug court. Must be a criminal case going on.

Kate asks how come a certain person is waiting for a bed? Alleged to kill his girlfriend. Waiting on a bed at Larned, the only facility available for that felony type. Avg wait is 377 days from being put on the list. It's bad. No place else to wait but in the County Jail. Anyone who is incompetent could go to Osawatomie. To dry out, there is a treatment and recovery center to bring them back to competence. Those "treatment and recovery to competence centers" in other places (like Phoenix) do work. To see how ours might work. There is a drop in phase, voluntary. And other phases to move forward. Looking forward to ours opening.

What about houseless? Not in her court. She deals with crime that occurs among the houseless. If we had a T N R Center that would be really helpful. Introducing Tony in the audience, Hello.

Mark Rutledge asks: he moved back into the neighborhood recently. Prosecutorial Procedure question. Can victim get a copy of the report? Ans: Charging is done by prosecutor's office. A crime was committed. Sometimes a charge is made. Can't charge without evidence. If no charges filed, they get their own statement but not the investigative report b/c there's no charges.

Many of us have been on a jury. She's never done that. Always wanted to be a juror. Everyone stands when the jury walks in. Including the judge. Jurors are the most important persons in the room. Jury's verdict is important. Requires admissible evidence. Noted that Women get punished more harshly for a same crime than men. KT asks What about editing evidence, and how easy it is to edit digital files. How do you account for that? Ans: They are setting up a unit to make sure it has not been edited.

She is prosecuting DUI and driving under influence of drugs.

We prosecute speeding b/c it is a public safety issue.

Question about alternate court tracks. 2 items. If you apply to be a cop, you get a background check. Juvenile offenses may show up in that check? Juvenile offenders get benefit of the doubt. It might, depending on the situation. If a cop had a minor in possession charge, that might be worth knowing. If it impacts credibility. Avoiding unsubstantiated complaints.

"Everyone knows they're doing that". Things do get vetted. Looking for a pattern of behavior. Does it impact credibility? Example, a Law Officer got caught doing excessive patting down of females. It got noticed. They do due diligence. Department of Justice guidelines.

Question about Restorative Justice. With Building Peace. Memo of Understanding just got set up for juveniles. It's been ongoing and it is working somewhat.

Law Enforcement Recruitment. KS has been #1 in fentanyl deaths.

Where can we find crime stats? They will provide information. **Follow up on this.**

Community Meeting on opiates coming up. Soon. Thursday, FBI DCCA rep. At high school. Thanks Suzanne Valdez!

Report from Traffic Safety Committee. Update on our 3 grant topics. None of our 3 grant ideas got support from the City staff. Crosswalks at 8<sup>th</sup> and CT and all down 9<sup>th</sup> from CT to DE, and a sidewalk spur into neighborhood from loop at 10<sup>th</sup> and Delaware. Kate adds that there's lots of accidents that go unreported at 8<sup>th</sup> and CT. Kate adds she's all for 8<sup>th</sup> and CT updates. Barry shares concern about 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It is a designated pedestrian route, and a safe schools route, but there are no crosswalks. Lane notes that a business owner at 9<sup>th</sup>, Colleen B sees lots of stop sign runners at 9<sup>th</sup> and Connecticut. Tom Harris Noted that we need better procedures for how to navigate roundabouts. Many people don't get it.

HRC report about 822 Rhode Island. Recommended to go to Architectural Review Committee (ARC).

What makes it contributing? KT answered.

Barry reported he's expecting school closure proposals again this year. See: [www.saveourschools.org](http://www.saveourschools.org).

Mayor Lisa Larsen. Vouchers are coming. City Commission considering structural changes: an elected mayor, 2 commissioners at large, 4 districts. Weak Mayor. Commissioner terms become 4 years. City Manager responsible for hires and fires and what folks who work for the City do. Commissioners oversee City Manager and he runs the City. Banning plastic bags issue is coming back. Term limits for CC's or just the Mayor? 3 year mayoral terms? If Boog were running against marci, both are good choices. One loses and City loses. Come to terms with that.

BCSC – board consolidation study committee – JT – City Commission appointed a body of individuals who are all on advisory boards and commissions. 20 boards are allotted for consolidation. The board met last week and there's no opportunity for public comment. Doesn't appear to be welcome. He's familiar with consolidation of Bike advisory Committee to Transportation commission and it was a failure in his opinion. Decided to choose advisory boards based on relevance to 5 City strategic outcomes? Multi-modal committee with public transportation committee. This will decrease public input. And, JT has to get a new bike cuz his got stolen downtown (because City doesn't do bike security well). It'll be a foldup so he can take it inside.

Prez report. Take down your ELNA Meeting sign and save it for next meeting. They seemed to be productive for this meeting. City Grants. Will learn more about those. He met with Craig Owens for about 90 minutes and it was productive. Discussed issues, particularly Traffic grants that were turned down. Barry said City Manager is engaged listener who seems to genuinely care about East Lawrence. He is for traffic and pedestrian safety. “[These days] ... We at least have a voice, meaning they recognize we are people in east Lawrence. 40 years ago, we did not get that treatment.” (Paraphrased).

VP Report – It's been covered so far, we're hitting all her highlights.

LAN Report, Wed. Meeting will have senior services presentation from Senior Center. March we'll have City Parking Guru and Dani from City to discuss City grants to neighborhoods. Treasurer Report, Aaron – \$1836.87 Paypal account. 1<sup>st</sup> State account \$4781.60.

Coordinator Report, Lane – Yart sale confirmed for 3/25. We'll save on a janitor expense. We got a thank you card from Judy Romero for plant we sent for her mom. Board interviews are wanted for Newsletter, due by Friday. She's running an East Side Health Fair on March 11. From 11-3. Housing, senior services, Bright Start, and more at the EL Community Bldg. Wants to order merchandise to backfill what she's selling at merch pop-ups. Annual report.

Meeting adjourned. See ya in a month!

Minutes Submitted by Phil Collison, Secretary