

## ELNA minutes January 8 2018

New York School Library, New York Elementary 936 New York St

Present: Aaron Paden, Catherine Reed, Christine Kosirog, Cindy Maude, Cindy Suenram, Cody Bates, Dave Loewenstein, Eric Jay, Frank Janzen, Jacki Becker, Jennifer Distlehorst, John Sebelius, Joshua Davis, Judy Romero, Katie Clagett, KH, KT Walsh, Lane Eisenbart, M. Davidson, Mike Anderson, Mike Logan, Ramon Romero, Vanessa Reynaga, Verdell Taylor, Jr., Cynthia Trask, Nicholas Ward, Connie Fiorella Fitzpatrick, Tif Francis, Bruce Eggers, John A. Gascon, Stephen T. Johnson, Angie Ayrault, John Naramore, Jacque Counts

Meeting called to order by Aaron Paden.

### 1. Introductions

Plea from secretary that speakers be definite

### 2. November, December minutes were approved

a. CDBG quarterly report, meetings attended added to sheet by board members.

### 3. Guests

#### a. Barbara Higgins Dover -- RiverKings Museum

The museum is looking for a permanent home, ideally in the Lawrence East Bottoms, about 10 x 12 ft in an existing structure. Must be donated space, not rented, as occasional very small grants are the only funding sources. Van Go, the quonsets, the Brewery and the Amtrak station were suggested. There will be walking tours in the spring. A film now being presented along the river records the activities of commercial fishermen along the Kaw from 1870 to 1970.

Aaron suggested ongoing discussion of the museum. We can follow Kansas River Kings Museum on Facebook and watch the film, and ELNA can promote the museum and show the film at the Yart Sale.

b. Food Truck Festival May 5. Elizabeth Keever showed a map of the area. Ninth St will not be closed. It's a fundraiser for Just Food, most of whose budget comes from donations and fundraisers. Volunteers are needed, contact Elizabeth. Josh Davis will write a support letter to the city by Feb. 6.

### 4. New Business/ In-depth discussion

#### b. Wishing Bench -- fundraising for repair campaign

Lane organized a GoFundMe campaign which was publicized by the Journal World. The goal was \$650, which was achieved, many people gave \$20 or \$50, Allen Press CEO donated \$230. Cottins will donate hardware. The money has been transferred to a PayPal account for transparency. Eric Jay can do the work with the help of 4 volunteers. Eric will set the date.

a. Arts Center Grant Update -- Dave Loewenstein, Cindy Maude, Joshua Davis

This is not related to street construction, but to the use of the \$332,658.00 ArtPlace grant to create something special for Lawrence. The draft of that proposal can be found here:

<http://www.eastlawrence.com/rebuilding-east-ninth-street-together/>

Comments and questions about the proposal can be emailed to Cindy Maude at: [ninthstreet@lawrenceartscenter.org](mailto:ninthstreet@lawrenceartscenter.org)

By Dave L.: At this time the group is listening to stakeholders, identifying fundamental issues, planning for research to be led by artists and neighbors regarding the history, culture and spirit of East Lawrence, and developing pathways to cocreation based on open communication among city groups. Next will be a process of reflection, evaluation and documentation, similar to that used by the Rocket Grants program in Kansas City.

By Cindy M.: the 5 original artists plus 10 more will prepare proposals to be evaluated by 3 jurors, including an artist, an East Lawrence resident, and a person from outside of Lawrence. Youth assistants will be hired to help them. Resident specialists and a grants administrator will oversee the program. Of the grant,

\$207,500 will go to artists (15 artists total)

\$110,000 will go to administrators

\$ 25,500 for miscellaneous costs

Timeline: November/December research, January presentation, February final presentation, March hire project facilitator. The work must be completed by June 2020.

It will be a challenge to find an administrator, but the Arts Center can do this. Now is the time for the public to submit comments and questions.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Q: What are strategies to make the process of artist selection inclusive? A: The committee will focus on what's special about E. Lawrence.

Q: Who will have creative control? A: That will depend of the facilitator.

Q: Will Porter Arneill be involved in the process? A: To some extent.

Q: Work on St. Luke Church could bring residents together.

Q: How will listening be different this time? Can we use previous comments? A: That will depend on the facilitator. The facilitator should be in place in 2 months.

Q: comments by Verdell Taylor re St. Luke: incorporation of Langston Hughes history could connect church, school and neighborhood.

Q: How broadly is art defined? A: Very broadly.

Q: Stephen Johnson suggests making the original committee the facilitators and basing art on Langston Hughes writings, to supply constraints to hold the project together.

Q: The engineering design for the street will be available soon.

Q: A suggestion to lower the sidewalk by the church to form a courtyard to display art.

Q: How will research flow? A: It will build.

Q: What is the next step for the ELNA board? A: To provide feedback on the website.

Q by Dave Loewenstein: is it premature to decide whether one big idea or 15 different ideas would be better, before choosing the administrator?

Q: Why is so much of the money going to administration?

At this point it was decided to extend the meeting until 9:15. No action will be taken by ELNA at this time, but interested parties should watch for the draft proposal and post feedback.

Q: Will every voice be heard? Will there be one go-to person?

Q: Who decides where the art goes? A: Location must be included in the proposal.

Q: Why are more artists being included? A: So there can be more different visions and more public input.

## 5. Recurring Updates

a. Downtown Grocery Store. This will be on the Historic Resources Committee Agenda. Can the north wall be saved?

## 6. Reports

none from a. President, b. Vice-President, or c. Treasurer.

d. Coordinator. Lane is looking for newsletter sponsors. Chili feed is Jan 16, 5 to 7 pm. Lane is in touch with the Hike through History project and with Adopt a Family.

e. Committees. No report from i. Budget/ Fundraising Committee, ii. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, iii. Planning Commission, iv. Historic Resources Commission, vi. CDAC

v. City Commission. It won't be possible to pay water bills at grocery stores. Street lights are on the agenda.

vii. New York PTO/Site Council. Chili feed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.