

ELNA Meeting September 11, 2023.

Attendees: Board Members present: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, KT Walsh, Sacie Lambertson, David Lambertson (I need to add more)

Called the meeting to order: 7:03. Introductions

Approvals: Minutes, Sacie, Pam 2nd all approved. Agenda: KT moves Kristi 2nd approved.

Chief of Police Chief Rich Lockhart. "Thanks for letting me come tonight". He did Neighborhood work in 1990 in KC. He likes working in neighborhoods. He was chief in Warrensburg, MO home to Univ. Central Missouri. KC was too big, Warrensburg too small, Lawrence is just right! He likes the housing in our neighborhood, the redevelopment, the brick streets. He's from Flint, MI and his parents still live there. In downtown flint the asphalt wore out and they restored the brick. He's made major changes at LPD. No no knock searches, choke holds, etc. He wants to listen and police the way our community wants it to police. Last Summer they reorganized and now have a community engagement officer. They used to have NRO's, but covid shut that down. Lost track of the relationship with our community. Last Fall they they started foot patrols downtown. Bradford is one of them (he's in attendance). They were at Pride parade, Juneteenth, et al. He thinks the dept has been looked at poorly. Some of that is valid. He thinks there is more diversity. There is an Orange bowl player, a Social worker, an Archaeologist, a former mortician. Lots of cops grew up here. That's a good thing. They expanded SRO program to 6, have one at each high school and each middle school. Only 7 arrests at the schools all of last year. They want to keep kids out of the penal system. And they think they help. Many calls are from kids who want to talk to the cop. They are trusted adults. That says a lot. They were the State SRO of the year for 2 years in a row. They are recruiting. Sign up!! He had a 57 year old go through the academy. They're down about 13 officers un-hired and 12 more on various leave. So down 25. They fall within the Safe and Secure part of the City strategic Plan. Goals: 1) answer emergency calls quickly. 2) Problem solving – Neighborhoods often need that. 3) Relationship building. They want to listen. They have adopted Peale's code of conduct, based on Sir Robert Peale of London. Police get paid to solve problems. They want to help and think they are a good resource. They worked with North Lawrence neighborhoods on an issue and they got together with them and came up with a solution. He thinks porches are neighborly, new building has Decks in the back yard. They don't have NRO's (neighborhood resource officers) yet. May not. Bradford works until about 9 each night mostly downtown. Questions? RJ had one, Thanked for low profile. Q: Why do officers share office space with other teachers at school. Is there a privacy issue? Chief hopes they are following good confidentiality practice. There are processes and laws in place that guide that. Kids go to their trusted adults. They are sensitive to that. And try to work within that. They want to be overly cautious when it comes to this topic. Q: With the growing homeless issues in town, how do you handle the interactions with them. A: They know many of the homeless. Downtown cops have food coupons, etc. We don't want to criminalize homeless. Trying to get them the service that they need. Setting a new program up for folks who use medical services a lot. Told story of a person they got off the street so they could get them using less emergency services. We have the services here to help people. They try to get folks the service they need. They are trying to put all the folks separately working into a working group of orgs working together. Community Service technicians. Trying to get them set up, coordinating for lesser issues. Q: I'm asking about perceptions. Thinks there was a time EL wasn't as desirable by perception. Why we bought here. They were wrong. Too many folks complaining about unsafe downtown on social media. If we don't do stats, how do we get better messaging that it is a safe place to be (downtown). A: The fear of crime is tough to get away from. We have low crime rates relative to other folks. There have been issues at the library and he's working with the director. Trying to get a code of conduct for folks around the outside of the library. That's hard. He's looking for input. There have been incidents downtown. Q: High users of services. There's certain homes that get frequent calls. Any

solutions? A: He'll look into that. Q: Other counties are bringing people in. What's up with that? A: The quick shop in N.Law is an entry point, He's asked them to call them in more regularly. It's not humane to bring them here. It's not humane to send them back. The police are the last hope and they have to respond. Q: High speed chase last week. What was that? A: Caught the folks Q) What was the meeting about issues at Taylor Park in No. Law? A: Taylor Park in North Lawrence is behind Ballard Center. Folks hanging out, vandalizing, drug house. Weeds, there's a community garden that is overgrown. They cleared out vegetation, made it look well used. Also there was illegal camping overnight. Removed graffiti in shelter. It lets folks know they're watching. About 30 neighbors met on a hot night with some potential solution with Parks and Rec. Q: Folks sleep at the bandshell in south park, at the Japanese park. And various other parks. Can they do that? A: No more sleeping on the playground equipment. Keep letting police know. That's what gets issues addressed. Q: at 9th and Penn There's a lot of fast driving with no mufflers. What are the noise ordinances? And fast drivers. Noisy traffic downtown, street racing going on. What kind of leverage can the Police offer to slow them down? A: He'll make a note of that? Haven't heard of street racing? There is a loud muffler ordinance. And it is capacity issue for them. Q: How likely to get those 25 positions filled? A: It's hard. Wants to maintain high standards over warm bodies. Will have a class of 9 in January? 6 just graduated? JoCo pays more than here. And they are recruiting. We lost 2 folks to them. Q: Some ideas about how to move? Speed cameras, mail a ticket infractions. Can we do that? A: He came from MO and they had redlight cameras and they are now illegal. They work but not popular. Speed cameras have a hard time recognizing individual cars. Some more comments. Q: relating to bad neighbors, They have called in on a lot of things. They want to know what resolutions are coming from? It doesn't seem to make things better? A: In KC there are ways to get a successful resolution. He'll take it back to shop and talk to folks and come back with better? A good resolution is hard to come by. Q: Folks wanted the gunlocks that are available from the sheriff's office. They'll look at how to get more. A: Get Narcan! Every home should have it these days. Along with a fire extinguisher, etc. Drop off old drugs at Walgreen's at 6th and Kasold. Q: Bicyclist Q. He's interacted with Cops about that. At accidents. Cops always exceed expectations for him. We need long term bike storage like a bike box. Can the police support the idea of a bike box at the Amtrak station. A: Yes he'll see what he can do. Q: on a lighter note, I've got football season tickets. Folks who direct traffic need to think more about getting folks out. It's slow!! A: Everyone thinks they've got it going on! Lotta traffic! Thanks Chief Lockhart!

Update on Air quality? Haven't heard from last month's person who reported issues. The housing authority issue is separate (neighbors smoke drifting into neighboring homes). Barry wants to remind us that board elections are coming up. Come out and run for the board! You must declare at the October meeting to be considered and be current on dues. Neighborhood Block Party Update: Lane. She hasn't invited all dignitaries, yet. A few have been invited. All the candidates for City office, CC, City Manager, County Commissioners. Library bigdawgs. Bringing narcan to block party. Lane is CPR certified and child CPR, too. There's a new process to reserve the school. Set the Yart Sale date sooner rather than later. We'll probably have to pay for it. The district manages that these days. Phil will be the MC for the block party. Push the bike repair for the block party. Bike Valet will be there!! (thanks JT!). Alphabet soup. CC, HRC, County C, MMT, 9th and CT crosswalks are in the plan! HRC 1036 CT got approval. What happened on 1200 block New Jersey demolition? A: Unknown. Boards and Commissions Structure Committee (BCSC) Staff usurped committee's job and got called on it and this was to be the last meeting and so the Committee will meet again. Tax abatements for 1000 block of New Hampshire were approved by 1 vote, at 2 boards. A bright side was that the issues actually got discussed, which is a new thing. So, maybe progress there.

Officer Reports. Prez? Nothing that he hasn't already stated. He is regularly busy with ELNA issues. He did 3 of 10 routes, 7 done by others... JT helped get the newsletters to other delivery folks. Many thanks. Aaron Treasurer report? We had a good run at kickball. He'll send \$\$ amounts out to the board. VP? Raffle items! Art is good, historic art. When do we bring them? Someone is going to run the raffle. Michelle. She'd like them in advance. Read the newsletter! Vote! Demonstration at 5 tomorrow at City Hall to bag on Evergy failure to close coal plant in Lawrence. And raise rates. Is there a guest speaker for next month? No, not yet. Is there a new transportation coordinator at the City now? Yes. He's from Portland. Find out when Derek Rogers is retiring? At end of the year.

LCMCS Centennial update? Short program on Nov. 12 with re-dedication of building. Can we get a tour set up? Yes that is in the plan. Artifacts, yearbooks, and art. all on display. Building has a good auditorium, natural lighting, etc. Good place.

Thanks for coming out! Pam moves, Sacie 2nd Get out!@!!