

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association June Meeting 6/12  
Approval of Agenda, Phil moves, Julia 2<sup>nd</sup>. Agenda approved.  
Approval of Minutes KT moved Sacie 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved.

Introductions. Attendees: ELNA Board members: Barry Shalinsky, Julia Patterson, KT Walsh, Sacie Lambertson, Phil Collison, Aaron Paden, Brenda Nunez, Krista Gentry.  
Staff: Lane Eisenbart.

Members and guests: Peggy Robinson, Diana Rehnquist, Zee Galliano, RJ Torrey, Joe Bickford, Laura Graham, Judy Romero, Andy Enz (City presenter), Devonte Green (Black30 presenter, Taylor Eubanks Overton (Black30 presenter), John JT Thornburg, Ellen Paulsen.

Andy Ensz, Project Engineer with the City. To talk about the New York Street 24" Water Main Replacement. He's the project manager. Water Main transmission main is a big pipe that runs from Kaw water treatment plant at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Indiana through downtown to SE part of town. In 2019 there was a big failure on 1000-1200 New York St. "Shot bricks into the air". And cost \$150,000 to fix. Now comes the big repair. In 2020 Black and Veach was hired and determined that from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> streets needed fixing. Those pipes were installed in the 1980's. It was Thin-walled pipe and it failed because of how the soil interacted with it. Chose a new alignment and will cutover from old pipe to the new. The old pipe will be left in place. They should be starting in July, fighting part shortages, etc. A Storm Drainage problem at 11<sup>th</sup> and New York St. will also get fixed. Sanitary sewer at 15<sup>th</sup> and New York, too. Trolley tracks will not be disturbed along New Jersey. There's a presentation that goes along with this. Q, will the lines cause a problem down the road with the old pipes? A: No. They'll be filled with some sort of fill that will harden like concrete, 6-8' deep. The new pipes will be even deeper. Q: At 8<sup>th</sup> and NY SE corner there is a drainage issue. Any fix planned there? A: He'll make a note. Currently out of scope. Road closures and detours will be the big issues. They'll do one block at a time. the 1st block will be 900 block of New Jersey with south bound only allowed. No northbound traffic. Then 8<sup>th</sup> b/t New York and New Jersey, 11<sup>th</sup> intersection at NY, 13<sup>th</sup> and NY, 15<sup>th</sup> ST and NY. Each about a month at a time. Q: What will be the parking situation along the 1100 block of NJ while one lane closed? (currently allowed on east side). A: NOT SURE, probably not enough room. Bob Skinner will be the primary on site. bskinner@lawrenceks.org Q: Are there projected finish dates for other projects? 23<sup>rd</sup> street (end of year), 19<sup>th</sup> st (about a month) Barker (will look). There's a new Project update website. Q: Any risk to the big Sycamore tree on NY School? A: Probably not. Q: What pipes are in the alley? A: usually sanitary sewers. Q: How long will this project take? A: It's a one year project. 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and NJ will be done first, hopefully before school starts.

Black30 project: Julia introduces them. It's a new non-profit. Taylor Overton and Dante Green Taylor moved here from San Fran. Starting an initiative to connect the City to minority owned businesses. They created the first list of minority owned businesses. 211 businesses mostly on the east side. Odessa at 12<sup>th</sup> and NY has an event space that can be rented for \$50 per hour. There's another expo on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. June 30<sup>th</sup> was a Black 30 Networking Mixer, Juneteenth and Minority business expo on 6/23 and 24, and at St John's Fiesta that night. They have a benefit hub, there are 1000's of discounts, and includes the local business groups discounts. Wwww.black30.org is their website. Black30 will be at the City Commission on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We can join and become members. Black business week is the first week in August. They will run a tour that week. There is also a facebook group. Black30 Q: Is it ok to

share the expo info? A: Yes, far and wide! Q: Any artists involved? A: Yes there will be an event in Topeka at the Jayhawk Theater in July.

Next item: All the updates:

\*LMCMS (Lawrence Memorial Central Middle School) - its their centennial in November. Planning is ongoing. Last Saturday they met. (6/10). There will be a next meeting. Mary Davidson is the contact for that. We will get that contact info. *Followup info:* Mary Davidson's email: mwdzumba@gmail.com

\*Board consolidations within the City. JT has been following a study with recommendations with regards to consolidating City Boards and Commissions. Some of the recs are ridiculous, ex: Put BZA, HRC and Construction codes all into one committee. Barry sees 2 problems. All committees are all volunteer. Community participation will be reduced, folks that are left will get workload tripled. 3<sup>rd</sup> issue is diluting the expertise that know all about all 3 of these issues. Or decisions will be made by people who don't know and understand about the issues. Q: Why do we need consolidation? A: Not stated. Eliminates redundancy? Staff will have less to do. One board member thinks this is being done to make it easier for developers to get their way. PIER Review board we're not sure where that lands. JT thinks they want to reduce 21 advisory boards to 10. Rationale is 2 parts. 1. Realign these advisory boards with their city strategic plan. 2. Those who serve are appointed by the Mayor. It's hard to find enough people to populate them. There was no public comment at the 4 meetings that have occurred. The strategic plan is pretty nebulous at this point. KT moved, and Sacie 2nded that Barry write a letter outlining our concerns about this issue. Motion passes. 1) There will be less volunteers 2) they will be overworked 3) they will not have as much knowledge. The people running for re-election need to be reminded by their contingencies of what we need.

\*900 Penn. Site plan submitted. The outcome of the lawsuit will determine if it is a go or not.

\*Juneteenth. It's Saturday.

\*CC, HRC, 1036 Connecticut demolition will go forward. It will improve their design. This is not a full demolition.

Officer reports: President. \*We've been asked to name a representative to the group that is looking at public input for the Lawrence loop connection from 8<sup>th</sup> and New Jersey through to Constant Park.

\*Email board discussion to give coordinator Lane Eisenbart a raise. Board approved.

\*Newsletter delivery. We had 9 people sign up to deliver. Some folks got 2 newsletters, hand delivered and mailed. Hmmm.

\*2 Speakers will be at our next meeting. Adam Weigel from city transit. And a planner to talk about the neighborhood plan. KT says let's get a draft before they come to our meeting. *Note:* No draft yet.

\*Barry and Lane have been visiting. Our website needs an upgrade. That may move forward.

\*Treasurer's report from Aaron: \$7176.27 at First State PayPal has \$2425.71 for \$9601.98 total. Pre newsletter totals. Kickball not added in yet. We may go to quarterly newsletters?!?!?

\*Coordinator report. Cleanup happened. It went well. Many people worked there. Krista and her husband, KT, Barry and family, and many more. 50 burgers were given away. We were

able to get money from Sunrise to help cover expenses. Could be done 2-3 times per year. We filled 2 dumpsters but there are plenty more! JT says

\*Phil Moves and Aaron 2nds to do a public thank you to Derek Rogers for his role with the homeless and more. It passes.

\*Lane says she liked working with Kevin Elliot. He was very collaborative and nice to work with.

\*A couple Q's about potential City Commissioners coming to our meeting. Dever and Sellers want to come to our meeting. Barry remembers we were on zoom last election and we gave folks a couple of minutes to give a spiel. We do not want a 20 minute slog. We can tell the primary winners to come to the Block Party and set up a table if they wish. We do not endorse any candidate.

\*Motion to adjourn. Approved.