

ELNA Meeting 1/12/2026 Called to order.

Attendees and Introductions: Barry Shalinsky (B), Sacie Lambertson (B), Pam Blackburn (B), NY School Principal Brian Workman, Krista Gentry (B), Lane Eisenbart (Coord), Darrel Proffitt (B Prez), KT Walsh, (B), Carrie Stallwitz, Khoa Lam, Danica Lam, Joe Bickford, Courtney Shipley (B), Sarah Norman (B), Shane Powers (Radio Lawrence podcast), Julie Proffitt, Walt Clogston (z), Max Wilcox (B), Aaron Paden (Treasurer), Jan Butin (B),

We recently had a retreat at Sunflower downtown and we came up with some goals about where we are going. They are:

Goal 1. Focus on Community Building. Grow on what has happened in the past. We have our Yart Sale and block party. We talked about actions we could take to achieve this goal beyond the regulars. There are “shut-ins” and we should be mindful of how we phrase that? We could try a day of service and find folks that may want some help. Could the senior center provide some names? Sarah will contact them and ask them. Also, Independence, Inc. Could New York School put us to work? There’s a food pantry here at NY School. Food drives are helpful. Anyone can use the food pantry. Next week is the MLK Chili Feed.

LAN. Courtney and Barry met with the Mayor Finkledei to discuss LAN’s neighborhood engagement strategy. It is now sitting in the City Legal Department. Wait and see.

Goal 2. Shift to an NPR model of fundraising and more fundraising. Our coordinator earns \$600 per month as a contractor for an assumed 10 hours per month. She does more than that. A newsletter costs \$1000 per issue with 4-6 issues per year. We have a post office box. Web services, etc. We sell food at kickball games at the game of the week as a fundraiser. We also sell merchandise to raise funds. We are a 501C3 organization. If we could get monthly subscriptions that would help. Solicit donations. Sell window clings to businesses to demonstrate others support for us. Suggestion that we could sell more with more marketing. Should we have a committee to help sell more merch and pursue the fundraising model. Barry, Lane, ?? Maybe we could do a spring cleanup of some type? Keep all we do “green” influenced. A tree survey? Clean out invasive plants. Q. How often does the City replace trees? They do replace all the trees as needed but sometimes it takes a while. The City has a new head arborist. A suggestion was made for the Big Event that KU does 2 times per year.

Goal 3. Preserving the built environment. How do we move forward with this? An inventory of what we have? Raise awareness by articles in the Newsletter, A committee that could put a plan together. We have a committee and we need to start meeting again.

1501 Learnard Parking Lot issue. A developer wanted to buy the sunrise project complex to turn it into a parking lot for a new apartment development at 14th and Ohio street. The plan has been put on hold.

NY School Chili Supper. 6-7:30. Performances by AMC Lutheran Church. We traditionally bring vegetarian chili and desserts. In case of snow it would be the following Tuesday. ELNA is bringing jalapenos and something else. Lane will get with Phil to make sure it gets there.

Yart Sale. It’s a big event on the 4th Saturday of March (March 28 this year), where we have a big yard sale, featuring lots of yard sale items, live music and art sold directly from the artists. We set up on Friday night, there is usually food provided. We have also walked in the St. Patrick’s parade and done promo for the Yart Sale there.

East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan. The city has been promising to do one but it has stalled.

Sidewalk replacements. It's going on. They take the bricks out to the brickyard on Wakarusa and we should have access to those.

Affordable housing policies. Perhaps there could be new incentives to encourage builders to build more affordable housing. It's a tough one.

Demolitions. None

701 New Hampshire townhouses. They worked on Christmas Day! Sarah is going to focus on lessons learned.

Bicycle Advisory Group. Phil reported on that. Aaron will write a letter encouraging 12th street as the spoke from the loop to downtown. Motion on the floor to have Aaron write that letter. It passed.

Newsletter. It's being formatted now. We'll need volunteers to distribute. The newsletter will be out maybe by this weekend.

"Alphabet" items. We need volunteers to deliver the newsletter.

739 CT is trying to get national historical status.

\$5589.99 in the bank.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.