

ELNA Minutes – January 10, 2022

Present: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Lane Eisenbart, Krista Gentry, Sacie Lambertson, Dave Loewenstein, Kate Lowder, Aaron Paden, Julia Patterson, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh

Ellen Paulsen, Frank Janzen, Lisa Larsen, Jim Carpenter, Pat Watkins, Michael Almon

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved (KT moved & Aaron 2nd). December minutes were approved as corrected. KT moved & Aaron 2nd.

Updates on the USD 497 budget and the possibility of school closures. It is continuing to look like New York Elementary and Liberty Memorial Central Middle School closures continue to be discussed. At the school board meeting, KT spoke about the importance of the eastern part of the city and the diverse demographic of the area. The students in this area are more at risk. There have been a number of ideas thrown around, combining grades 4 & 5, decreasing number of teachers (at NY 10 to 8), having 1 principal for 2 schools, 1 coach for 3-4 schools. There have been discussions about turning New York into a Montessori school. KT asked what the stakeholders think. Have they been engaged? (Redistribute students vs changing the learning model). Do home schooled students count as Lawrence public school students? Next school board meeting is in 2 weeks. The school boundary committee will be meeting 4:00 next Monday.

Pat Watkins, attorney for developer Tony Krsnich spoke about 620 E 8th Quonset Hut & the parking lot across from Maceli's on New Hampshire. There is a design review upcoming for the New Hampshire project. Quonset Hut is zoned industrial use and is a historical building. Tony K owns both. Tony has an application asking that the Eighth Street property be down zoned to Commercial strip. It will be linked with the Lawrence Loop. The lot has ample space for the Loop to run along the north edge. Tony is looking at ideas for usage including a restaurant and dog park. Off-street parking will be added. No residential multi-story building is planned. Currently the downtown alcohol policy applies (45%-55% non-alcohol to alcohol sales ratio. Tony's group is worried that applying the 45-55% policy will only increase food prices thus making the restaurant less affordable. He is hopeful that it will become a bike hub. Tony's development group, And The Whistle Is Screaming LLC is exploring placing the building on the state and National historic registries soon. The restaurant will have both indoor and outdoor areas. It is unknown the type and end time of any music. Details are still being worked. Pat reported that Tony has talked about having an area for the farmers market and providing much needed infrastructure for vendors. Issues to the neighborhood include later hours and noise levels next to neighbors and the alcohol/food ratio. Commercial zoning is more workable than industrial for redevelopment.

Election for ELNA Treasurer was held. KT nominated Aaron to continue in the position. Pam seconded. No other nominees were proposed. Aaron was elected.

City Commission is looking at what it means to be a safe and welcoming neighborhood. City ready to start talking about proposals on neighborhood engagement and funding (Barry & Michael Almon).

HRC has done a survey to find historic buildings in Brook Creek neighborhood.

Traffic Safety committee has requested accident information for 8th & Conn. How does this number compare to other neighborhood hotspots? Railings are being installed on the Lawrence Loop multi use path on Delaware. The Committee is learning the processes to proceed on traffic safety hotspots. City engineers are looking for policy development by consultant. Pedestrians and bicyclists are safer when speed limits are lower. Some areas have 20 mph. Most have 25 mph. Brook Creek put 20 mph markers on the street which has reduced speed in neighborhood. Michael encourages everyone to drive the speed limit. Brook Creek applied for community development thru CDBG to fund this effort.

Julia will be applying for grants for youth enrichment activities. More details to follow.

Barry gave an update on the 501c3 application. We now have a reviewer assigned. The reviewer sent questions back that must be answered by January 17, along with some technical requirements.

Treasurer report: \$2630.42 in bank, PayPal \$324.04

Lane reminded everyone about the MLK chili feed this year. It will be again a to-go meal. There is still a need for dessert donations. 500 meals will be distributed.

Yart sale will be Saturday, 4/9, approval pending.

Meeting adjourned.