

ELNA Meeting June 10, 2024.

Called to order at 7:01 by Barry Shalinsky.

\*Attendees (B= board member; z = attended by Zoom): Barry Shalinsky (ELNA Prez B), Aaron Paden (treasurer B), KT Walsh (VP B), Lane Eisenbart (coordinator), Sacie Lambertson (B), Phil Collison (secretary B), marci francisco (incumbent candidate for State Senate), Joe Bickford, Peggy Robinson, Pam Blackburn (B), JT Thornburg (z), Eddie Ray, Vandy Ray, Eric Hyde, RJ Torrey (z), Ellen Paulsen (z), Brenda Nunez (Bz), Krista Gentry (Bz) Justin Genevieve, Brooklyn Mosley (Candidate for State Rep Dist 46).

\*Candidate introductions. Marci Francisco is here. marci is running for State Senator and she is the incumbent. She's wearing an old EL shirt from the 80's. She's been involved in the neighborhood for a very long time. Her biggest accomplishment was to downzone the area south of 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> streets to mostly single-family zoning in the early 80's when she was Mayor. She says the big topic for this campaign is property tax. Her goal is to reduce the amount assessed for the schools in property taxes and replace it with more from state income taxes. We heard an overview of how we got where we are with property taxes today. There was a time property tax was set at 11.5% of your assessed value. About a third came from residential properties. Last year 53% came from residential properties. Q. How does she differ from Christina the other candidate? A: marci plays a big role in getting amendments added, like getting dispatchers recognized as first responders. She gets in the weeds and gets our tax dollars to stay here and brings more in. She has the experience to do this.

Brooklynne Mosley. She's running for Boog's seat who is retiring. She's lived in Lawrence since 2013. She has a dog named Tupac. She's running because she wants folks to age out in their homes. She wants our schools to stay open. Democrats are in the minority in the house. She organized for Paul Davis in 2014. She increased the early vote turnout by 55%. She became vice chair of the DG CO Dems. She's got big shoes to fill. People Centered Policies. Fully funded education. Medicaid Expansion.

\*Peggy Robinson is running for Precinct Committee Person as is Barry. With no comments.

\*Minutes approval. KT Moves, Sacie 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in favor - unanimous. Agenda approval. KT movies, Sacie 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved - unanimous.

\*Lane report on Pride parade: June 1 in south park. It went on all day! She had totes made and they all sold out (30) in about an hour for \$15 each!!! She's getting more made and will be selling them and at KVKL.

\*Aaron and Kickball. We've done 2 and totals are not available, yet. It was cancelled last night due to wet fields. We sold out one night, Demand is good. We are on Venmo and don't pay fees b/c we are a non-profit. They can still use square and cards (on a phone on our side). With Venmo our side doesn't need to use phones. We made \$93 in tips one night.

\*2 Proposed Demolitions in 1100 block of new Jersey that are in environs of 1124 New Jersey. KT emailed the owner of the shotgun house. She hasn't heard back. They go in front of HRC in a couple weeks on June 20<sup>th</sup>. We can provide public comment at this meeting. Also write a position letter. The more they hear from the better. You must supply plans to the HRC for the replacement. KT walked around this tiny house and thinks it has potential. Barry says there is a site at Civic-web for every meeting in Lawrence. Along with meeting info and agendas. And how to comment and specifically engage that committee. 739 Connecticut is on that agenda, too.

\*Land Development Code. There will be civic engagement meetings. Barry went to one out west and he “gave them an earful” and his words have been seen by a City Commissioner. Parking is a big issue. They want to do away with parking requirements. That means more on-street parking as a result. Permit Parking can help in your neighborhood but not for the services we hire. Neighbors that have a homeowners assn are protected from these new codes by their covenants. They want to make every zoning allow at least a duplex development. That encourages more investor owned properties. Site plans will not be needed. There are issues with dumpsters vs trash pickup. Utilities are also an issue. They will be encouraging best and fullest use. Which makes it tough for traditional single family residential neighborhoods. We will pay attention and work to have an impact on City Hall on this.

\*Water Lines. They’re still being worked on. 13<sup>th</sup> is open, 15<sup>th</sup> closed, and 8<sup>th</sup> street is closed again. They took the big stump out.

\*Brick Sidewalks. From Sacie. The woman in charge, Cece, is very capable. Bricks will be saved in the historic areas. Much of East Lawrence is not an official Historic area in Lawrence but it may be at a later time. Brick alleys will be a thing of the past. Brick sidewalks are also in jeopardy. Blocks can agree that the whole block can be brick but all must agree. The engineers haven’t quite figured out how this might happen. There is a real danger that much brick infrastructure could be lost in areas not deemed “historic”.

\*Parks and Rec Strategic planning. Barry attended a meeting via zoom. Adding ADA seating at Hobbs Park is on the City’s list. But the stadium is crumbling. Not a good vision. JT asked if there was enough money in Shelly Miller fund for an assessment for Hobbs Park. We know a few people who could do this assessment. Should we start calling it Municipal Stadium at Hobbs Park? KVKL is also a good resource for support of Hobbs Park.

\*We finally got pedestrian crosswalks painted at 9<sup>th</sup> and CT and Barry sent a thank you to the MSO director and got a nice response.

\*City Safer Speeds initiative. We can apply for the traffic calming project as a neighborhood, a street or an intersection. Krista has followed the requirements to be eligible for this program. Outside of the downtown neighborhood our trouble intersections are 8<sup>th</sup> and CT and 13<sup>th</sup> and CT. We got the City to put up a “cross traffic does not stop” signs at each location but we don’t know if that had an impact on the numbers of accidents. Folks are excited to share what they don’t want – roundabouts, traffic circles and speed bumps. It makes it hard to come up with a solution. Connecticut is a tough one as it is a collector street. It’s hard to see around the cars parked on the streets. Barry suggests the Traffic Safety Committee get together before the next monthly meeting to make a recommendation to participate in this or not. Eric Hyde suggests that trimming the trees can help the site lines, too. He’s done some trimming along the 800 Delaware block. The Traffic Safety committee will meet at noon on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Sacie’s cube at 715 New York ST (we met on June 23rd).

\*Primaries are coming up. We now have only 2 precincts in EL. We used to have 3. Now all East Lawrence residents vote at either Trinity Lutheran (south of 11<sup>th</sup>) or the Cider Gallery (north of 11<sup>th</sup>), but Trinity Lutheran is undergoing renovation and won’t host primary vote. Our democratic precinct south of 11<sup>th</sup> street needs a precinct committee woman, and both precincts need Republican committeepeople. Get 5 write-in votes to win!

\*Q39 is moving into old LJW press building. Are they providing enough parking? (it's downtown so no additional parking requirements). And there is a new development at the Reuter Organ building. The City owns parking lots along that east side of New Hampshire street to Rhode Island street, too.

\*JT notes there is no bicycle parking at the DGCO Courthouse and he's working on getting bike parking there. He's involved in a national bike parking coalition that sets standards that could trickle down to our local level. KT notes there are bike lockers at the new bus depot. JT says they do not accommodate a 3-wheeler.

\*Phil needs a person to sub for him at LAN meeting on June 19 at 6:30 at the Fire Department at 19<sup>th</sup> and Stewart Ave (thanks Sacie!).

\*Demarcation of downtown Lawrence for the downtown bus station. We are seeing the choice of the train depot in EL is problematic. We have not been engaged in this one very much. This is gerrymandering the downtown area to keep the bus transit hub out of downtown proper. We should engage with the head of Transit Adam Weigel (who lives in EL) to get a better sense of this decision. Barry will get something going with Adam. Points out ELNA is having its meeting downtown now (here in the Amtrak Station)!

\*Barry met with a neighbor in the 1200 block of New York who pointed out some bricks are settling where a water line blew a few years ago. Can something be done? He will ask a few questions about that. Maybe after the brick streets committee determines their engineering standards for repairing brick streets.

\*There's a tree b/t Pam's and neighbor's house and it has lost enough limbs their insurance co. says they will not insure the house until the tree is removed. So, trim your trees! Insurance Co's want to cancel insurance.

Adjourned! At 9:24.