

## **ELNA Meeting October 9, 2023.**

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Pam Blackburn (board), Phil Collison (board), KT Walsh (board), Sacie Lambertson (board), Darrel Proffitt, Julie Proffitt, Sandy Seiler, Nancy Overmyer, Dustin Stumblingbear (CC candidate), Lane Eisenbart (Coordinator), JT John Thornburg, RJ Torrey, Krista Gentry (board), Brenda Nunez (board/zoom), Julia Patterson (board/zoom), Walt Clogston (zoom), Aaron Paden (board), Julie Trowbridge

Meeting called the meeting to order: 7:08

Introductions (see attendees above):

Dustin Stumblingbear is here and he's running for City Commission. Dustin stated that he ran in 2017. He's become more active in the community and he's been listening. Homelessness is a big issue here. He's worked with various groups to shape the county wide plan. Increase affordable housing. He wants to work with the people to bring good solutions. He sees we're touchy about infill and density. He sees potential in other parts of the City for infill and more affordable housing.

Approvals: Minutes weren't ready. Agenda: Pam moves, Phil 2<sup>nd</sup> Passes.

No guest speaker tonight.

Board member elections in November. We declare intention at the October meeting. Who's in??? Those not here who have indicated: Brenda Nunez, KT Walsh, Sacie Lambertson, Aaron Paden, and in attendance: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Darrel Proffitt, Krista Gentry, Julia Patterson, Barry Shalinsky

There are elections in November. ELNA Board, City Commission and School Board. Voter Registration ends on 10/17. Where can I get info? Check out public library website. Watch the debates, follow the LJW, LawrenceKSTimes. Drop off of ballots and early voting begin on 10/18.

La Yarda update. Marlo Angell is a local filmmaker. LaYarda is a historic site about a block from Santa Fe station across the tracks, a community of Hispanic Rail workers with their families. It was a vibrant community in the 1900's. There were similar communities in Topeka, the Argentine neighborhood in KC, all along the tracks. The 1951 flood kinda wiped out LaYarda. Some families bought houses then and moved into the neighborhood. Moved into the 800 block of Pennsylvania Street on west side (most of those houses torn down due to eminent domain for the failed Haskell Loop). Many were members of St. John's Catholic Church. Marlo is doing work documenting via oral histories of folks who lived there. Children in the 1940's. She made a film, now she wants to make an interactive exhibit. She'll be keeping us posted about that. Marlo contacted the Parks and Rec about the City buying the site. It's tough getting in touch with the Railroad. It's an interesting history. Watch for developments.

We participate in "adopt a family" for the holidays. We sponsor it via donations from neighbors. Lane says that ECKAN is gearing up to set up the families. We usually get a large family. Can buy presents or do gift cards. We have a wrapping party. Lane suggests we buy gifts. Pam moves we adopt a family for Christmas. We're doing it.

You can get info from us via a weekly e-news email, a paper newsletter delivered 4-6 times per year. We also have a Facebook page and an Instagram account. And a website that is under construction and taking suggestions for looks, etc.

Traffic Safety. Discussion of 13<sup>th</sup> Street bike blvd and why ELNA does not support it. Pedestrian and bicycle transportation should be studied as part of our neighborhood plan we are revamping now. It should not be a separate standalone. We want infrastructure dollars in our neighborhood, but doing it in a smart way. Can we invite the City Engineers to our meeting to discuss possible bike paths? Sandy notes that she's talked with engineers about the 13<sup>th</sup> street and Connecticut intersection for traffic safety. You gotta stick out pretty far to see around the cars parked. A short discussion ensued about how the engineers decide what to do or not to do.

Last meeting the Chief of Police was here and talked about crime prevention. JT pointed out that the Amtrak station has poor bike racks. There's a web-cam on the bike rack. A bike got 'attacked' and front wheel was stolen. A person was viewed in broad daylight with the front wheel on the webcam taking the bike rack. JT says we need bike boxes at the Amtrak station and elsewhere. We've not done a good job with bikes in this City.

Hobbs Park visioning as part of the neighborhood plan. Barry said we owe a lot to Mark Kaplan and his dedicated vision and advocacy in the past. Kaplan would like to see targeted improvements at the park, with more emphasis on history. We want to find interested folks to meet at 2:00 on Wednesday 10/11 at Hobbs Park. If you can't be there let Barry know and they will do it again. The concrete at the stadium is degrading and may need professional help for restoration. Negro Leagues were played games. The Murphy-Bromelsick house really needs some love. One of the windows is rotting. We also discussed the old sale barn site beyond right field as a potential park expansion location. Hobbs Park was created by an endowment by Myra Hobbs. The city did not want to spend the money for the children of East Lawrence as specified in the bequest, which led Reverend Sims to bring children to the CC meeting to prove there were children in East Lawrence. Hobbs Park is barely 50 years old. Should we plan 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary park activities?

100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liberty Memorial Central Middle school LMCMS It's the "Central Centennial!" November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Be there!

Alphabet Soup! CC HRC PC LPA LAN  
NY School at the downtown Chipotle on November 8, proceeds go to NYS.

LAN update: Brook Creek Neighborhood organizing against a big new apartment complex on 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

We read KT's note with updates: "My report for tonight's mtg.: Long needed alley repairs have begun between R.I. & Conn, 9th to the northern end of the alley at Christy Brandt & John Gary Brown's house across from Dale & Ron's garage. Talked with the surveyors. There are some beautiful carved, curved stone curbs at the end of that alley so we have to make sure they are retained, undamaged. I asked why 9th to 10th wasn't included since it's in horrible shape & they just shrugged. Historic Resources Commission: The Old Kansas River Bridge Stone Pier is being nominated to the Lawrence Register. The NAACP Community Remembrance Coalition wrote the nomination. (this is visible from the wooden stairway off the north bound bridge). If you want to read about the history of the bridge, click on the HRC agenda, then that agenda item. It is all that remains of the bridge where the 3 Black men were murdered by hanging in 1883. If you saw the JW article, the County Commission voted on a plan to rehab, expand the Law Enforcement building at 11th & Rhode Island & the County offices next to the pottery place on New Hampshire. Treanor HL are the architects. No tax increases necessary which is great. We need to invite Sarah Plinsky & Treanor to an ELNA mtg. They will insist that it's too early in the process but that is the point. Some history, ELNA & the

Lawrence Preservation Alliance fought & won when the County wanted to build the 3-story jail where the parking lot is, south of the building. South Park is on the local & State historic registers & our stand in the past was that the view & easy access to South Park were important. Remember too the new buildings soon to go in on New Hampshire. This will affect parking, possible light pollution, etc. It is important for all the nearby neighbors to be invited.”

Coordinator; Krista has a couple things for block party. Passing around thank you cards for donations. Kevin Elliot Snow (works with homeless) has not responded to a request to do a river cleanup. Got newsletter ads. Aaron Treasurer report. \$7502.96 in bank \$3,539.07 in PayPal. We took in about \$1000 before expenses at the Block Party. We have heard a story about spraying along the levee. We want to follow up on that.

The alley between Penn and Delaware from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> street may be getting worked on. Taking it to concrete? Drones are flying around at night. What are regs regarding drones flying about? The City has no drones. Lotsa drones out there?

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Collison, secretary