

ELNA Meeting July 14, 2025. Begun at 7:00

Attendees and Introductions: Nancy Overmyer, KT Walsh (Veep), Lane Eisenbart (Coordinator), Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Phil Collison (Secretary), Pam Blackburn (board), Sacie Lambertson (board), Peggy Robinson, Joe Bickford. Bob Schumm (City Commission Candidate). On Zoom, JT Thornburg, Krista Gentry (board), Bart Littlejohn (City Commission Candidate), Sarah Norman.

Approve minutes and agenda, Moved KT, 2nd Sacie, all approved.

There's a chipper / shredder available. We can't use it, but we suggested the fruit tree project might be a good place. Maybe Marshall.

City and School primary elections are coming up. Registration ends tomorrow (7/15). The primary is the first Tuesday in August (5th). More than a dozen (13) City Commission candidates. There are plenty of ways to vote early. VOTE!! In person voting begins on July 16th. Wednesday this week.

ELNA Budget and Succession Planning. Since the 1970's our neighborhood association received small grants from the City that have been used primarily for staffing and communications. Newsletters and Coordinators were funded by HUD CDBG (Community Development Block Grants). It's been cut off by a few commissions. It's never very much money. These grants were in addition to whatever we are able to raise on our own and came with their own rules about appropriate uses. A few years ago the City changed how they would allocate the money. They eliminated the citizen advisory board that made funding recommendations and transferred the task to city staff. Staff created a scoring "matrix" system with little transparency. The neighborhoods no longer scored highly enough to receive CDBG funding. The CC finally decided they would allocate money through the general fund and that money continued for about 3 years. The 4 neighborhoods that got money were Pinkney, East Lawrence, Schwegler and Brook Creek. Over three years ago the 4 neighborhoods developed a draft neighborhood engagement program proposing funding and a way to track it. It was ignored by the City. The City operates on a strategic plan that includes a priority outcome called strong and welcoming neighborhood without metrics that measure how that is accomplished. This years budget proposal is underfunded and the neighborhood funds got cut. Neighborhoods suggested it stay in the budget even tho it was small. We took it as a demonstration of the City's (lack of) support for neighborhoods. Fingers crossed we may have an impact. Now the City says they will consider the draft document submitted in Dec. 2021. We'll see what happens! This leaves us with 1) figuring out how to replace \$5000 in our budget or not. A suggestion was made to take newsletters to quarterly distribution (from 6/year). Maybe there's a cheaper way to do it (newspaper stock), sell more advertising, etc. We feel strongly our coordinator should not be impacted by these budget cuts. Our budget is usually about \$10-12,000 per year. Q. is there a written budget to look at? A. Probably not. \$7200 for coordinator. \$1000 x6 for the newsletter. Some misc expenses for web hosting. Suggestion that we see a budget that is written down. (We elect officers in November, the treasurer in January). It got suggested to cut back newsletters to 4x per year. Also we could do a Facebook fundraiser. We could sell associate memberships for \$20/year. Should board members be more active? What would that look like?? Could we do a merch store online?

Are folks interested in forming a ***nominating committee***? To look for officers and others to serve. Lane will volunteer Max, and Phil and Sacie will also serve.

Hobbs Park update from KT. The Watkins Museum is sponsoring the Hobbs Park Committee and they want to raise money for the initial surveys and get the work going and they are looking at ways to do that.

Recent news on the townhouse initiative on Rhode Island. Nothing new according to Sarah Norman. Apparently, the architect was supposed to send out letters last January with notifications to homes within 200

feet of the project and they forgot, and the new ordinances say there is no penalty for that. They reported to the City that they sent it out last January but residents didn't receive it. Oh well... That architect has a history of misleading City bodies. Business as usual.

Residential Preservation Committee has been in the summer doldrums. Hoping to meet soon.

The East Lawrence Neighborhood plan is moving forward slowly. Barry spoke with Lynne Zollner and Luke Mortenson at the City. The online survey closes on July 30th. Krista is meeting with Brenna to talk about how to survey a house. Hoping to find a house south of 11th to use as a test? Q: Did we see the renovation on 13th St on the big house on 13th and NJ? The owner did sell it to a KC person.

Neighborhood Plan. We think the Coalition group (Holly Krebs) wants to help us.

HRC (historic resources commission). Not much on the agenda. They're talking about their Chapter in the City Code for enhancements. HRC needs an architect to sit on their board.

Do we know anything about enrollment at NY School? No.

LAN had Cori Wallace demonstrate the new Citizen Connect Portal website. It didn't go real well. It's a complex site that was difficult to navigate. She will be a more regular attendee in the future. That's a good thing.

Barry is working to get his rental property back on the market.

The building that houses Do's Deluxe may be for sale soon.

Bob Schumm just got here. He's come from the Parks and Rec Board meeting. Big fees discussion there. They did not have a vote, but it doesn't look good for fees. They blamed upper management at the City for pressuring them to have fees. They recognized it will have a grave impact on children's use of recreation facilities.

Coordinator Report. Lane has submitted a request for Hobbs Park for the block party on September 27. Hasn't heard back yet. Sustainability Action Network has a survey for workshops. It will be in the e-news. We'll do a postcard mailing in lieu of a newsletter at the end of July.

There's a candidate forum at the Library on Saturday afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31.