

ELNA Meeting 04/13/2026 Called to order.

Attendees and Introductions: KT Walsh (VP), Phil Collison (Secretary), Courtney Shipley (B), Barry Shalinsky (B), Pam Blackburn (B), Lane Eisenbart (Coordinator), Aaron Paden (Bz), Danica Lam, Khoa Lam, Sacie Lambertson (B), Sarah Norman (B), Shane Powers, Conservationists! Guest speakers. Courtney Masterson (Native Lands Restoration Collaborative group), Kelsey Matousek, Brian Riedel (Native Lands Restoration Collaborative group), Ryan Rastok (Native Lands Restoration Collaborative group), Joe Bickford, Krista Gentry (Bz), Darrel Proffit (Pres on Z) Jan Butin (B).

Guest speakers are the Native Lands Restoration Collaborative group, Courtney used to live in the neighborhood. Her group is doing the midco garden park renovation at the corner of 7th and Rhode Island. Their group does lots of events, usually even including transportation for those needing it. She's brought slides of where she is doing this. They are taking out the parking lot there and replacing with all those plants!! There will be many opportunities for volunteers. It's a 5 year contract at this point. Midco is doing this b/c it'll be good for their employees, and they are doing this with no ulterior motives. Many partners are in this group, including Haskell Univ greenhouse. They want to engage with us. They need us. There will be Demonstration gardens. Educational opportunities for Colleges, schools, libraries. They will simulate wetlands. There may be a ribbon cutting in October. The City currently is replacing damaged water pipes under the current midco parking lot. It's under construction. The trees that were in that park area were mostly volunteers. Many in poor shape. It's neat to have an area returned to greenspace. Lots of folks are interested and getting involved. Spyder Art Construction are doing the Parking Lot renewal. Stairs are no longer included in the plan. A naturalized prairie will be in the center. Mowed differently from time to time. Q; There's stones that came from the river behind the riverfront mall, could they be used? A: She'll ask Parks and Rec and try. Q: Sidewalk has huge trip hazards. Is there a plan for that? Also, will there be interpretive signage? And, a house got moved from there to 7th and NY to be half of the double house! A: North south sidewalk will be replaced by concrete (although we support and emphasized our love of brick sidewalks, by Spyder Art Construction. There was a tree in the middle of the sidewalk. It is gone (sadly). Cool! Many types of native stones will be used there for sidewalks, fencing and décor. Plus glacial errata. Some rocks may hold water and craggy rocks, too. The sidewalks will be crafted to ADA standards. Educational signage will be in full force. Midco emphasized that, too. They're looking for stories about what has been there. Kansas is 49th in the country for amount of public lands. Connecticut will have a lot of trees in jeopardy over the next 10 years, that will take good oversight. April 28th there will be a Tree-Talk session at the Northside social club at 6 p.m. Very nice, fun and informative event.

Accept the minutes: Darrel firsts, Barry 2nds. All are in favor.

Yart Sale update. Big thanks to Lane and Aaron!! Big big thanks!! Cleaned up by 2:30. Last year was \$4000, this year was \$5000. Lane and Aaron asked for help and they got it. More volunteers than last year. The rug is still missing. Folks showed up early at the gym Friday night for setup. We can't drop off until 6. That is an issue.

Newsletter. We're losing a couple of distributers of the newsletter. And added a few new folks. There's a lot of details that go into getting our newsletter written, laid out, printed and distributed to our homes. There's always extras. Proffit's took some over to Q39 but they would not take any. Refused them. That ended up as a review on Yelp. The next newsletter will probably come out well before the primary on August 4th. We'll start working on it at the June 8 ELNA meeting. Cindy Suenram has done

the layout for 36 years!! Worthy of a card at least!! Lane is now doing the layout. It will happen on another layout tool. We could sell more ads. That's hard work and takes a volunteer.

East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan. This is still hanging out there! There is an ELNA Plan meeting Residential Preservation Committee Meeting at Sacie's 4/25 from 1:30-3:30.

Outreach to the Senior Resource Center. They brought up many good points for our consideration as we get this going. Background checks, Ladders, Doing things beyond a volunteer's capability. If we did a day of service for folks we'd get a better sense of what we could do and what they might want. This is an ongoing discussion.

LAN update. What direction to give on the Strategic Plan and have an impact. The person is not hired who would do that. CC and planning to give guidance on our neighborhood engagement plan. There was a kerfluffel over a recent appointment attempt at the CC. It was in a spot on the agenda that required no public comment. Folks need to be able to do public comment. A few got this item deferred to make it a more transparent process. Barry sent a letter to the CC pointing out that the process being used was not transparent. He asked it get pulled from the consent agenda. CC did and discussed it and decided it needed to be put off for a week. We did learn who supported his appointment. Any Commissioner can put in a name for a position. And it needs to be a visible process where the name is known going in to the process. This process was changed by the CC a few years ago where the Mayor no longer makes the appointment.

HRC 1106 RI(?) is getting solar panels. The masonic temple at 10th and Mass is becoming 28 bedroom apartment complex. We think CC will be discussing why the HRC exists.

Sycamore tree at NY School. It has some disease and 5 years of life left. The City Arborist says lets have a memorial and celebrate it's life.

DGCO heritage grants. Hobbs is probably not getting the grant. Restoring the banks of Burroughs Creek will be funded. Barry attends the Hobbs meetings. They need \$30k for that study of Hobbs.

Celebration at a Lewis Cowder Cemetery occurred. It is getting re-vitalized.

We lost the zoom folks. With only 10 minutes to go we did not restart.

Coord report. We'll be a part of the Pride parade on June 6th. Lane is looking for new merch to sell. We should follow up on our inclusion statement to the City about the bathroom bill the state just passed.

Adjourned.