

ELNA Minutes December 4 2017

Present: Mike Anderson, Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Lane Eisenbart, Eric Jay, Dave Loewenstein, Aaron Paden, Catherine Reed, Cindy Suenram, KT Walsh, Frank Janzen, Brenda Nuñez, Judy Romero, Vanessa Reynaga, Joshua Davis

Meeting called to order by Phil Collison.

2. August, September and October minutes were approved.

3. a. Michelle Heller from Stock Healthy Shop Healthy, nutrition educator and summer meal program coordinator, described the program to encourage small retailers to stock more fresh produce. The program has been successful in 14 Missouri counties. Michelle asked for feedback on which retailers to approach. They are working with Dollar General and the Valero Food Mart at 23rd and Harper. The manager of the Dollar Tree and 27th and Iowa is interested but needs support from higher up in the company. Could the Sunrise Coffee shop be involved?

They have a grant from the Douglas County Community Foundation; the Health Department and Public Library are cooperating. Anyone interested should contact Michelle. Dave Lowenstein will introduce Michelle to Connie Fitzpatrick, who is working with culturally specific shops. There is a process to assess demand and publicize the group's actions.

3. b. Arts Place grant update. Dave Loewenstein reported that he, Cindy Maude and Joshua Davis had a productive discussion. They will meet again this week. Sarah Bishop, who wrote the original plan, has moved on to another job. The Director of Arts and Culture position has been eliminated. Porter Arneil continues to work for the city.

4. a. Adopt a Family for the Holidays. More responses are needed. Lane will e-mail a list. There are 150 families who have requested adoption. Wrapping party at 835 ½ Mass St, Wed Dec 13 6-8 pm. Bring donations. Money will be spent to buy items on the list, gift cards and gas cards.

4. b. LEP plan. Phil sent a document regarding responses to people who need help but have limited English skills. He'll bring the plan next time. The Centro Hispano can help with Spanish, and the Applied English Center at KSU is a resource. Hillcrest and Cordley Schools have ESL programs.

4. c. Short Term Rentals e.g., Air BnB. These may be a threat to affordable housing. The city is working out what to do: should there be inspections? Notify neighbors? There's a limit of 3 unrelated adults per house in residential neighborhoods. Michael, director of Explore Lawrence, reported that the sense of

the commissioners is that owner-occupied rentals of rooms is okay, others will need to follow Bed and Breakfast regulations, which are more stringent. Phil will keep an eye on this issue.

5. a. Wishing Bench Repair. Eric Jay gave an estimate of about \$550 for materials to set the bench on precast concrete blocks, and replace the joists and decking, assuming all new materials are used. Eric can donate some joists. Mike Anderson texted landowner Tony Krischnik, Tony's okay with the repair as long as the bench can be removed at some point. Lane will start an online donation process to raise money, then a volunteer group can do the work.

5. b. Downtown Grocery Store. KT Walsh showed the latest plans. Plans will be on the January JRC agenda, along with plans for the downtown conference center. With the current plan the whole site will be scraped. Price Chopper will only contract to sell food for 5 years.

5. c. Conservation Overlay. This will start in January.

6. Reports

a. President. The CDBG grant of 10K has been requested.

b. Vice-President. A CDAC position may be opening if Johnathon Jay Holley steps down.

c. Treasurer. No report.

d. Coordinator. The newsletter will include information on the new board. Members can add information by Friday Dec. 15. The January ELNA meeting will be January 8.

e. Committees

i. Budget/ Fundraising Committee. Mike Anderson will hand-deliver half of the newsletters. Others could get involved in this, we should also look for sponsors for the newsletter; maybe block party raffle donors would sponsor. Phil will check the Mass and 14th st block.

ii. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. No report

iii. Planning Commission. No report

iv. Historic Resources Commission. No report

v. City Commission. A bid has been received for the Amtrak station remodel. There's a controversy over street lights.

vi. CDAC. A meeting will be held regarding the school board president search. Schools will be rated using a survey.

vii. New York PTO/Site Council. Kids would like to see animal tracks on the Peace Pole.

7. Updates

a. Leon's house. Joe showed the plans.

b. Architecture students will show their plans for the Lawrence Loop at Abe and Jake's Landing, Wednesday Dec. 6 from 9 to noon.

c. Aaron Paden notes that the city is not studying the nitrates in the Kaw, since the nitrate level following the spill is below the summer nitrate level.

d. Pam asks, what's going on at Charlie's?

e. Eric Jay reports several thefts of tools in the Brook Creek Area. Be aware.

f. Parking issues on Rhode Island St.

g. Vanessa thanks ELNA for facilitating the use of the M-B house for the Women of Color art show last Final Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.