

ELNA Minutes – January 05, 2015

Present: Brenda Nunez, Cindy Suenram, Arch Naramore, Leslie Soden, KT Walsh, Ginger Chance; Jill Ensley, Jan Schaake, Stan Rasmussen, Dennis Domer, Brenna Buchanan, Molly Krause, Frank Janzen, Gottfred Beardshear, Cynthia Trask, Bill Wachspress, Jeff Stolz, Dave Crawford, John A. Gascon, Dakota Loomis, John Sebelius, David Evans, Louis Wigen-Toccalino, Emily Peterson, Patrick Watkins, Matt Pryor, John Naramore, Judy Romero, Kate Rogge, Robert Krause, Phil Collison, Josh Davis, Lane Eisenbart, Nicholas Ward, Christine Kosirog, Dave Loewenstein, KH, Sara Minges, Aaron Paden, KT Walsh, Susan Tate

Meeting called to order by Aaron Paden. Minutes of December meeting were not available for review/approval.

Louis Wigen-Toccalino of Decade spoke about expanding his offerings to include more menu items (in the line of a French Bistro) and full liquor license. He asked for input from the attendees. As he indicated he was not interested in late night offerings, he expected the expanded business would close on or before midnight. With that understanding, the group, knowing Louis, was in favor of expanded operations. Josh Davis suggested that ELNA receive in writing what the parameters of the operation to ensure the next business to offer full liquor in the neighborhood also follows the same rules.

Jenny O'Brien of Carma Hop gave an overview of this ride sharing organization. People desiring rides wait at defined stops/safe corners. They have a white board like sign to display their desired destination. When they are given a ride, the passenger opens the Carma Hop app on their phone and records the ride and the driver's phone number. Carma Hop had received funding from a tech company for the app, which can be downloaded from the itunes store. There is no funding for the drivers or vetting of drivers. Riders must register. They have had 200 registered rides so far. She wanted the neighborhood to be aware of the program and how to recognize the riders, to suggest "stops" in East Lawrence for Carma Hop. Louis of Decade suggests Decade as a stop.

Dave Crawford spoke, and is running for City Commissioner. He is looking to get information from the various neighborhood groups to understand and solve problems for Lawrence. He feels there are terrific neighborhoods in Lawrence, and a need for the City Commission to hear from these neighborhoods. He wants to give better communication avenues to the City Commission.

Dave Crawford also gave an update on the efforts to open a grocery store downtown. The 11th & Mass location has been discarded due to lack of parking and price of the facility. Negotiations are still going on with the owners of the Borders store. Information has been collected that East Lawrence is a food desert and more amenities and access to healthy food are needed for the area.

A brief discussion on grants ensued. Opportunities for ELNA to help include KVKL which is \$2500 short on the new scoreboard; NY Elementary School, playground equipment for the upper graders (It was suggested that a joint effort to undertaken with Breakfast Optimists and the NY PTO); Henry Fortunato, signage for Burrough's Creek Trail (interim step, panels at the library about the trail. It was suggested that all 4 neighborhoods should be involved in reviewing the panels); Intersection Repair Project. Historically, funds from the Yart sale are made available by application and available in May. Usually no

more than a few hundred dollars. Previous recipients include the Social Service League and New York Elementary.

Zoning/Block Heads are organizing to gather information from the neighborhood. Initially this will be to identify those neighbors with special needs and special skills in case of a neighborhood emergency. The effort to begin the canvas should be beginning within the next month or so. Tying into this is the effort to identify those houses currently being rented and those owner occupied. Almost all housing north of 9th St is zoned RM24. Diane Stoddard had indicated that the neighborhood needs to request a conservation overlay to change the zoning to what is currently in use (single family dwellings). KH moved to send a letter to Scott McCollough in planning. Cindy Suenram seconded. Motion passed. The process takes about a year.

A discussion followed on the Quonset Hut. Aaron Paden offered to call Black Hills to find out why they want to tear it down.

9th St. Letter was submitted to the City Commission which was interpreted badly leading to misinformation in the newspaper. Aaron Paden has reached out to individual City Commissioners. Everyone is in agreement with engagement of community. The expectation is the next step is go to staff. Staff would then negotiate what is workable. Sara Mingos asked whether ELNA as a full partner would then have legal liability in the project.

Susan Tate encouraged ELNA to apply for grants to continue its vision for the street and the neighborhood. She said that Christine's resignation does effect the process. Susan reminded us about the ELNA vision is on the ELNA website and revitalization plan. The Cultural District Task Force met for a year to discuss usage of 9th St including members of ELNA. Of most importance was mixed use events, better walking, bike lines and lighting. These documents were used in the grant the Lawrence Arts Center received.

Patrick Watkins and Emily Peterson stated that the letter presented to the City Commission implied the whole neighborhood agrees with the thoughts in the letter. Of most consternation are the parts where ELNA is asking for veto power on the design of the project and the 2 paid positions.

John Gascon reiterated that his opinion is not represented in anything ELNA says.

Christine Kosirog contacted the Westside Crossroads area. "why do we want to keep rewarding property owners by tax freezes".

Treasurer's Report: \$3202.04 in bank

Coordinator's Report: More has been added to the website; 2/13 is deadline for next newsletter; IFTT automating communications. Reminded everyone that ELNA solicits volunteers for desserts for the NY Elem MLK Chili feed.

LAN: Meeting Thursday, 7-9 pm at Capital City Bank.

Planning Commission: Special permits for Lawrence Creates for wood shop

HRC: All houses were approved for listing on the Historical Registry

PTO/Site Council: Reminder to send in mail in ballot to extend the LOB.

Yart Sale: Scheduled for March 28.

Art Center: Art Town Grant for the Free State Festival to extend funding for 2016, 2017.

Horizon 2020: much information was gathered in community meetings. Now process begins to decide what to do with the information.

Dave Loewenstein of the US Dept of Arts & Culture talked about the people's state of the union which will be documented into a live broadcast. Interested people may attend at the Percolator on 1/27 from 2-5 and Lawrence Creates 1/25 from 5-8.

Stan Rasmussen and Leslie Soden are also running for city commissioners. Primary is March 3rd. Elections is in April.

It was moved by Josh Davis to adjourn. Cindy Suernam seconded. Meeting was adjourned