

## ELNA Minutes – September 11, 2021

Present: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Lane Eisenbart, Suzan Hampton, Boog Highberger, Sacie Lambertson, Aaron Paden, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh

Joe Bickford, Sandra Day, Kay Emerson, Krista & Josh Gentry. Frank Janzen, Lisa Larsen, Ellen Paulsen, Amber Sellers, Nate Morsches, JT Thornburg

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved. July minutes were approved. KT moved & Phil 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Candidates for the City Commission & Lawrence School Board were present to talk about issues important to them.

City Commission:

Amber Sellers, has a background in public health & policy. Children, family and public policy that affects them. She believes in connecting people's voices to the city. City should be aware how the city is functioning in relation to its citizens. The Comprehensive plan on affordable housing must come to fruition. Economic development needs to improve. WorkForce development is in crisis and we need to work to overcome it.

Lisa Larsen is working on infrastructure which has been neglected for several years. Believes in working with neighborhoods to help & fund.

School Board:

Kay Emerson lives in North Lawrence now. She has lived in the community for 20 years helping out in the schools for many years. She wants to help build/do things together. There are too many divisions in the community. Students' needs are everyone's problem. It is important to leverage resources to get things done.

Nate Morsches spoke on his background and platform. He is the father of 4, 2 were adopted thru foster care and one with special needs. He would like to see a restoration of community and taking care of the community. Believes there should be more Tech Ed, Market education and students should understand there are other options such as tech schools, apprenticeship, etc. Mental health of students & teachers need to be addressed. The district needs to figure out how to maintain financial sustainability.

Presentation on Accessory Dwelling Units. ELNA invited Sandra Day from the Planning Department to talk about ADUs in RS-5 zones. Ms. Day is drafting a text amendment to the zoning code that would permit ADUs in RS-5 zones. There are RS-5 areas throughout most of the older neighborhoods. Comprehensive plan & affordable housing plans call for additional opportunities in established neighborhoods. This initiative started at the end of 2019 but Covid got in the way of public involvement. There is now a dedicated website, newspaper notices, and an interest survey of ADUs on RS-5. The City hopes to receive robust public input before drafting the text amendment.

What is an ADU? What is the benefit? An accessory dwelling unit on the same property as the main unit, including areas for sleeping, bathing, cooking. The definition of ADU in Lawrence allows 1 more person on property. Currently ADUs are not permitted in RS-5 & RS-3 zones.. This text amendment would only reference RS-5. More areas in Lawrence are adding RS-5 sized lots.

Why allow ADUs? Allows adult child a separate space, MIL flat, home health care living quarters, and a small income from ADU allows elderly to live in their home longer. Real estate market is changing and mixed housing is becoming more popular. Will neighborhoods become more renter occupied? Lawrence code requires the owner to live in one of the 2 units.

The Wishing Bench has been rebuilt! Thank you, Hamm's Construction. Added ramp to make it more accessible. Rededication of the Wishing Bench will be on 9/25 at 4 pm. It still needs a roof. Things that were removed are now at KTs and will be brought to the rededication. NYE students left a packet of their ideas of what the wishing bench could become.

NY Street Water Line replacement will be 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. The line is starting to fail and being replaced. Postcards have been sent to people on NY & NJ that will be affected for possible route. Presentation at NY School Cafeteria on Sept 9, 6:30 to 8 pm.

Planning commission will consider a request for a wine tasting room in Penn St Lofts (rezoning and Special Use Permit). ELNA board had a special meeting and asked for 2 changes in plan. (on-site residency by operator, and annual review of SUP). These changes were agreed to by the applicant.

Elections: all city and school board candidates have been invited to attend the block party. ELNA will be encouraging voter turnout and may do more.

Proposed demolition of 833 E 13<sup>th</sup>. Matt Gilhausen has purchased the property. Suzan will reach out to him.

Splash pad at Burroughs Creek: was supposed to be completed this year. No obvious work yet. KT to check with Parks & Rec.

La Yarda Commemoration draft support letter written by Barry.

City Commission: Tomorrow hearing about the artwork in front of the police station. Design approved. City commission to vote tomorrow.

LAN: 320 units 23<sup>rd</sup> & crestline. Development of a solar farm on the border of Johnson & Douglas. The land was formerly farmland. It is being built by a private company. No information is available on transmission lines. Size is 5 sq miles.

501c3 no new information

There is work to make a No Parking zone on the east side of 900/1000 Delaware due to changes in bus routes and Lawrence loop work.

Block party, Frank will be soliciting auction items. Lane asking for:

1. Facebook event. Everyone should invite people
2. Who should we ask for burgers? Free burgers are better.
3. Who should be our MC?

KT will need volunteers to move stuff from the Wishing Bench to Hobbs Park.

Adjournment - Phil moved, KT 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting adjourned.