

ELNA Minutes – March 8, 2021

Present: Phil Collison, Pam Blackburn, Felice Levergne, KT Walsh, Adam Weigel, Sakthi, Barry Shalinsky, Anna McCoy, Boog Highberger, Lisa Larsen, Brenda Nunez, Joe Bickford, Ellen Paulson, Dave Loewenstein

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved. No minutes were available.

Felice from Lawrence Transit talked about upcoming route changes, effective August 1st. These changes are not due to the route redesigns upcoming in 2022. The new housing in the WAD has increased workers & populations. The main route will no longer go on Connecticut & a lot of 11th. The new route will service Poehler & Penn St lofts. Transit is anticipating greater use with the increased housing in the area. There is a discussion about whether the Wishing Bench should be a part of this new bus stop. The existing bench is on the NW corner of 9th st and Delaware and needs to be moved for Tony K's development. The bus stop will be on Delaware just north of 9th. Transit asked about incorporating the Wishing bench as the functional bus stop. Adam would need to get easement most likely and the bus stop would need to be ADA accessible allowing 4 ft x 2.5 ft space for wheelchairs. It was asked if there would be rules surrounding what is left there? Choice of regular bus shelter or wishing bench.

Sakthi gave an update on Lawrence Freedgin Kansas. They just got refrigerators donated and are working on getting the downtown refrigerator set up. Currently filling up the Sunrise site. Will be contacting NYE to see if their site is possible or contact Just Food for ideas.

Barry brought up a proposed remodel at 9th & Penn, the Polk Oil Building. It will be either office or commercial. It will connect street to building in alley.

City Commission: Lisa Larsen gave an update. CDBG funding will most likely not be available. Question was asked if there are other funding sources? Lisa feels money should be coming from general fund. Comparing social services to neighborhoods is not easy. More conversations to follow as budget talks continue. She recommends continuing to advocate through the commissioners for this change.

Neighbor plan update. Planning is adding more staff. Last fall, Lisa proposed a planner 2 & a planner 1. They are committed to completing 2 neighborhood plans and also work on 2040 plans. Community engagement person needed to set up policies on how to interface with communities. Planning is not always communicating with neighborhoods.

HRC: discussion of Argana restaurant sign

LPA: raised \$\$ last year for St Luke's restoration. Raven & Dusty Bookshelf are taking donations for St Luke's bookshelf

Safe neighborhood speeds campaign: new speed limits signs have been seen west of Iowa. Just now beginning to show up in East Lawrence.

Sidewalk inspection program: no policies have been developed / adopted for brick sidewalks. ELNA, Pickney, and OWL will have a meeting to help write policy with staff support on historic sidewalks & streets.

Parks & Rec approached us in support of the National Arbor Day Foundation tree planting grant. This will help them replace trees that have died. We sent a letter. Hoping it will supplement existing funds for tree replacement in the neighborhood.

Wildlife conservation area restoration and cleanup: Friends of the Kaw & Big Event doing river cleanup on Big Event day, 4/24. Cutting out the honeysuckle will happen later in summer and be replanted with native plants.

Local schools are enrolling now. Pick up after your dogs!

Movie Night: Sat Mar 27, Movies, Wishing Bench, Facing East, Ks River Kings & Langston's Lawrence. Unclear about concessions. Health dept says 200 can come to the event. All must stay in their car, maintaining social distance and be masked. No more than 25 people out of their car at any time.

RI & housing authority properties: 1200 blk dumpster overflowing with trash. Gets blown around. Email'd housing authority. Not getting much response or action. Are there other problem dumpsters in the neighborhood?

Donate button on web site to contribute to elna. We need to sell more ads.

Meeting adjourned.

Will and Desmond from The Willow gave a presentation on their organization. The Willow was founded in 1976 as they began offering shelter to abused women. Services today include all individuals who are abused, including trans and men. They operate in Franklin, Jefferson, and Douglas county. The Willow is about to open their 2nd shelter. It was started as crisis intervention. Services are now wider and include emergency shelter. The new shelter will provide 9 more bedrooms for a total of 20 beds. The duration of stay will increase from 30 to 90 days to transition out of the situation. Allows them to find employment, documentation and housing. 80% of people in transitional housing move to regular housing. Tenants to homeowners manages the housing. Willow does referrals. Services also include Human trafficking survivors program, court advocacy program goes to dockets and sit/support survivors thru the process. Community advocacy assistance helps with rent and other necessary items. They arrange for transportation to appointments and job interviews. They also have services for youth transitioning out of foster care. A transition house for these youth has been opened giving them a place to live for up to 2 years.

The willow is funded by federal and state grants. 15 to 20% of their funding is from individual or corporate donations. The city and county also contribute. There is a staff of 30, 2/3 are direct staff and 1/3 are community outreach.

Sakthi K talked about expanding the neighborhood refrigerator programs. He is looking for a program similar to Sunrise but more accessible. There is now a refrigerator at KU and downtown, with more places to come. Looking for ideas for where to put one in other places, like East Lawrence. They are recovering extra food from restaurants to stock the refrigerators.

Key Boards

LAN: next meeting is in a couple of days. Phil will forward the results

HRC: Memorial by swimming pool. Juneteenth was discussed.

LPA: Will be at next LAN meeting. Reaching to more neighborhoods to recognize people making good improvements to their homes.

Safe Neighborhood Speeds Campaign will be starting very soon.

Sidewalk Inspection program: this year there are some sidewalks in our neighborhood. Generally they are targeting sidewalks used by students going to middle school and NYE. No brick sidewalks are involved.

Phil, Sacie, Barry meeting with city hall about how / where to repair brick streets and sidewalks.

Covid Vaccination info / outreach: Sr center available to assist people without computer access to help people get on the list.

CDBG Grant Application submitted.

Wildlife Conservation Area restoration and cleanup: down by river, N of train station, invasive species to be removed. Trees to be planted.

The BIG Event: any ideas for projects? KU volunteers in april

New York School / LMCMS updates: any one interested in attending

Grant Seeking: Douglas County Heritage Grant for Native Land signage

Accessory Dwelling Units in RS-5 Zones: Planning is investigating allowing ADUs on RS5 lots. Rules are that the owner must live in one unit. ADU cannot be larger than the current building. Must have 6000 sq ft lot. Need to be ready for when this topic is hitting committees.

Douglas county grant: Native American recognition, signage. Who was here before? And how do we find out? Paid consulting to local tribes plus artwork for signage.

Kaw rock to be returned to the Kaw nation. 1st step is do research on what should be done. Lane, Dave, KT and Phil to help organize the meeting.

Funding, including 501c3: Boog volunteered to help with organization of steps. Filing fee is \$260. Kt moves for Boog to file paper work for ELNA to become 501c3 in April. Aaron 2nds. Filing fee should be < 500. Motion passed.

President: Met with Michael Almon, VP of Brook Creek. ELNA March meeting speaker will be from Lawrence transit on bus route changes in august.

Treasurer \$3997.38, paypal: 563.32; \$11 from recycling

Coordinator: talking to Trinity Lutheran church for a film festival in March in the parking lot. Needs Assessment : more than 20 people responded. They were all paper newsletter responders;

Meeting adjourned.