

ELNA Minutes – July 12, 2021

Present: Phil Collison, Pam Blackburn, Barry Shalinsky, Lane Eisenbart, KT Walsh, Bart Littlejohn, Amber Sellers, Douglas Redding, Brenda Nunuz, Sacie Lambertson, Lisa Larsen, Kay Emerson, Stuart Boley, Aaron Paden, Frank Janzen, Anna McCoy, Suzan Hampton

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved. June minutes were approved with corrections. KT moved & Sacie 2nd.

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

City Commission:

Bart Littlejohn has been a Lawrence resident for 25 years. Working hard as possible for equality, housing.

Amber Sellers, this is her 2nd time in Lawrence. She completed her masters in 2019. Works in KDHE. Understands transforming infrastructure including human services. Working for housing affordability, economic development, retraining and re imaging people.

Lisa Larsen has been on the commission for almost 6 years. She is an environmental geologist. Working towards a solution for farmland remediation. Other concerns are infrastructure & affordable housing.

Stuart Boley very interested in new strategic plans. Looking to improve neighborhoods and support them. Budget is not quite aligned with that yet. Services need to be equitably priced. Concerned about remediation of farmland property.

School Board:

Kay Emerson graduated 2004 from KU. Would like to leverage economic development & resources. Lifting up challenges facing schools: opportunity, access and creating the future our kids deserve.

Douglas Redding is an almost lifelong resident of Lawrence. Has lived on the east & south sides. Would like to work for year long schools.

Discussion on Downtown Plan: the HRC guidelines and EL guidelines are slated to be 2022 activities. HRC has not been revised for decades. Updates should be addressed in the individual reviews.

WAD: zoning appeals are being requested for parking. All parking in the district is available to all users. 801 Penn had appealed the ruling as they would like to reserve some of the parking for 801 to the BZA. BZA voted to uphold the current rules with no dissension.

Proposed demolition of 816 RI: HRC turned down the request. Owner has not withdrawn or appealed. Owner had numbers on what it would take to save the building vs new construction. There was very little difference.

Depot parking lot construction: no news on redesign.

There are 4 Wednesday events at BonBon in support of Dennis Domers book on Lawrence History. In conjunction with Watkins, they cover a variety of topics including the Historic Red Light district, East Bottoms, A J Griffin, the ice man who built Barry's house, and sewer infrastructure. Tickets are \$100.

City Commission & School Board elections: Article is in the newsletter encouraging everyone to vote. For the general election ELNA would like to get involved again with GOTV.

LPA, Suzan: Downtown master plan updated to Dennis Brown this week.

City Commission: Topics upcoming are next year's budget including general revenue funds for supporting neighborhood associations. \$20k is recommended in the budget which represents what was in CDBG last year. There will be a hearing on 8/31. This money represents a transition. Need a new way to develop funding for neighborhoods. There are other areas needing mentoring to start associations.

LAN, Phil: Evergy has plans to put an electric substation in very close to an existing neighborhood (Heatherwood Heights). Planning worked with developer a long time without notifying the neighborhood. There is also a project at Clinton pkwy & Crestline.

Planning Staff: Amendments are being discussed to change the ADU policy for RS-5 zoned plots. ELNA has heard no details. Barry to investigate further and hopes to invite planning to come to the next meeting to discuss.

901 Penn Community Art Mural is still in progress.

Moving the Wishing Bench: KT will try one last thing. Then we move on to plan B.

a 501c3 application has been submitted to the feds.

Meeting adjourned.