ELNA Minutes for 7/10/2023

List of Attendees: Courtney Shipley (CC Candidate), Barry Shalinsky (Prez), RJ Torrey, Peggy Robinson, Nancy Overmeyer, Krista Gentry, Megan Davis, Adam Wiegel (Lawrence Transit director and guest speaker), Luke Mortenson (City Planner, guest speaker), Ellie Mullins (City Planner, guest speaker), KT Walsh (Vice President), Phil Collison (Secretary), Lane Eisenbart (Coordinator), Aaron Paden (Treasurer), Tami Nevels, Sandy Day (City Planner, guest speaker), Lynne Zollner (Historic Resources Administrator, guest speaker), Ellen Paulsen (zoom), Mike Dever (CC Candidate), Jane Woods (zoom), Mike Woods (Zoom), JT Thornburg (Zoom), Julia Patterson (Zoom).

Introductions:

A couple CC candidates are here, Mike Dever, Courtney Shipley. The candidates introduced themselves and made brief statements about their candidacies.

Approve minutes, KT Moves, Krista 2nd. All in favor approved.

Agenda moved by Phil Aaron 2nd, All in favor - approved.

\* Adam Weigel – Lawrence Transit. The Central Station Project at 15th & Crestline has been delayed. That ties together a lot of route changes so they can’t move forward until it is done. He’s’ got all the route changes defined. Route 1 heads east out of downtown and heads to Peaslee Tech. Route 7 goes down Mass to grocery stores and on to Southwest Lawrence. Route 7 will swap with Route 1 so Route 7 will run through EL to Haskell to 19th back to Mass and then out to 23rd and Louisiana out to SW Lawrence. Comment: People like the Uber-like services slated to be offered. Tentative new date to complete Transit Center is Jan. 2nd. Adam hopes that is a good estimate. Paving should begin in next couple weeks. Then outside amenities by October 1 and Interior of the building by November. Sundays will include uber type of riding, But it will remain small due to funding, etc. at first. From 8-11 pm and from 4-7 am during the nights could have 7 transports per shift. Q. Talked of 2 workers who were late b/c buses weren’t running that day, will that be a solution for them? To do the uber on holidays. A: Yes it probably would. Q: Bus Central at 15th and Crestline. Will there be a center downtown, too? A: Yes. We need permanence downtown, but only one project at a time will be running. They’ve got grant funding for the downtown center, so that’s good. Public engagement planning will begin in 2024 for the Central downtown. Design/construction in 2025. Q: Will there be an uber service for when the train comes in here at Santa Fe? A: Nightline bus will become a call-for service, and so we will. Currently you can call and get rides b/t 8 and 5 right now. It is a contractor service. Q: Can we get a long term lock service for bikes here at the Amtrak. Can the City take over responsibility for bike parking? A: The pad here is for a bus stop. And there will be bike racks. Q: Longterm lock service for bikes is desirable and functional at train stations. Can we get that here? A: It costs a lot. Adam hears what is being asked and sees it as a good thing. Hard to funnel money.

\* City Planners presenting on the East Lawrence neighborhood plan. Lynne Zollner, HRC administrator. Luke Mortensen., Sandy Day and Ellie Mullins from City Planning. Meeting weekly. Going block by block to determine type of housing, mapping it, and trying to cover all the issues. There have been some updates since 2000 and the last plan. Planning listed: 2004 got National RI Historical designation. Warehouse arts district 2004. 2014 got houses on the local listings by Dennis Domer. Re-zoning changes to reflect actual use of structures. Burroughs Creek Trail with historical signage, 9th street re-do, more historic designations, and more. Neighborhood participation to get NY School made it a Montessori school. Do we have other changes to list? A: There’s been new builds of expensive housing. Turnhalle is moving along. La Yarta could become a part of a new designation in front of CC in the next couple years. A lot has happened artistically – a lot more public art, the wishing bench has been added. More small retail. The arts center expansion. St. Lukes and all that has happened there. Opportunity Zone.. There is a website on the lawrenceks site on the public engagement page with updated info and contact info. Q: Hobbs Park is going to need work at some point. Could there be a shade on top of the bleacher structure there? A: It’s on the local registry and there is a movement by KVKL to put a lid on it. eastlawrenceplan@lawrenceks.org is the email address. Now Ellie says: Handout about results from the EL survey about what folks want in the ‘hood. What makes EL great? See the handout. How many responded to the survey? Just under 150. There were also small group gatherings. Comment: 80% of survey responders owned their own home, noting that majority of residents are renters. What is gentrification. The redevelopment of the house to be bigger than what was there.

Sandy and Density. She’s walking the ‘hood identifying what houses are where and what type of house is that? There is a diversity of housing. Duplexes, multiple dwelling units, in almost every block. Many more than she expected. It happens on every block? There is also an update to the land development code and they are looking at how that will apply to neighborhoods. Could 2 lots with 1 house be cut into 2 lots? We’ll wait for the plan to see.

\* Proposed changes to the HRC Ordinances. This doc has been through the HRC. All the public comment we’ve received has been rolled into the document. July 20 will be a meeting for public comment. Should we form a committee to go over this document? Phil volunteers to be on a committee. Let’s meet at July 18, in the morning. They would do away with environs in this new re-write.

\* Public hearing on 7/20 to place 1124 New Jersey on the local registry. That is the house next door to Krista. 2 story brick house. The owner was at one of our meetings. The Henry Waters House. Purposely built with a basement for the manufacturing of home remedies. KT moves we write a letter of support for this house. Phil 2nds. Krista shares her thoughts. Her house is within 250 feet. If she wants to build, add on, demo, would she have to go in front of the HRC for that? They already have a large addition. How will she be impacted? If she builds a new front porch? If struct/restruct does it, are they too modern? Lynne says “it depends” and we’ll work with you. Lane says her neighbor was able to build an addition and was able to get it through with minimal effort. 816 Rhode Island as an example of what works and what doesn’t. Motion passes.

\* Proposed demolition of 1221 New Jersey. Filed 6/29. It’s a house not in the environs of anything. This is a nice small affordable house owned by minority family for generations. Lane tells a good story about Leon and how she met him and he was sitting on that porch.

\* Misc items: Q: About the numbers of homeless in front of Kinko’s Fed Ex. A: The manager at Kinko’s is nice and gives them water and has a good rapport with them. And as a City we are not arresting people for being homeless or for sitting around downtown.

\* Nuisance housing and it’s implications. Topic will be at CC tomorrow night.

\* Black30 needs an office and incubator space. Anyone know one?

\* Neighborhood traffic management. When they started putting in speed bumps they put in about 120 bumps. Stopped doing them, put them on hiatus. OWL and another neighborhood put in a proposal. OWL won it and in the long run they got some good out of it. 7th street is a bikeway, and there are more stop signs from Arkansas to Mass than ever. There is an “Idaho stop” and we should support that. Stuart Boley was a proponent of that and the MMTC was not a fan.

\* Prez report. City considering changes to organization of boards, and Barry made a case for the things that we asked him to do. Primary elections are upcoming. Tomorrow, 7/11 is the last day to register to vote. Ballots might still be able to be requested. Barry raised concerns about future ELNA leadership. He doesn’t want to do this for life. So, think about it! He would be willing to stay on through neighborhood plan revisions.

\* VP report. We were invited to the Community Policing session tonight. We are at this meeting. Next one is July 30 at the Carnegie building. Barry met the new police chief. Should he come be a speaker? He would be willing. Positive response to that.

\* Treasurer’s Report. We have money. $2808.47 in PayPal and $5674.86 at First State Bank. $751 in sales and tips at the kickball game for net of $432 last night. $1996 profit for the year. We are their only vendor.

\* One more thing. The Wishing Bench is getting stripped every day.

\* JT Puts in a plug for Embattled Lawrence. $40 at the Raven. Or at Watkins Museum.

Motion to Adjourn? Yes, KT noved, Krista 2nd. Meeting adjourned.