

ELNA Meeting March 11, 2024.

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Phil Collison (Secretary), Joe Bickford, Pam Blackburn, Lane Eisenbart (coord), KT Walsh, John Thornburg, Nancy Overmeyer, Sandy Seiler, Catie Gillespie, Sacie Lambertson (board), Yvonne Channel, Annette Connor, Julianna Patterson (z board), RJTorrey(z), Krista Gentry (z board)

Minutes and Agenda approval, Sacie moves, KT second all in favor approved.

Agenda KT moves, Pam 2<sup>nd</sup> all in favor.

Short discussion items. Events: Yart Sale. Lane: Sat. March 23<sup>rd</sup> 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday night set up from 5-9. Put stuff on Lane's Porch. Please no toilets. She's got volunteers gearing up for cashiering, tear down and set up. Aaron's truck will be in use. We will do pick up. She got some handbills printed, perhaps for the parade (to be discussed). Artists? Yes, they are signing up already. Pretty full.

Musicians yes. Full. This is our big fundraising event for the year. A combination Yard Sale, with art vendors all around the perimeter and a music area with musicians every 30 minutes. We don't price things. Food will be available. We'll probably have dinner provided on Friday night for setup. Sandy will make a dinner item. Q: Will we be giving out gun locks? We'll be checking on that person if they are going to bring them.

St. Patrick's Parade. It is this Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be in the parade for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. We'll have handbills to give out. Last year we ran out. WE'll have small ones and a couple larger ones for the side of the antique vehicle we'll be using. Who wants to march in the parade? Begin lining up about noon and goes north across the river. We were about last in the formation last year. \$30 entry fee. It is fun to be in the parade. We got good feedback last year. We are liked by our fellow citizens. Weather looks like it will be good! Walkers can go as far as you want. If we had a lot of folks on mass st handing out things that would be a good thing. We want to publicize yart sale and ourselves. Wear green. Krista, Julia, Catie, Pam, KT all want to be in it.

Another Parade! Should we be in the pride parade this year? It is June 1<sup>st</sup>. There are folks interested in that. Saturday June 1. And a street fair associated with that on 8<sup>th</sup> street in front of Sandbar. We'll look into that. Do we have rainbow merch? Not yet.

Kickball Concessions. Are we gonna do it this year? Aaron's not here, we think he will organize it. It is for the Kaw Valley Kickball Assn. Can we get into the storage area at Hobbs? HVKA (what's that acronym?) kinda wants it to become a kitchen.

LAN report. Summary of Rental Registration situation and our initiative for more inspectors.

LCMCS for Mass Street Visioning. On March 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 at LCMCS. There's an initiative for mass from 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> to become a multimodal Corridor. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. What impact would less vehicles on Mass have on downtown businesses? 2 lanes to one may impact traffic? It's called a road diet. 9<sup>th</sup> street got one b/t mass and Emery.

The Loop initiative through downtown was voted down. Discussion ensued. There is a lawsuit about the road that got built on the north side of building next to the river because it undercut the integrity of the building.

Tax incentives for the 7<sup>th</sup> and NH Borders building, the old livery stables were given to First Management. Barry noticed the building is for sale. He contacted the City about what that does to the tax incentives. Those incentives are now lost. 1<sup>st</sup> Mgmnt can't sell them. He also loses them if he doesn't pull a permit. The back story is that interest rates are high and slowing the work. Prime downtown real estate. \$4,050,000.

There were auctioneers at the old Allen Press building. We heard a report about what is going on over there. There will be an auction. Some speculate it will become housing.

Alphabet soup. Shorthand for all the acroynyms we use. LAN (Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods), HRC (Historic Resources Commission), LCMCS (Liberty Memorial Central Middle School), CC (City Commission), LPA (Lawrence Preservation Alliance), PC (Planning Commission), PTA (Parent Teacher Association). Q: Status of Charlie's Bar. The lawsuit has been to trial but the ruling has not happened.

HRC. There's a lot to be built on in the 900 block of Penn. That has been approved for a new house and garage.

The folks who came from the Art Emergency shared information.

Officer's Report: Suzan Hampton needed a non-profit organization to sponsor an application for small grant from Douglas County Heritage grant folks for an Art and Nature Workshop. We told her it was ok to use us for that.

Skyler Adamson started the Fruit Tree orchard. And he got a grant for planting fruit trees at the library grounds. You can be a part of the planting and it will include singing. Saturday April 6 from noon-3. Hobbs Park. It has bowels and a top. Both are in disrepair. The concrete (top) is pock marked. We had a visioning meeting for Hobbs Park and Barry wants it to continue. With everything we do, we need owners who will take on an issue and follow through on it. This is true of the Hobbs Park visioning, too. Barry brought a map showing the park and its historic features. There was a quaker church in the left field. And a quonset hut that was the original site that the old ELIA (East Lawrence Improvement Association) met. Next year we should strive for a planning heritage grant to determine what it would take to rehabilitate it. We should get the new Parks and Rec Leader to come to visit us. Q: Crosswalks at 11<sup>th</sup> street. We've had some near misses along Vermont Street at 11<sup>th</sup>. Probably New Hampshire at 11<sup>th</sup>, too. Cars go fast.