

ELNA Meeting January 8, 2024

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Kevin Johnson the depot manager, Nancy Overmyer, Phil Collison, in person. Julie Proffitt, Darrel Proffitt, Krista Gentry, Ellen Paulsen, Joe Bickford, JT Thornburg, on Zoom. Many folks missing. Pam moves to accept minutes and agenda. Krista 2nd. Approved.

Our bylaws state we elect our treasurer at the January meeting. Our Treasurer is in a warm climate, but willing to be the treasurer for another year. Motion Pam, Darrel 2nd. Any other nominations? No. All in favor. All. Aaron is treasurer.

A couple things: 1. On Wednesday there's a meeting of the PIER committee. They make recommendations for tax break requests. The agenda has one item. Turnhalle rehab. 15 year 70% rebate on property taxes. (They asked for 85% and staff recommends 70). Under state neighborhood reinvestment program. 2. Sales tax exemption on any building materials. 3. Special tax district that gives them a 2% surcharge on all sales tax collected within the district and the district is on their property. Not suggesting we provide input on this. Worthy of note. P. 60 talks of financial fitness of the applicant. Krista posted the link at <https://lawrenceks.org/sales-tax/>

Q: is there a reason we're not taking a stance on this? A: This project will rehabilitate an old building that fell into disrepair and the building will continue even if they fail. Q: We've taken a stance against these giveaways in the past, why are aren't we now? Comment, this building will get rehabbed. The historic significance of this building makes it worth saving. We take a neutral stance on this.

2. The Lawrence Loop. There was a public meeting at the Carnegie building in December. Concept drawings were seen, available online. We had a couple folks there. 2 pedestrian bridges, yada yada. There's a 25 million dollar grant they will apply for. The most interesting thing that happened there was during a side conversation with 4-5 folks. Sarah Hill, one of the Bowersock owners. Her proposal was to instead of building new structures why not tear down the riverfront mall and run it through there. She's spoken to the owners of the riverfront mall they'd sell it. B/c it is structurally unsound and needs major repairs to keep it from falling on the new road. City offices and the Marriott Hotel are the primary tenants. Abe and Jakes is a different building. She'd like to turn it all into a public dreamscape where there'd be access to the river and food trucks and music. Any other comments about that meeting? No one else was there? JT says completing the path is one thing and this pedestrian bridges is not a part of the same project.

Barry's the chair of the Board of zoning appeals. They had their meeting last Thursday. One of the staff persons is one of the people working on the EL Neighb Plan. After the meeting Barry picked his brain about that. Staff said 1) they are short-staffed, and they are seemingly having discussions about the merits of this project with a big development code re-write. How do they keep them consistent? We're worried about that code re-write. A lot of unknowns with that. Maybe we need a committee for this?

We should get the Hobbs Park crew together again. We'll check on the drawings from Hernley.

Chili Feed Update. There's signup links for volunteering to work, bring food or desserts. Find them on the NY PTA Facebook page.

Alphabet soup (Committees) State legislator. Marci is in attendance. They canceled tomorrow's meeting already! Gov. Kelly is proposing a tax bill taking sales tax off food April 1, Property tax revoked from first 100k of what you own. Back to school sales tax holiday. Bipartisan in nature. Some republicans are claiming to support this bill instead of a flat tax on income tax. Barry provided some input that she used on the house floor on the proposed statement about the Gaza war. Boog apparently has a very good statement on that, too. Q; How will they make up the shortfall? A: The state is way ahead right now on revenue. Q: Will it impact the city and county's share on that? A: No? It will run like sales tax, increments going to various governments.

LAN update. We're forming a committee to look at the numbers of inspectors. Q: Are we looking at the development code updates? A: Not closely. Courtney is going to have more time to impact us. That's a good thing.

JT: Tony K donated land to complete the loop from amtrak station and 8th and Delaware. There's an all way stop at 8th and Delaware, too. There's some organized roller skating going on in the WAD. And on the airport: Wednesday night this week 5:30-7:30 to show a new master plan for the airport. Go see it! He's an avid aeronautics person.

Krista: There's a couple boundary discussions gong on with Central. What if a kid doesn't want to go to a steam skool? They'd probably go to billy mills or southwest. Billy Mills is easy to get to. Lotta info about population decline in general. Krista posted a link about these studies. SOS (save our schools) is doing a survey among private schools asking why they chose private over public. We've lost a lot of students in our schools. The study didn't include a discussion of that. A lot of folks are asking about other districts to see who is happy with their district.

Treasurer's report. \$9255 before paying for newsletter. (~\$750).

Next month our speaker is Dr. Ashley Bloom. She's the only physician east of Mass street in Lawrence next to about Haskell and 20th. She's concerned about us being a health desert and wants to talk with us about that.

Pam moves to adjourn, Phil 2nd. We're done.