

ELNA Meeting December 11, 2023.

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Lane Eisenbart (coord), Aaron Paden (Treas), Phil Collison (Secretary), KT Walsh (Veep), Joe Bickford, Ellen Paulsen (z), Darrel Proffitt (Board), Julie Proffitt, Krista Gentry (Board), JT Thornburg, Julianna Patterson (Board). Nancy Overmyer. Quorum established.

Starting with a short History of the homestead house that Ellen Paulsen lives in. In the 70's the City was trying to build the Haskell Loop through East Lawrence. It was to be a dedicated truck route. It would have taken out Hobbs Park and a lot of Pennsylvania and Delaware Street residences. We were ELIA (East Lawrence Improvement Association) back then. In order to receive federal money from the neighborhood development program (precursor to CDBG) cities needed to have a "citizen participation" component. To meet that requirement, the City formed the ELIA and the NLIA both of which were controlled by business interests. The City initially used that Federal money to redo downtown and put in the sawtooth curbs on Mass Street, (and not in the residential neighborhoods that qualified for it). The Chamber and the City came up with the idea of building the Haskell Loop highway, and the ELIA was on record supporting it. Neighbors opposed to the roadway organized and took over the neighborhood association from the business interests. Barbara Willits was elected as ELIA president and the highway project was stopped. There had already been property acquisitions and demolitions that had taken place and several years later ELIA decided that we really wanted infill residential development on vacant lots in the northern areas of the neighborhood. City plans had designated areas north of Ninth Street as "the Kaw Industrial District" and some business interests wanted it to be industrial. A deal was struck. The northern parts of Delaware and Penn could be industrial but NY and NJ would be residential. So some of the lots that were purchased for the loop along Del and Penn were sold to local businesses and money from the proceeds was used to four vacant lots in the 700 block of NY and four in the 800 block of NJ to be distributed via lottery. Winners could buy the lot for \$1 with the promise that they would build a single-family home or duplex on the lot and live there for at least 5 years. Ellen was one of the winners of the lottery and built her home there. Brenda lives in one of them, too, originally built by John Rosacker. We also encouraged housing authority to put in a lot of scattered site housing throughout the neighborhood during that time. Those houses are still there. Through the years, the infill housing helped provide family friendly homes for low income students to maintain a census level sufficient to keep New York School open, despite repeated closure threats.

Approve minutes and agenda. KT moves we accept the agenda. Aaron seconds Agenda approved. KT moves, Nancy seconds for approval of minutes. It was noted that Julie Proffitt attended the November meeting and we misspelled Nancy's name. All in favor with corrections for minutes.

On Wednesday from 4-6 pm there's a meeting at Carnegie Buildings to discuss a loop connection b/t Seventh Street through Constant Park. We should have someone (people) there to see what is going on there. Last time we talked with the City it was stressed that nothing was set in stone. We see the merits of going around downtown as well as having spokes into the City. It's good to tune into the folks that live nearby.

Traffic Safety. Our pavement markings have not been applied to Delaware Street. There are a number of other issues with city follow through. Neighborhood plan, crosswalks, etc. It seems to be all talk and no action.

Hobbs Park Visioning. Barry met with HERNLY architects and they agreed to put together some drawings that Shelley Miller Trust will pay for. Wondering about the Allen Press building. Don't know its status. Sheridan Press took it over and closed it.

Events to note: NY School Chili Feed. Tues Jan 16th. We're finding out how to get involved. They'll need lots of volunteers for a variety of things. The students may make the veggie chili. Yart Sale: NY School is reserved for Saturday March 23rd. We got liability insurance through the PTO. Liability insurance is becoming a big issue for a variety of issues. We don't like it. We need community events and needing liability insurance is a barrier for doing things.

Yart sale info. Barry notes that we always have a volunteer who makes a special jammy cookie, a traditional Jewish food called hamantaschen that is for the holiday Purim. It was mused that all Jewish holidays can be boiled down to a phrase "They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat". The dude that tried to kill them in the Purim story was Haman. He wore a triangular hat, and the hamantaschen pastry/cookie is triangular. This year, the Yart Sale occurs the day before Purim, and Barry theorizes that the hamantaschen pastry tradition at the Yart Sale probably started in a year when the two events occurred in close proximity on the calendar.

Real quick Alphabet soup. There's a new mayor and a vice mayor. The school board meeting tonight has to do with the repurposing for Central Middle school as a magnet school. This will hopefully protect against closure.

On HRC, 742 Connecticut, RW Spar house. Mr. Spar invented a crowbar the Railroad used. They are tearing down a non-contributing garage. Garfield Street has a tear down, also. It's a one block street. Owned by the Munoz family. The family sold it after the elders died. And a small house will be built there to replace what was there. It's a sweet little street. Bob Schumm will be trying to build a 3 story condo on the HRC agenda this month.

Next DG County Climate sustainability group will meet in Lecompton Tues Dec. 12th at the 5:30-7 community building in Lecompton.

School District and the County have reps on the Public Incentives Review Committee (PIRC). A City committee on committees recommends to get rid of committees that deal with economic development, including PIRC that looks at tax incentives and abatements, and the committee that makes recommendations for how to spend money from guest occupancy tax. Those issues will all just get reviewed by staff and not the public. Going forward, if developers will ask for money – 15 year tax abatement, it will go through staff rather than an advisory board, then straight to School board, DG County and Lawrence City Commission. It would be apropos for ELNA and + (LAN?) to say the school District needs to develop criteria for evaluating these things to help derive the answer of whether to support or not. For ex: Does it benefit the school district in some way? Do tax abatements from building downtown enhance the school district? How so? The only thing that benefits the school district is housing that will grow the population of kids to attend schools. Barry would like to they write those criteria. Would that be appropriate for LAN to participate in? And the SOS (save our schools)? A discussion ensued about whether that committee group's recommendations was a done deal or not. Regardless, criteria is a good thing.

2024 Visioning: Murphy Bromelsick house is in disrepair. Could something be done there? Work days? Window sills are rotting, painting, tuck pointing, roofing. Also, Cottin's wants to do "how-to" sessions some place. Lane, too. Also use our 501c3 to get sales tax abatements? Get on the Dillon's/Merc card donation circuit. Facebook may have terms for non-profit fundraising. Collaboration is the theme.

What's the speed limit on 8th street down around Delaware St.? Not sure. People are driving fast down Del and down 8th and on 9th. An issue for the Traffic Safety Committee.

New dog disease. It's dangerous, per a vet. Be mindful of ways your dog shares germs with other dogs. Public water bowls, dog parks, etc.

LAN - Development code update. 3 modules are in draft and out for review. Module 2 has parking info. Might be dropping minimum parking requirements. Can we find someone to talk with us about it? Nick Kuszmiak or marci? Going from something to 0 requirements would not be a positive outcome for our neighborhood.

Depot report: The Depot was open and had visitors for the Christmas Horse Parade. There's a new morning station person. Kevin Johnson. Hot cocoa and hot cider were provided for folks watching the parade.

Coordinator Report: Lane delivered the adopt a family gifts today. Over \$900 for the family. 4 children and mom and dad. Pop up sale at the Murphy-Bromelsick house this weekend. She's switching to Square from PayPal for our credit card transactions. Newsletter! Board interviews. Board members, please fill them out!! Hopefully before Xmas! And look forward to a New Year and New website! For '24.

Treas.: Bank account. \$7867.49. PayPal \$3501.14. We can afford to pay Lane's salary for the next year and 3 newsletters with current reserves.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. exactly.