

## ELNA Minutes – December 9, 2019

Present: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Josh Davis, Lane Eisenbart, Dave Loewenstein, Brenda Nunez, Aaron Paden, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh, Joe Bickford, Pat Watkins, Hannah Sroor, Kelly Rodriguez, Peggy Robinson.

Meeting called to order by Phil Collison.

Patrick Watkins came to speak again on the WAD, Penn St Lofts, Delaware Live/Work and to answer any other questions. ELNA would like the Penn St Lofts to be permanently affordable. It is slated to be affordable housing for 30 years. The project is asking for waivers for increased density. The overall height (it will be 9 feet shorter than the Poehler building) will include 3 stories in about ½ of the building and 4 stories on the northern ½.

Parking is still being worked on by the involved business owners. They are all in agreement that a solution is necessary for this project to be successful. One solution discussed is to add a sales tax to the businesses in the area. There is a plan for an overflow lot of 60 spaces. A Community Improvement District is planned to be formed to encourage business investment for public art work, beautification and to assist startup businesses. This is not yet finalized. The money would be administered by the city.

Patrick looked into permanent affordability with the Kansas Housing Authority. Tax credits and subsidies are generally given for 15 years and then extended for 15 more. This is generally the life cycle of buildings. Then another application is made to renovate the building.

The housing is designed to be work force housing.

Further discussion on the pros and cons of the development continued at the end of the meeting. Dave moved that a letter be written to outline thoughts on this. Hannah seconded. Pam to write letter for review 12/18 at Red Lyon.

Erin Schmidt & Erica Zimmerman from Habitat for Humanity spoke about their neighborhood revitalization project. They especially try to help seniors with exterior repair to stay safely in their houses. They are looking into an area or block to help. East Lawrence has one of the poorest areas in Lawrence. Applicants apply for what they think they need. Generally up to \$2,500 is granted to each property. The group does fundraising and applies for grants to fund the program.

Community Shelter has lost a \$100K donor this year. They are struggling to meet the needs of the homeless. They need donations of food and clothing. Barry moved for ELNA to send a letter encouraging the city and county commissioners to increase funding. Peggy seconded. Motion passed.

Holiday families' gifts are going well. The gift wrapping party will be at Aaron's, 835 ½ Mass from 6-9 on Wednesday.

Youth corp applications are being taken. 5 groups of youth will be selected.

A discussion of the need for a stop sign at 8<sup>th</sup> and Delaware followed. It was suggested that the January meeting have a more in depth discussion.

Officer reports:

VP: KT brought Census yard signs to encourage people to apply as workers. Pay is \$15 an hour.

Treasurer: \$2847.51 in the bank + 425.61 in paypal. There is \$962 outstanding for the newsletter (577 printing and 385 in postage)

Coordinator: working on Jan/Feb newsletter. Reminder about MLK chili feed. Board interview forms due back by December 17. Yart sale will be March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Site Council: there is a Food Bank at NYE. It is open for donations. It is connected to Just Food.

Barry moved the meeting adjourn. KT seconded. Meeting adjourned.