

ELNA Minutes – January 11, 2021

Present: Uma Outka, Frank Janzen, Anna McCoy, Sacie Lambertson, Barry Shalinsky, Josh Davis, KT Walsh, Pam Blackburn, Aaron Paden, Lane Eisenbart, Phil Collison, Lisa Larsen, Boog Highberger, Dave Lowenstein, Joe Bickford, Michael Davidson, Marci Fransico, Suzan Hampton

Agenda approved.

Meeting called to order by Barry. No minutes were available for review.

Uma came to our meeting to talk about periodic air pollution events around Delaware & Hobbs Park. There seems to be a toxic smell (diesel) permeating. In 2019, she contacted Phil, but the smell was not constant. In 2020 she called the city who referred her to KDHE. Uma talked to the regional office, Pat Simpson, who said that air quality monitoring was not possible at a neighborhood scale. Discussion followed in the meeting about what the smell could be, a large generator occasionally used? It will be publicized in the enews to get a better sampling of scope and frequency. The smell seems to be between Delaware & New York between 10th & 11th.

Board vacancies: Sacie Lambertson is interested in joining board. Pam moves to add Sacie as a board member. Aaron 2nd. It was approved.

As Hannah is moving to Colorado, there is a secretary opening. Phil moved for Pam to be secretary. KT seconded. It was approved.

It was discussed at the Lan meeting that funding for neighborhood associations are not likely to be covered by CDBG funding anymore. We should still apply. There may be other options thru city. There is a Multimodal study session of impact to neighborhood of Lan's actions. None of our suggestions to change metrics made the study list.

Barry to attend information mtg.

Jay Holley is the new neighborhood representative to the HRC.

LPA: St. Luke AME fundraiser raised \$41,000 and most of construction needs covered by this & grants. What's left is restoration of the 2 towers. (book drive ongoing, raven & dusty bookshelf).

Traffic: tomorrow : City Commission will provide an update on new traffic changes that makes neighborhood streets 25 mph.. 11th st will remain 30 mph.

The City commission is exploring the idea of directly elected mayor in an upcoming work session presentation. Lisa reminded everyone about the Covid assistance fund. ~300K not used yet. There are discussions about single use plastic bag ordinance. 5 yr plan on sidewalk improvements plan. Neighborhood plans : Staff to have full report later in January.

Easement work at 1300 block of Rhode Island proceeding without damage to brick infrastructure.

Bowersock Dam Road: no update. Working on additional holes then they will redo the bank at Abe & Jakes.

Parks & Rec update: Fountain at Depot and the splash pad at Burroughs Creek Park will be worked this year!

Lawrence Transit route redesign survey ends 1/15. Looking for more input. <https://lawrenceks.org/listens/>

Wishing Bench status: phil will put together email and send to matt about moving it across the street.

Holiday Giving & DARE Center update: \$500 Walmart gift cards. + large laundry basket of stuff were collected.

MLK Chili Supper – New York School: no MLK chili supper as in the past. It will be a drive thru pick up. Free will donations.

Douglas County Dems MLK / Inauguration service project: douglascountydems.org; having MLK day, inauguration day, and service day. They are collecting food, personal care items for several non-profits. Leave on Barry's porch if you wish to donate.

Discussion / Action Items

Brick Streets and Sidewalks: (sacie?) & pam & phil. Mtg soon.

ELNA Merch sales : lane

The BIG Event

Covid Mutual Aid / Kansas Beats the Virus Grant : zoom mtg w/ board members , made \$100 , ideas to reduce covid. Jamie climate & energy; outdoor movies ; how to do the yart sale outside; wi-fi in parks for free;

Officer / Staff Reports & Miscellaneous items

President : Michael almon is now brook creek VP. They do not have a president.

Vice-President: chamber of commerce is looking for more black owned business to join.

Treasurer: > \$3000, \$500 Pay pal

Coordinator: new advertiser;Harper law.; social service league: is open m-f for voucher clients. Board is taking over all positions. Only available for people in crisis . have had to layoff all other employees

Lane reminds all board members to pay for membership!! She has gotten responses on need for services. Older people needing help. There will be a Mar/Apr newsletter (collect in feb)

Boog is now sworn in as our state representative. House leadership has taken covid seriously & security. This is not so true in the senate.

Big rock: Kaw nation has sent a letter formally asked for their rock be returned. Discussion on how that is going to happen. County owns it, city maintaining. It is believed the rock will be moved outside of Council Grove which is the last piece of land owned by the Kaw. Founders plaque needs to be removed. Robinson park will need to be reimaged. What should happen? Will be looking for foundation help.

Meeting adjourned.

Suggestion to have someone from willow to talk about domestic violence.

November

Barry was nominated for president and accepted the nomination. Boog moved, KT seconded and Barry was approved.

KT indicated that she was willing to remain vice-president. Josh moved, Aaron seconded and KT was approved.

Hannah was nominated for secretary. Aaron move, KT seconded and Hannah was approved.

Aaron remain treasurer as that position is voted on in August.

Lane talked about an email from LAC about the strategic plan. Derrick Rogers is leading a group and was looking for neighborhood representatives.

Lisa Larsen talked about the city strategic plan. It is updated every few years. Budgeting, focus, and spending will support initiatives from strategic plan. Six committees were formed, one on neighborhoods.

Pam asked about downtown strategic plan. There have been no notifications of meetings since before covid. Lisa said she would check.

Barry reported on GOTW: in 2020, 238 new voters were registered. Turnout in our neighborhood was 60% in both 2016 & 2018. 2020 turnout was over 68%. Knocked on 350 doors, Door hangers placed on 650 residences. 400 postcards mailed. Worked a registration table with LOWV. 500+ text messages sent. 20 volunteers supported this effort.

Rebuilding East 9th together: Celebration was a great success. Report compiled and sent. Now archiving documents.

CDBG listening sessions: KT, Phil, Lane, Aaron, Marci attended. There is a 10 step matrix. They are waiting for input from ELNA on what should be added. Most felt like matrix was scored without reviewing the documents submitted and was too subjective.

Update neighborhood plan: altho Scott McCullogh was engaged multiple times, with his resignation little is remembered of the conversations. Still not getting support.

New bus bench at 11 & Deleware. Velocity church is paying for multiple benches around town.

Questions if the kayak park is still being planned down by the dam. A lot of new activity is going on and a new access road has been built.

No update on where to move the Wishing Bench.

Officer reports:

Treasurer: 2189.10 in bank; 382.65 in paypal

Coordinator: City needs form on file for vendor. Merchandise popup for holiday sales. Holiday giving this year in support of the DARE center. Hoping to get 100 walmart gift cards for \$25 each. Community will be notified thru enews or social media.

Needs assessment of neighborhood will be in the next newsletter along with human services contacts to connect people to resources.

Book drive for AME St. Lukes Library. Looking for books on Langston Hughes and racial issues both old and new.

Stuart added Phil to the citizen committee on policing. There are 3 other on the committee.

Lisa reminded everyone that Covid money for rental assistance is still available.

Meeting adjourned.