

ELNA 3/13/23

Attendees: David Lambertson, Brett Hartford (Just Food), Mark Rutledge, Marlo Angell (guest speaker), Joe Bickford, JT Thornburg. Board Members: Barry Shalinsky, Pam Blackburn, Sacie Lambertson, Brenda Nunez (z), Phil Collison, KT Walsh, Aaron Paden (z), Krista Gentry (z), Lane Eisenbart

Introductions

Minutes approval: KT moves, Sacie Lambertson 2nds, All in favor: All

Agenda approval Phil moves, KT 2nd All in favor: All

Guest Speaker.

Marlo Angell. Who is working on an interactive artful documentary on La Yarta

A community from the 1920's. Marlo has already made a 15 minute family focused video focused on one family. There were many families. How do we raise more awareness of the activities there? The BNSF Railroad owns the land. She applied for a grant that might incorporate more oral histories. The idea is to create a space, a room, inside the Lawrence Arts Center that might reflect what it looked like at La Yarta. Lots of impressions, based upon memories from a long time ago. That's the art aspect. They had community meals. It will be an immersive experience with video images that reflect the visual motion of the community. It may reflect an entire day, to show daytime activities and night time activities with no electricity. Brenda Buchanan has signed on as architectural director. Ann Dean is also a part of this and has taken portraits of 8 people so far. There will be giant portraits going up on LAC walls and more places. This exhibit will try and include the folks that lived there and also their extended families to show their impact. Another artist Justin ... will travel through this Summer and will interact at the St. John's Fiesta. Lordes is another collaborator who lives in New York. Might see dresses made out of flour sacks. And the Flowers that grew in planter boxes in the windows. QR codes will be incorporated to see more about an item in the exhibit. The exhibit should be ready by Summer of 2024. Also trying to get a Livewell sponsored Blue Cross/Blue shield grant to go with the opening of a new loop connection. They want the exhibit mobile. So that it can have more longevity. Wants to do it with the community, not just for the community. Looking for collaboration.

Q from KT: Grant was \$20,000. Brenna's doing a budget.

KT: As a part of the loop, could they do something like what happened at Brenda's sidewalk.

(As part of the ELNA 9th street Arts project there is a poem stamped into the concrete).

Spyder construction did it and put a time capsule in there, too.

KT: Did Catholicism have an impact? A: Yes, an altar was saved at one time.

Sacie: Is it realistic to get done? A: Yes for sure. A vision is starting to come together.

Sacie: Glad it is staying in historic context. A: Could be set up outdoors. (and go mobile).

KT: Can the film be seen online? A: It's on a tour right now. LaYarta facebook page has it online.

Lane: Judy Romero says many folks moved to Topeka after the flood in 1951. Suggesting to go to Topeka's Fiestas, too. Could be a good source of info A: Good idea.

Lane: The big tree. It still exists. KT says torn down by Krsnch. The City hauled the tree to a known place. It could be incorporated.

Lane: Henry Fortunato has some ideas. She'll share.

Lane. Have it at the depot and travel to the Schools. At Central, NY School and more.

Mark: Has the RR donated anything to the project? Ask them. A: Good idea. She's thinking of ways to do that. Invite them to the exhibit?

Barry: If you go to Topeka, Argentine in KC, and all along RR's are Mexican communities that are similar to what happened in Lawrence. Make it a part of a bigger narrative and get the Governor involved! A: Good idea. Mattfield Green has a LaYarda Hotel. She'd like to come back and keep us posted as progress. Email her at layardafilm@gmail.com

Back to Barry and 3 more introductions.

Volunteerism:

3 parts.

Part 1. Wouldn't it be cool if ELNA did the St. Patty's Day parade. So Barry registered us. We hope some folks want to be a part of it. And, Sacie volunteered to bring David's Model T to ride in. Barry wants to see us advertise the Yart Sale. Entry fee is \$30. Cheap. We'll get that money back with increased attendance at Yart Sale. We're the only Neighborhood in the parade. Do we want to go all the way to the Bird? Some folks stop at the Free State. Or Johnny's. We have a variety of signs to put on the car and/ or carry.

Q? Do we have folks that will participate with our big plan? Yes. How do we get the word out? Lane will take that on. Look for the Red Model A. People should assemble at 9:30 a.m.(?) for a 1:00 parade? We'll have to find out. </Part 1>

Part 2. Yart Sale: Saturday March 25. 8 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Setup is Friday 5 to 9 p.m. 6 artists so far. We want more. Cashier shifts are covered. More donations needed. Drop on Lane's porch. Lane's working on a dinner for Friday night to feed the volunteers. We'll need trucks. Lane will make some handbills to hand out at St. Patty's day. She ran the Health Fair and thus the Senior Center will be at the Yart Sale. Also the Farmer's Market Coordinator. </Part 2>

Part 3. Newsletter delivery. 7 people showed up for 11 routes. Barry did 4 of them. Wants to get to 2 or 3 routes.</Part3>

Next:

Topic is: Services for unhoused Lawrence Residents. There's a proposal for a Pallett village at 18th and Haskell. And that space has been pulled for availability. Lane has some info to read. Keep on the radar. How should we answer questions about this topic? Kevin wrote a letter to Lane and Pinkney and North Lawrence suggesting organized cleanups. The main complaints seem to be about litter. Resources the City will offer, and what could we do. Lane replied we do cleanups and along the river. We can organize. We want to be a part of the conversation. KT sez we got a dumpster last time and motivated the residents to help w cleanup. We could provide food. Etc.

The City is looking to get the Veritas Christian school site and turn it into a place for unhoused families to live.

Barry attended the City Commission meeting with his sons for Boy Scout enrichment and badges. They heard lots of public comment against unhoused camps. KT says there's a good spot on the river but City says it is a flood zone. *Move it when it floods then!*

It needs to be at an accessible location.

Barry summarizes, we would be interested in participating in a river cleanup if it was done with the residents (rather than to the residents), and we aren't hardcore nimby about this. We'd like to engage with stakeholders (those actively seeking solutions). KT says send an email to the CC and City Manager to support the site KT suggests. This place is east of the Water Plant. Should we form a committee? Krista asks if we should get a person on an

existing committee. Barry sez yes we should find one and plug into it. Should we set a cleanup date? Not tonight.

Moving on....

Traffic Safety. Should we have anything going on? Next month the MSO director will come here so let's meet before then to be ready to have a real discussion with her. MSO is Municipal Services and Operations. Public Works, trash pickup, etc.

Pam asks if they're doing anything at 8th and Conn. Answer is yes. But we do not know the schedule. I will ask. TSC will meet 3/26 at Sacie's at the cube or inside.

More: ...

Skool Board on closings. They are having hearings to close Broken Arrow and Pinckney. And adjusting boundaries. Teacher's Union had some good suggestions. What impacts us most is there was a proposal to repurpose Central as a Magnet school. A committee is considering that for the 2024-25 skool year. Barry submitted a letter to the superintendent. A STEAM School vs a STEM school. A is for ART. Science technology Engineering and M(achines)? Folks are mad at the school district. We don't want a school desert. But, we have very few people with kids in our group (and in East Lawrence in general?). We want to be attractive to families in our neighborhood. The Montessori paradigm is an attractant. Pinckney district will be broken into 6 different schools to attend. We are lucky NY school is staying open. Central is important, too. For many neighborhoods. We should be writing to the school board about tax incentives for developers that take money from schools.

Segue to Krsnch tax credits. He's already getting 30% historic tax credits. Why give additional incentives. Do the math. We want to find out when these incentives are debated. He's asking for incentives for a restaurant. What do other restaurateurs think of subsidized competition? How much noise will be generated from this outdoor experience? How much subsidy does private enterprise need?

822 Rhode Island. HRC sent it to ARC for review. Unsure when it will be heard.

LAN Report:

Parks and Rec committee. From JT. Health department reported on Countywide plan. They do a good job of tracking health expectations across the city. They want it to be healthy for everyone. A healthy built environment. They want walkable neighborhoods, green space. But no mention of bike-ability. JT gave public comment and noted that.

Brett Hartford. Just Food Director. He's encouraged to hear our support of folks who need services. April will be a big deal. Snap benefits from the pandemic end in April. Things will change. Losing \$100,000 of snap benefits. More and more people signing up. The Director of 'Feeding America' says we'll be going from a pandemic crisis to a food crisis. Trying to be proactive. They spend \$40,000 per month and expect that to increase. We'd be happy to distribute articles through our news distribution system.

Coordinator report. She needs more paper newsletters. Wyelma and Pops on e. 9th street across the alley from the Turnhalle. Put out a collection jar to help them pay their bills.

Pam moves to adjourn.

Sacie seconds.

Done!

