

ELNA Meeting September 9, 2024

Called to Order at 7:04.

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (prez), Aaron Paden (treas), Lane Eisenbart (coordinator), Sacie Lambertson (BOD), Pam Blackburn (BOD), Brian Workman (Principal NY School), Joe Bickford, KT Walsh (veep), John Campos, Darrel (BOD) and Julie Proffitt (z), Ellen Paulsen (z), JT John Thornburg (z), Krista Gentry (BOD, z), Brenda Nunez (BOD, z), Dave Greenbaum (Brian's Mom is Beverly Van Dyke, former teacher at NYS).

Approval of last month's minutes. KT moves we approve. Pam 2nd, Approved.

Events:

-Block Party: Saturday September 28th from 5 to 9. Lane's got a lot of stuff done. Phil is the MC. We need some more raffle items. No cakewalk this year. League of women voters might be there for voter registration. All the political candidates have been invited. Bike repair, Bike valet. Music. Burgers, dogs, beer and potluck. Maybe giant puppets. Giant Jenga. Huge Twister.

-Prairie Art and Nature workshops funded by an ELNA sponsored grant from Douglas County Heritage Foundation. Karl Ramberg donated \$\$ from his rock carving workshop at another one of these workshops. Suggestion: he should get a lifetime membership.

-LaYarda Exhibit at the Arts Center. It closes on Sept. 21. It may travel to Wichita and Salina. An artist has been chosen to do some more art along the new 8th street loop route to the Santa Fe depot.

Traffic Safety Committee. No updates from our submission for the City. We identified some intersections that we thought were a problem. 8-11th streets along Delaware street. 8th and CT, 13th and CT, and 7th street from Amtrak to New Hampshire. Neighbor says he's just moved in along there and has had a car sideswiped, police recommend not parking along Delaware. What about speed bumps? We may work to lobby about that. Pedestrian safety is also important. Perhaps a speed bump that doubles as a pedestrian crosswalk at 10th. Children cross that street so there is a strong need for safety. We could be pinging them monthly. And, it is not an official concern until we make a formal report. JT brought some official City "slow down" signs. They are received differently.

Lawrence Land Development Code Amendments. Big topic. There are 2 more planning commission meetings 9/11 and 9/25 accepting comments about this new thing. JT is watching for bike parking code. Calls for long term bike parking at certain locations like this Amtrak station. We won't recognize our neighborhood if single family zoning goes away. It is more efficient to build up not out.

Brick Streets and Sidewalk Policy. The draft of the new policy is done, it goes in front of the City Commission on 9/17. It is nearly amenable to meet our needs.

Downtown Bus Site 9/23 Committee meeting. The committee studying where the new transfer station goes meets on 9/23. Old West Lawrence reached out to ELNA saying they weren't real happy with some of the proposals. This Amtrak depot (where we meet) has been eliminated from consideration. The 2 areas of concern are the borders site (next to residences) on their short list and tear the building down. Also where the farmers market is. West of the alley.

City Hall Relocation. Not a good idea.

City Budget. It's out there. There's 2 items on the municipal election, a sales tax increase and a proposal for an elected mayor and commissioner districts. Should we have a discussion about this at our next meeting. Maybe at a separate meeting. Close to early voting.

Homeless Camp. The one near here (the Amtrak station) is scheduled to be closed. There's been a lot of activity around being able to keep it open.

ELNA Elections in November. Barry wants to move on to working on Hobbs Park, perhaps continue to organize the newsletter delivery. There was a time we had no officers in the '70's.

NY School principal is here to speak to us. Brian Workman. He wants to re-build stronger connections with us. He wants to be a presence in our neighborhood. We reviewed some of the things we do with NYS and he wants to keep it up. NYS is expanding and growing, 4 primary sections of pre school and kindergarten, 4 primary sections of 1st and 2nd grade as Montessori. Plus 3, 4th and 5th. Grades are being transitioned from traditional to Montessori over time. Not many students are coming into the Montessori project from outside the boundaries. Mostly for neighborhood students. 235 students at school now. The Lawrence School Foundation is continuing to fund training of the staff and the articles to the contrary are not correct.

Vice President report. Gun Locks. The City can give them away. We will try to get them to the Block Party.

Treasurer's report: \$12197.97. This includes dedicated money for the art and nature grant. Kickball concessions did well.

Coordinator: She's ordered more merch! How about ELNA bandannas? A sticker and a crop top.

Adjourned at 8:52