

ELNA Minutes – February 17, 2022

Present: Pam Blackburn, Phil Collison, Lane Eisenbart, Krista Gentry, Sacie Lambertson, Kate Lowder, Aaron Paden, Julia Patterson, Barry Shalinsky, KT Walsh

Liz Keever, Nora Murphy, Uma Outka, Frank Janzen

Meeting called to order by Barry. Introductions were done and agenda approved (Phil moved & Sacie 2nd). January minutes were approved as corrected. Phil moved & Sacie 2nd. Sacie asked that it be clear that ELNA did not take a support or oppose position on the apartment project that Pat Watkins presented.

Kansas Food Truck Festival will be May 7, 2022 from 4 to 9 pm. Liz Keever of Just Food talked about this fundraiser event. Covid has impacted the ability to hold the Festival for the last 2 years. The footprint of the event will be slightly different with the apartment building now built where some of the event space was. It will now extend onto Delaware to have the same amount of space. Residents adjoining the area will have alley access to their property. Art Emergency vendors will sell their wares at the festival. Neighborhood people have been notified by Josh Davis & Jackie Becker personally by knocking on doors. It will utilize Burroughs Creek trail and encourage biking. It will be staffed by paid professionals and volunteers. People can volunteer by going to Just Food website. They have committed to pay \$15/hr to paid professionals. Liz asked for a letter of support from ELNA. Phil moved that Josh Davis draft a letter of support for this event. Aaron 2nd and motion passed.

Nora Murphy talked about the La Yarda settlement of Mexican rail workers. This community at 8th & Delaware just east of the train station was inhabited from the 1920s until 1951. The 1951 flood washed it away. There are still some original residents in Lawrence. St. John's Fiesta has had information on La Yarda in the past. Oral histories have been collected and a video documentary was made on its history. The property is owned by BNSF Railway. Derrick Rodgers (Parks & Rec) and Steve Novak from Watkins Museum have been trying to see if the land can be purchased and a park created with information about the families who lived there. BNSF has not been overly cooperative in previous projects. They are planning on sending a registered letter to BNSF corporate office describing the plans for the property. They are asking for support letters from as many organizations and neighbors to include with their registered letter. KT suggested contacting Diane Stoddard who has had a successful relationship with the railroad previously and to find out who from BNSF came to the train station dedication. The area would not be woodsy anymore. They hope to have high traffic and lots of things to do. It would become a city of Lawrence Park. KT moved that we write a support letter for the La Yarda park project to BNSF. Phil 2nd. Motion passed. Nora provided a draft letter that Barry will customize.

Uma gave a Foul Air update. She has been looking at grants to acquire air monitors. We need details on what the smell is. At this time the neighborhood doesn't know what to order. She has been trying different avenues to get more information. Clean Air is not responding. Trevor Flynn has suggested contacting local environment agencies. No answers yet. Uma has also talked to a lot of people at KDHE but not getting the right information yet. Winter is a time with everyone mostly inside and not many opportunities for smell tracking.

Rezoning request for Quonset Hut property at 620 E 8th St: Staff recommended rezoning with provision of 55% - 45% non-alcohol to alcohol sales. Tony & Pat have said the project won't work unless 60% alcohol sales are permitted. Planning Commission forwarded to City Commission 6-4 as recommended by staff, although the actual sentiment was 5 in favor of the staff recommendation and 5 in favor of permitting 60% alcohol sales. Next step is the city commission. When it is scheduled, ELNA needs to encourage neighbors to be present and/or write letters to the City Commission. Sacie to circulate a petition against the development. Aaron stated that changing the rules for this development creates an unfair competitive advantage, and choosing winners and losers is not fair to other businesses who are following the rules and investing in accordance with neighborhood values.

1000 block of New Hampshire apartment development: Plans call for setbacks, unlike some other projects on NH. The building plan is for a 4 story building of apartments. HVAC placement & trash collection places need to be verified. This was supposed to be reviewed at HRC this evening, but the meeting was canceled. Barry has written a letter outlining our position. We do not support or oppose the project at this point, but there are things that we like and concerns that we have. There is not enough parking to be provided and the building is too tall. Lack of provided parking will have a negative effect on downtown shopping, and on Rhode Island Street residences. The interface with nearby historic

properties is not appropriate. Pam & Sacie delivered letters explaining the project to affected neighbors. and asked them to let ELNA know of their feelings about the project. ELNA's letter was based on comments from neighbors.

LAN: Burroughs Creek Park Splash Park is being built! Lyons Park in North Lawrence will get a splash park by the end of the summer as well.

USD497 – New York school / Liberty Memorial Central Middle School updates: School closures are not on the table for the 2022-23 school year.

President: 501c3 update, it is approved! City Neighborhood engagement plan, city loved the draft written by the 4 neighborhood associations including planning director, CDBG rep Dani Walters & Porter Arneill.

Treasurer: \$3122.27 in the bank. \$429.88 paypal.

Coordinator: working on newsletter, organizing spring cleanup of Murphy Brommelsick House. Yart sale on 4/9. We need to determine safety rules. Are we ok with bands/ singing?

Meeting adjourned.