

ELNA Meeting February 12, 2024.

Attendees: Barry Shalinsky (Prez), Phil Collison (Secretary), Nancy Overmeyer, Gene Dorsey from Schwegler NA and County Commission Candidate, RJ Torrey, Sacie Lambertson, KT Walsh (Vice Prez), Lane Eisenbart (Coordinator), Dr. Ashley Bloom from OWL and Guest Speaker, Aaron Paden (Treasurer), Krista Gentry (z), Darrell Proffit (z), Julie Proffit (z), marci francisco (z), Joe Bickford (z), Nadina and Emmett(??) (z), JT Thornburg (z), Julianna Patterson (z), Walt Clogston (z)

Meeting called to order at 7:04. *We don't have any lights tonight (just dim ones) and the speaker hooked up to zoom is hard to hear.*

Motion to approve January minutes and agenda for tonight – KT, 2nd – Sacie. All in favor, Aye. Approved.

Dr. Ashley Bloom is our guest speaker. She is a doctor and her office is the only one east of Massachusetts Street. Called East Heights Health care (owned by LMH). She's from Central Kansas and a 4th generation KU alum. She went to Med School @KUMed. Expansion of Medicare helped her clientele. She sees the need for community as a part of good health. And it can make folks feel welcome. There's a nurse practitioner there, too. A tiny clinic, like the tiny desk. She opened in 2019 and 6 mo later Covid hit and the world changed. A tough time for all. She serves on a group with the Health Department looking for gaps in our Douglas County health care. She identified 7 different areas of need and she knows the need for access to care. What are the needs? Resources! Medicaid expansion would help. A tough sell here in Kansas. Behavioral Health access needs. Primary Care and preventive care include behavioral health. There is a Treatment and Recovery Center (TRC) at Bert Nash. We as a community brought that forward and that's a good thing. How Primary Care physicians fits in to these is big. She's got a vision for the East Heights Healthcare Center. She sees 15<sup>th</sup> and Haskell is an important intersection. How do we put more emphasis on that. She envisions a shared work space supporting social drivers of health. Medical, Dentistry, Food choices. Let's convert the space to something that brings good to the neighborhood. East Heights school is a desirable location for TTH, and other developers. She wants to make it be a social resource. Others want to develop it for affordable housing. Q: SAD – substance abuse disorder – what's she see with that? She brings her role as a Primary Care Physician (PCP) to work with folks for pain management effectively. But also to reduce abuse of fentanyl. Q: Is there a new health plan as a community? A: There's an update to the one 5-10 years ago. She's working on that plan. Q: Are folks still dying 8 years sooner than those on the west side? A: It's complex. Many reasons. Q: Where do her clients come from? A: From the east side. Q: How does one switch PCP to her clinic? A: She's gotten pretty filled up already. Nurse practitioner does have openings. Q: Do you see people straight from detox? A: Yes. On all parts of the journey. She sees one area of improvement opportunity. Better communication between the hospital and the county services. Q: At the industrial parks on the edge of town there's many people underserved by healthcare. An opportunity. A: Yes, noticed that. Navigating health care is difficult. How much does it cost? How to navigate insurance? More discussion about systemic racism in the medical profession. Q: How to get healthcare to homeless folks in the community discussions? A: At the community level it's pretty complex. Just like the homeless problem in general. They had a health fair at the hospital. Considering Street Medicine. That's a growing movement. How to we meet people in the community where they are. Q: Is there any progress being made? A: Social Workers. It's hard. Q: What can we do as neighbors, consumers to help with health care access? A: It's hard! Thanks Dr. Bloom! Keep us posted and v/v.

Alphabet soup: Loop Grant for connecting the loop between 8<sup>th</sup> street and Constant / Burcham park. We've been asked to write a letter of support but we haven't seen plans and have various levels of

support. It's a federal money grant. It's an opportunity to get a grant to pay for a connection that may be helpful. There's lots of priorities and lots of opinions. Can the loop continuation be separate from the bridge over the Kaw? It is a separate proposal now. The loop connection we need is between 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> and Delaware and Constant Park. The group agreed we could write a general letter supporting a connection south of the Kaw. *Note: after the ELNA Meeting, the City Commission decided not to apply for the Federal Grant, so no letter is needed.*

Lawrence Land Development code is in draft and discussion mode. They are emphasizing "densification" of neighborhoods. Allowing more duplexes. Less single family. It is recommended we pay close attention to this issue. Suggestion to have a Housing Person come tell us how things really work at a future meeting.

A member brought a concern about a large drone sitting outside a bedroom window at 4 a.m. Discussion about what to do about it. Call the police!

HRC. There's a small house to be built on "900 Pennsylvania" and we think that means the 900 block of Pennsylvania where there have been a couple lots sold.

New York School PTO: Looking for readers to the classroom. Read to one student or so at a time while they eat lunch. How did we know the MLK Chili feed was postponed? When school is cancelled for weather concerns, extra-curricular events are, too.

Folks want to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Yart Sale. Lane has it all together. Artists being collected, etc. She's also working on the new website. Lot of old documents. Should be ready in a few weeks. Newsletter being worked on for March Apr.

VP report. Lost cat.

Treasurer report: Bank numbers: \$8612.44 in bank. \$101 in Paypal. Tax stuff has been filed.

Meeting Adjourned.