

## East Lawrence Neighborhood Association Minutes

Monday June 10th • Delaware Street Commons Common House

Present:

Alex Kimball Williams, Brenda Nunez, Catherine Reed, Connie Fiorella-Fitzpatrick, Dennis Domer, Holly Myers, Joshua Davis (NY), Judy Romero, KT Walsh, Mandy Enfield, Marlo Angell, Pam Blackburn, Patrick Watkins, Phil Collison

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

1. Introductions. Prairie Block organizer Suzan Hampton sent a thank-you card and souvenir.
2. Housekeeping Announcements. REMINDER: the board was reminded to fill in meetings attended for the CDBG quarterly report.
3. Approvals. The February and May minutes were approved, the June agenda was approved.
4. New business

a. Presentation on 2 new development proposals by Patrick Watkins, from Tony Krsnch's group. Patrick will send attachments describing the proposals. First he described the Penn Street lofts, to be built on what's now the BonBon garden. The design complies with HRC guidelines and will have solar panels and a modern steel, wood and glass exterior, 39 feet high. This will be a 3-story building occupying about 2/3 of the block. The first floor will be commercial live/work, second and third floors will be housing. There will be 71 living units of which 51 will be affordable housing, 20 market rate, mostly one bedroom, 450 to 500 square feet. They'll be affordable for 30 years. Tony received a state allocation for this. He'll request a variance for density. Parking will be on the south side and in the alley, landscaped and fenced, with 104 new parking spaces, that's more than one per unit. Green space is limited. Trash will be on the northwest corner. Patrick will go door to door and talk to neighbors, and he's asking ELNA for support of this plan.

Turnhalle proposal. This is the oldest community building in Lawrence. Tony will rehab it—there is no user yet, but some commercial use will be needed to fund the project. Tony will ask for tax rebates and assistance from the affordable housing task force, as well as tax credits. The parking lot across 9<sup>th</sup> street will be available to Turnhalle users.

Patrick will ask Tony about ownership of the Wishing Bench.

b. Alex Kimball Williams, Epicenter, Rebuilding East Ninth Project. 1. Alex will be developing an intercultural cookbook including East Lawrence recipes and stories. She's hoping for 100 recipes—there's no limit on the number. The recipes and stories will all go into an e-book, some into a printed book. Children will illustrate the book, which will be organized by themes: historical, indigenous tribes, fish fries at Black churches, Spanish speakers, etc. When the book is ready there will be a tasting festival. To contribute a recipe and story, visit

<http://www.epicenterks.com/homemade.html>. 2. There will be an untold stories event in August at the Brommelsick house. Stories back to 1968 will be heard, e.g., regarding the wetlands and the bypass. Archival materials will be read. 3. A People's history of East Lawrence tour is being developed with "primary speakers"—those who experienced the events they are describing. Post suggestions to the Epicenter website.

c. Marlo Angell -- Wishing Bench film, Rebuilding East Ninth Project. A storytelling event at Studio 720 (9<sup>th</sup> and Delaware Sts.) will be held on Saturday July 20 at 3 pm. Stories of the 50s, 70s and 90s are welcome, memories, history, moments, the Bench itself. All are invited, especially older EL residents, to share stories for the project, which will focus on the history of an old man at the Wishing Bench. Refreshments will be served. Marlo is also looking for Wishing Bench Photos. For more information check [www.wishingbenchfilm.com](http://www.wishingbenchfilm.com). The film will be made in April 2020. A Facebook event will be posted in advance.

## 5. Recurring Updates

a. 13th St Bike Boulevard Update. Phil. The project is moving on. There will be traffic calming devices including a dip. The project will not be disruptive.

b. East 9th Update, City portion. Phil. East 9<sup>th</sup> St is still under construction. The bike racers are concerned.

c. Rebuilding East Ninth Together update. Mandy. All 15 art projects have been selected. On June 12 from 7-9 pm at the Lawrence Arts Center 10 artists will present their projects, including gardening, sculpture by school kids, dance, public arts, yarn murals and family portraits.

d. Wishing Bench. No report.

e. Downtown Plan Hosting Kit. KT has the kit. It's due at City Hall by June 28. Pam will organize a meeting to complete the kit. A short online survey is available at <https://lawrenceks.org/strategic-plan/downtown/>.

f. Conservation Overlay. KT. The overlay is not on the City agenda.

g. Arts Center Greenspace. No new information.

h. Advertisers for next newsletter. Nothing new here. It will soon be time to look at political candidates.

## 6. Reports

a. President. Phil. ELNA was founded on July 10, 20 years ago. Phil has been looking through the archives.

b. Vice-President. KT. The supportive housing project by the Nevels is moving through the permitting processes.

c. Treasurer. We have \$5095.13 in the bank.

d. Coordinator. The NY school 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration plus ELNA block party is in the planning stages. Raffle items are needed. There will be volunteer opportunities. The newsletter deadline is June 17.

e. Committees

i. Budget/ Fundraising Committee. No report.

ii. Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods. No report.

iii. Planning Commission. HUB is suing the city re the permission denial for the downtown apartment building. North Lawrence is preventing the development of air bnbs unless they are owner-occupied.

iv. Historic Resources Commission. Slimmers will occupy the space at 9<sup>th</sup> and Delaware.

v. City Commission. See above iii.

vi. CDAC. No report.

vii. New York PTO/Site Council. See coordinator's report.

7. Updates / Announcements. The Juneteenth party will be held at Holcomb Park on June 22 from 10 am to 10 pm. Kickball starts Sunday June 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Minutes prepared by Catherine Reed

Note about our meetings: We appreciate our neighborhood meetings as an opportunity to learn more about what is happening in our neighborhood. For this reason we request that our interactions reflect our pursuit of knowledge and assume that we are all in it for these same reasons. Assume good intent on everyone's part. We will make every effort to recognize everyone's viewpoints.