

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Agenda
Lawrence Public Library, meeting room C
September 18, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Participants: Amy Ousdahl, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association coordinator; Courtney Shipley, Dad Perry Park/Kasold resident; David Longhurst, Downtown Lawrence Inc. representative; Dillon Heter, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association resident; Edna Mosher, Schwegler Neighborhood Association representative; Gary Webber, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association representative; KT Walsh, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association representative; Kyle Thompson, Oread Residents Association resident; Lisa Larsen, Mayor, City of Lawrence / West Hills resident ; Nick Kuzmyak, Pinckney Neighborhood Association representative; Phil Collison, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association representative; Shannon Kimball, Lawrence School Board Candidate; Stuart Boley, City Commissioner, Schwegler resident; Travis Harrod, Springwood Heights representative

Accept minutes from August: Longhurst moved to accept, Collison seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Edna Mosher: \$3050.11 in the bank, 12 neighborhoods, 2 individuals. Don't forget to pay your dues for 2019 and [update neighborhood rep info on the city website](#).

Update from City Planning Department: Becky Pepper, city planner: Pepper could not attend, so the participants discussed the update. Changes to parking rules in the Development Code were discussed, but there was some confusion on what was proposed. [Updates from Planning can be viewed here](#).

Speaker: Shannon Kimball, candidate for School Board: Kimball is running for the Board of Education. She just finished her eighth year, is seeking re-election to a third term. She believes the school district has a long way to go and wants to continue to work on improving Lawrence schools. Facilities are especially important. She is also on the policy committee, and they are working on some important changes. There is a lot of work to do on equity, and she believes that USD 497 must continue to push to close achievement gaps and serve students with disabilities.

Kimball is currently statewide President of Kansas State Association of School Boards and is serving on the policy committee of the National Association of School Boards. She will also be sitting on the tax policy reform committee for Governor Kelly.

Mosher asked about whether she has seen any good models for remedying disparities in other districts or states. Kimball stated she has seen no good models. She believes it is important that students see themselves in their learning materials, and the district has been struggling to find teaching materials that reflect this. She believes professional development is critical, but funding has made this challenging. Recent funding cuts have put the Kansas education system behind in all aspects.

Webber asked whether she supports Safe Routes to School. She is happy the city is working to fill sidewalks gaps. She believes it is important to continue to support the process.

Kuzmyak asked about school buses and who was eligible to ride a bus. Kimball answered that the state will not pay for busses for students who live less than 2.5 miles from school. The district cannot afford to support buses for students who live less than 2.5 miles from school. She believes SRTS can help this problem. She hopes that as the Transportation Commission will consider what is happening around LHS when it discusses 19th St.

Shipleigh asked about dark store appeals. Big box stores believe their taxes are too high, and that they should be taxed based on the value of their buildings when empty. The impact on school districts if these appeals are successful is profound, perhaps 9-15M dollars during the year the appeal occurs. Also, lowering big box taxes will mean that the mil levy will increase, and everyone's taxes will rise. Kimball stated that the USD 497 Finance Director has discussed this, and that she would contact Shipleigh if she could discover which stores in Lawrence were pursuing these appeals.

Neighborhood notification update: Collison reported the subcommittee has not met. They will continue to try to get together and work on this.

Update on Opportunity Zones: Collison reported that the committee met today, and there will be a public engagement in October at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to find out what the community wants from opportunity zones. He believes that there is little possibility for participation from individual residents, but that the public engagement is really for stakeholders that would benefit from an OZ, such as neighborhoods.

Plan 2040 update: The Commission deferred discussion yesterday because one of the commissioners was absent. It will come before the commission on October 1.

Transportation non-motorized prioritization policy: The TC approved a new policy, and it will go before the commission this fall.

Speaker: State Senator, Tom Holland will speak regarding SB91: Senator Holland did not attend the meeting. Walsh spoke about freezing taxes for seniors and refunds for disabled veterans. This will allow seniors to age in place, and not be gentrified out. Holland had it in the finance committee, and there is a good deal of support.

Sidewalk Hazard Mitigation Program: Webber reported on recent presentation to Commission of the program. Areas will be smaller next year until the process runs smoother and more efficiently. Property owners will be able to opt in to use the city contractor with no 10% administrative fee. Definitions of sidewalk hazards will be clarified.

Amtrak Depot: Walsh reported that the Amtrak Depot is soliciting organizations to lease part or all of the remodeled building, but there have been limited interest. She encouraged all interested businesses or organizations to contact the city.

Neighborhood reports:

- Brook Creek: Interested in 19th street proposal and are opposed to increased traffic and widening of 19th.
- Schwegler: Ice Cream Social on Sept. 8, quarterly meeting on Sept. 16, and looking forward to release of CDBG fundsre-. Move in day at KU was on Aug. 22, and there was an accident at 19th Terrace and Ousdahl that resulted in one

car on its side. Traffic is terrible in Schwegler. Police are trying, but this will probably continue until 19th and Iowa re-opens.

- Oread: Oread is noisier, and lots of red SOLO cups have appeared.
- West Hills: Exciting to have the students back. Parking is an issue as always.
- Sunset Hill: They are happy about new sidewalks for Yale and Harvard, and discussed a home repair program proposed by Habitat for Humanity and using CDBG funding. Also, Ludlam Park toddler playground is nearly complete, and is a wonderful improvement.
- East Lawrence: Block party on Sept. 28, also celebrating the 150th anniversary of New York Elementary. Public-Private collaboration with housing authority for second Hope House, 8 unit development on 1035 Pennsylvania St. Residents will be homeless with disability, temporary housing. Full time staff person living in the development. They are also interested in lowering the speed limit from 30 to 20 mph.
- Pinckney: Kuzmyak stated the longest continuously operating affordable housing (500 years) is in Augsburg Germany. Yesterday they had their first mid-week meeting potluck, about 16 people. They hope to continue quarterly. Trunk or treat on Oct. 27 in the LMH Parking lot.

Longhurst moved to adjourn, Harrod seconded, passed. Adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Submitted by: Gary Webber, LAN Secretary September 23, 2019