

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes
Via Zoom video conference
May 20, 2020 7:00 p.m.

Participants: Bill Winkler, Barker Neighborhood Association resident; Courtney Shipley, Dad Perry Park/Kasold resident; Gary Webber, Secretary and Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association representative; Holli Joyce, Schwegler Neighborhood Association representative; Jim Carpenter, Planning Commission Member; Josh Coulter, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Karen Heeb, N1300 Rd. resident; Kyle Thompson, Treasurer and Oread Residents Association resident; Kristin Salmans, President, League of Women Voters; Lisa Goins, Sunset Hill Resident; Melinda Henderson, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association representative; Nick Kuzmyak, Pinckney Neighborhood Association representative; Phil Collison, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association representative; Stuart Boley, City Commissioner, Schwegler resident; Travis Harrod, Chair, Springwood Heights representative; Tresa Hill, Old West Lawrence representative.

Accept minutes from April 15, 2020 meeting: Joyce moved to accept minutes, Hill seconded. The minutes were accepted by acclimation.

Treasurer's Report, Kyle Thompson (Don't forget to pay your dues for 2020): \$3255.11 balance, 8 neighborhoods paid, 6 present.

Update from City Planning Department, Becky Pepper, city planner: Pepper could not attend. Harrod suggested that there are some important issues before the Planning Commission on their May 27 agenda. Carpenter reviewed the lengthy agenda (Current packet is over 400 pages long.) Henderson questioned why the City Commission needs to vote on jail expansion, was disappointed about the vote on the Oldfather rezoning, and questioned the wisdom of the K-10 rezoning request. Shipley continues to hear that "we already have too many apartments". She asked if there is any method for measuring how many we have and how many we need? Carpenter stated that there are annual studies, so we know how many apartments there are, but we don't know their occupancy rate. He also stated that because the jail is on city land, it is a city issue.

Speaker, Kristin Salmans, League of Women Voters: LWV is celebrating their national centennial this year. They have been in Lawrence since 1920. They are devoted to educating and engaging voters. They do a lot of face-to-face voter registration. A current project is "March to the Polls", which is voter registration and getting out the vote in low turnout areas. In the last election cycle, registration increased significantly in Lawrence. If citizens have not voted by 30 years of age, there is a 90% chance they will never register.

In Lawrence, low voter registration pockets exist around the fairgrounds, Haskell Indian Nations University, Schwegler neighborhood, student housing, among other locations. Salmans explained the "Voter to Voter" program, and that LWV is working with the Douglas County clerk to facilitate voting by mail. She urges us to return the request early. She encouraged us to visit ksvotes.org.

On Monday, Memorial Day, at 11:30 a.m., they will sponsor a "Cruising for Voters" that will drive through town promoting voter registration. LWV has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVLDC/>, check it out for more information on upcoming events. Their web page is at: <http://www.lawrenceleague.com/>. They are willing to attend neighborhood meetings upon request. They will be hosting their candidate forum again this year. You can join the LWV email list by emailing Marjorie Cole at nobledog@aol.com.

New business:

1. **Story collection project for Kansas Children's Cabinet:** Mandy Enfield contacted Harrod to ask if he would promote the Children's Cabinet to LAN members. They are collecting stories from across the state, specifically about the current pandemic. Any interested individuals or neighborhood associations should submit stories at this web site: <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/our-tomorrows/>. If LAN gathers 50 stories, they may be awarded \$500. Joyce suggested that we distribute a press release. Harrod will send out the information.
2. **City budget:** Harrod predicts that the city and county will experience funding shortfalls in the future, and invited discussion. Joyce mentioned that the CDBG funds to the neighborhoods were reduced this year, and encouraged LAN to work with the city to mitigate reductions in funding. Shipley encouraged us to think about which services we are willing to forego. This is a tough question. For example, mowing the right-of-ways costs \$200K annually. Should we continue this type of service? She stated that the pool will not be open this summer. She suggested that LAN needs to think about our priorities. Hill wonders if we mow the parks too often. Henderson suggested that we all be involved in future budget negotiations, and that federal CARE funds cannot be used to address budget shortfalls. Collison discussed reduction in CDBG funds to neighborhood associations. He believes that the reductions came without any neighborhood input or collaboration. He also provided a Loop update. The city will be publishing a plan soon for the section north of the end of Burroughs Creek trail. Harrod plans to address the LAN bylaws in the future to update meeting procedures. He also mentioned that we are losing our Chief of Police. However, there is no information as to why, and he believes this is unfortunate. He believes the city may need to get help to deal with this issue.
3. Joyce asked what LAN does with dues money. Harrod replied that we use it to pay for web hosting and other incidental expenses. Shipley mentioned that in the past LAN sponsored a retreat and used funds for this, and recently provided funding for the cost of growth study. Henderson mentioned that this study may be rerouted toward Strong Towns. She suggested that members consult Strong Towns at: <https://www.strongtowns.org/>.

Neighborhood reports:

- Oread: no report
- Schwegler had a zoom board meeting recently, and are planning a general meeting.
- Sunset Hill met via zoom and are planning an annual meeting in the fall
- OWL is planning for their annual meeting and a subcommittee
- Pinckney not having a picnic this year. They have a new neighborhood coordinator. They are planning some pandemic appropriate events.
- He updated us on past Multi-modal Transportation Commission (MMTC) meetings. East 19th has been proposed as a redesign with a narrower street width. It is under review.
- East Lawrence has formed a traffic committee to identify problem spots and will be visiting with the MMTC. The city is correcting errors on the New York St. and 9th intersection and will finish the 9th street project soon. Instead of a newsletter, they

sent out a postcard offering services to the neighborhood.

- Brook Creek is part of 19th St. coalition. Henderson thinks the redesign will be on the Transportation Committee agenda in June. She is concerned about entrance into Venture Park.
- Springwood Heights reported that a development at Crestline and Clinton Pkwy is very quiet. No news is good news.

Henderson moved to adjourn meeting, Collison seconded, motion passed by acclamation.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on May 22, 2020