

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes

Via Zoom video conference

January 20, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Participants: Adam Weigel, Lawrence Transit Manager; Becky Pepper, City of Lawrence Planning Manager; Bill Winkler, Barker Neighborhood Association resident; Courtney Shipley, Dad Perry Park/Kasold resident; Dustin Stumblingbear, Pinckney Neighborhood Association resident; Eric Kirkendall, Old West Lawrence Association representative; Gary Webber, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association representative; Jim Carpenter, Planning Commission Member; Josh Coulter, Schwegler Neighborhood Association representative; Kyle Thompson, Oread Residents Association resident; Lisa Larsen, Lawrence City Commissioner / West Hills resident; Nick Kuzmyak, Pinckney Neighborhood Association representative; Phil Collison, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association representative; Sheri Ellenbecker, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association resident; Travis Harrod, Springwood Heights representative; Tresa Hill, Old West Lawrence representative

Accept minutes from December 16, 2020 meeting: Motion to approve by acclamation passes.

Treasurer's Report (Thompson): \$3330.11 balance, 11 members. 8 representatives present, quorum. Pay dues for 2021!

Becky Pepper, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS): Neighborhood Update for LAN. Planning commission meetings on 25th and 27th of January 2021. On the 25th, Mid-Month presentations "Lifecycle of Planning Commission Submittals". On the 27th, items include: IBP to RMO rezoning on west Bob Billings Parkway. 508 Minnesota in Pinckney, rezone RM24 rezone to CS, to allow for expansion of McCray Lumber to the north. 1462 North St., adjacent to NLIA, heavy equipment storage use. Text amendment to Land Development Code with the goal of lowering cost of housing improvements. Collison asked about amendment changing timing of sidewalks. Amendments allow sidewalk to be installed later in construction to avoid damage, but before final inspection. Finally, consider a amendment to Plan 20430.

[Follow this link to view the current and previous updates.](#)

Guest Speaker: Adam Weigel, City of Lawrence Transit & Parking Manager. Regarding route redesign and request for LAN volunteer for study steering committee.

Adam attended this meeting 4 months ago. Transit is currently working on route redesign and design of a transfer facility. The Request for Proposals process for route design contractors just closed. Three proposals were received.

A steering committee is being formed, they request 2 representatives from LAN, a representative and an alternate. The steering committee will guide the engagement process, as well as reviewing deliverables. Webber volunteered to serve; there was no volunteer for the alternate position. Motion by Collison to nominate Webber, Hill seconded, accepted by acclamation.

KU has completed initial work on a study of route design options. Survey 2 has closed, with some information from the community. Route design and transfer facility design will be ongoing simultaneously this year. Winkler asked about fare free. Weigel replied that this will be discussed with consultant.

New Business

- **Agenda Item 1: Safer Neighborhood Speeds Campaign.** Webber reviewed the Safer Neighborhood Speeds Campaign and encouraged neighborhoods to participate in this program starting January 25. He shared images of the yard signs and posters. Harrod asked if every neighborhood should have an ambassador. Webber replied that he thought they would welcome neighborhood ambassadors.
- **Agenda Item 2: Changes to election of mayor and commissioners.** The commission is considering changing to electing the mayor directly, and electing commissioners to represent districts. Shipley

explained the concept, and introduced the committee working on this. Harrod asked about the Mayor term. Shipley replied that the agenda from the Jan. 5 City Commission meeting contains excellent review of what other communities are using and what is legal. Larsen reminded us that this will be a community decision, and it is important that the community is involved. Larsen would also like the committee to discuss ranked choice voting and learn more about it.

Travis asked if there was a problem with the current program. Larsen said some community members believe there is a problem, and it needs to be fixed. Larsen said that the current system was started in the 50s, and believed it was enacted to reduce potential for corruption. Collison asked what specific problems she is aware of. Larsen stated that we do not have a strong voice for Lawrence with the current system. Shipley mentioned that once concern she has for a directly elected mayor because the current system allows for low-cost campaigns. Directly elected mayoral elections would probably be more expensive.

Harrod asked if district Commissioners might encourage more candidates to run for City Commission. Larsen stated there are hybrid systems that contain both district and at-large positions. Carpenter stated he has heard that districts might increase voter turnout and might result in more candidates. Harrod stated that with districts, campaigning might be more focused and perhaps more doable for candidates. Ellenbecker suggested that district boundaries, and how they are set, is an important consideration for this system.

- **Agenda Item 3: LAN membership renewal.** Webber encouraged Harrod to send a membership recruitment email to the listserve and directly to all neighborhoods using city data. Harrod will write emails, Harrod, Webber, Kuzmyak, and Collison will send out emails.

Neighborhood reports:

- Oread Residents: Thompson mentioned that he used the Lawrence Listens site to report sidewalk construction that needed some attention and got results quickly.
- Pinckney Neighborhood: Kuzmyak reported that Camp Woody is going well, some residents are transitioning to more permanent housing. Mental Health Crisis center under construction. Robinson Park in flux with movement of Big Red Rock. Some discussion ongoing on how the park will change. PNA are struggling with lowered CDBG support. Kuzmyak also reported on "Your Turn" session by MMTC, the response was excellent with lots of good information provided. Kuzmyak asked how often and in what ways other NAs communicate with members. Webber stated that Sunset Hill Executive Committee meets quarterly, and membership meets once annually. Hill reported OWL members meet three or more times annually, with quarterly meetings. Collison reported that the city has expressed interest in discussing alternative funding for neighborhood associations.
- East Lawrence: Collison reported that not much is happening, MLK Chili Feed last night by Sunrise and New York School PTO.
- Sunset Hill: Free COVID-19 Testing in Orchards Corner shopping center at Kasold and Billings until January 29.
- Barker: Neighbors taking speeding into their own hands.
- Old West Lawrence: Zoom a week from next Saturday.
- Dad Perry: Kasold and Clinton Parkway finally open!

Motion to adjourn from Webber, second by Collison, adjourned at 8:30 p.m.