

## Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes

Via Zoom video conference

January 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

**Participants:** Jim Carpenter, Member, DCL Planning Commission, Barker Neighborhood Association Resident; Phil Collison, Representative, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Sheri Ellenbecker, Resident, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Lisa Harris-Frydman, President, Barker Neighborhood Association; Travis Harrod, Representative, Springwood Heights Neighborhood Association, LAN President; Tresa Hill, Representative, Old West Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Jeanne Klein, Resident, Centennial Neighborhood Association; Lisa Larsen, Commissioner, City of Lawrence, West Hills Resident; Amber Sellers, Commissioner, City of Lawrence; Josh Spence, Representative, Pinkney Neighborhood Association, LAN Vice President; Dustin Stumblingbear, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood Association; Kyle Thompson, Representative, Oread Residents Association, LAN Treasurer; Jeanette Walther, Representative, Heatherwood Heights Neighborhood Association; Gary Webber, Representative, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association, LAN Secretary; Bill Winkler, Resident, Barker Neighborhood Association; Barry Shalinsky, President, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Karen Heeb, Resident, Southsiders - North 1300 Road;

**Accept minutes from December 15, 2021:** Spence moved to accept minutes; Collison seconded. Passed by acclamation.

**Treasurer's Report (Thompson):** \$3562.11 balance, 11 members. 7 representatives present, quorum. Thompson reminded the members that it is time to renew our memberships. Dues are \$25 for NAs, and \$5 for individuals. [Renewal information here.](#)

**Planning and Development Services (PDS) Neighborhood Report:** Harrod asked for discussion of the monthly report, which was posted to the listserve.

Winkler asked about the splash park in Barker, Carpenter reported that it was passed to the City Commission. Collison reported that planned restaurant in East Lawrence is problematic for them. Carpenter reported that the Planning Commission passed this to the City Commission and suggested using the standard alcohol/food ratio rather than a modified ratio as well as other conditions.

Walther stated she received a letter about a development proposal in her neighborhood. She asked what "in the planning phase" means. Harrod replied that this means that a proposal has been submitted and planning staff is working on the proposal. Walther stated the letter sent to adjacent property owners mentioned only a swimming pool, but the more formal proposal included a three-story apartment building. Carpenter recommended emailing Sandy Day.

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

### New Business:

- **Development Code Revision:** Harrod reported that four firms were invited to interview for the consultant position. They are interviewing now.
- **Discussion of school closures and USD 497 redistricting:** Harrod reported that USD 497 is considering repurposing schools due to budget shortfall of \$3M to \$4M. Some proposals involve closing or repurposing schools. Others involve allowing neighborhood schools to remain open but reducing staff and increase class size.

Shalinsky stated that East Lawrence would lose both their elementary and their middle schools. He also reported that every school being discussed is east of Iowa and is a Title 1 school. As school boundaries expand, students must travel farther to reach the school. These families often are most likely to have transportation challenges. He believes there are equity concerns with the proposals. Shalinsky stated that Central Middle School was just renovated and had cost and timing overruns. Heeb

stated that the main people affected will be the students. She believes that the school district should start cuts from the top first.

Stumblingbear stated that these discussions have been under discussion for many months. He also stated that the district is low on administrators already and cannot easily cut from the top. Harrod stated that this may happen very quickly, and neighborhoods should be ready to respond. Spence stated that the district is moving fast with their plans. Shalinsky stated that the School Board is not leading this. He believes the proposals are coming from committees and are being led by upper-level district administrators. He believes that efforts to cut costs will be a varied mix. He believes the district should close and sell the main administrative building.

Harrod stated he believes this will be hard on the school board members. He is sad that even though the state is flush with funds, the state will not be readdressing funding for education. Klein asked if the district knows why 600 students have left. Harrod state he believes that it was a combination of smaller and fewer families with children, a pandemic that caused students to leave public schools. Harris asked how the district was funded. Harrod stated they receive both state funds and property tax revenue. Harrod stated that Schwegler district was divided by Iowa St. and that a shift from Broken Arrow elementary to Schwegler and might mean moving parts of the students to various schools. Winkler stated that Central would not work as an elementary due to its design. Ellenbecker stated that these proposals would create an education desert. She also wondered why the district did not act earlier if they saw this coming. Harrod stated his children entered school just as the district was finishing a major renovation program. Klein stated that she is concerned about busing from the west to the east and believes this would cause a major uproar. She supports closing the main administration building. Harrod believes this issue is important for the neighborhoods. He encouraged participants to use the listserve to further discuss this. He believes that recent proposals to increase class size are not workable.

#### **Neighborhood reports:**

- Sunset Hill: Ellenbecker commended the snow cleanup crews. Webber reported on noise ordinances and enforcement.
- Old West Lawrence: No report.
- Oread Residents: Thompson stated that a landlord has asked to remove a dumpster pad, and the city is working with property owners to find space for dumpsters.
- East Lawrence: Collison reported that they were watching the development on East 8<sup>th</sup> and having a yard sale on April 9. They formed a traffic committee and are collecting information. The school closing issue is big for them. They are also interested in air monitoring for the neighborhood but find the costs high. Collison state that there is a COVID testing site in the north Walmart parking lot. Results are slow, but not much waiting.
- Barker: Harris-Frydman, newly elected President, is working on connecting with the neighborhood.
- Pinkney: Stumblingbear reported that snow crews did a good job. He advised Walther that the county responds quickly to questions about land sales.
- Springwood Heights: Harrod reported that Clinton Place Apartments wants to expand, potentially creating more problems for the adjacent intersections and streets. Carpenter stated that Clinton Place wants to rezone to expand, so it will come before the Planning Commission.
- Brook Creek: nothing to report.
- Heatherwood Heights: Walther reported no news from Evergy, but KU endowment recently sold 2 more acres of land for their substation. Carpenter state that Planning has received a letter from Evergy stating that they are re-evaluating the design. There will be another public meeting in the next few weeks.

Collison moved to adjourn, Thompson seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on January 19, 2022.