

## **Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes**

**Via Zoom video conference**

**July 20, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

**Participants:** Phil Collison, Representative, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Sheri Ellenbecker, Resident, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Holli Joyce, Representative, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Courtney Shipley, Mayor, City of Lawrence, Dad Perry Park Resident; Jeanette Walther, Representative, Heatherwood Heights Neighborhood Association; Gary Webber, Representative, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association, LAN Secretary; Bill Winkler, Resident, Barker Neighborhood Association; Kate Dinneen, Coordinator, Community Emergency Response Teams, Douglas County Emergency Management; Nicholas Ward, Director, Program Innovation and Community Collaboration, Tenants to Homeowners; Lori Greenfield, Vice President, Prairie Park Neighborhood Association; Linda Wheeler, Secretary, Prairie Park Neighborhood Association

**Accept minutes from June 15, 2022:** deferred until a quorum is present.

**Treasurer's Report (Thompson):** \$3,824.11 balance, 4 NA members of 12 members present, quorum not present. Thompson reminded the members that it is time to renew our memberships. Dues are \$25 for NAs, and \$5 for individuals. [Renewal information here.](#)

**Presentation: Kate Dinneen, CERT Coordinator, Douglas County Emergency Management, regarding organizing neighborhoods to assist during disasters:** Dinneen reported that Douglas County Emergency Management wants to work with LAN and Neighborhood Associations regarding forming Citizen Emergency Response Teams. The emphasis currently is the potential for emergencies related to heat this summer.

Dineen has been CERT Coordinator for the last few years. CERT started in 1990 and has spread across the US. In Douglas County, CERT trains volunteers twice annually. This helps the community recover in emergencies. Dineen is here to reach out to LAN and encourage members to participate in training. The CERT class is a full weekend; Friday evening, Saturday, and ½ day Sunday. Greenfield has taken part in training, and Shipley has been involved in CERT.

Mini-CERT is a local effort for specific communal living units. Babcock Place trained representatives as part of Mini-CERT, as have other organizations. Dinneen is working currently to create a mini-CERT at the Lawrence Public Library.

A third program, called "Listos", helps the Hispanic community. Dinneen hopes to be certified this summer to train and start Listos groups. They also offer presentations on preparedness, including "You are the help until help arrives." For NAs she suggests Listos or CERT. Webber asked if there was a minimum class size. Dineen stated they would like 10-30 people for CERT training session. A larger group would be better for Listos, perhaps combined with a meal or meeting. Mini-CERT training is four 2-hour sessions. Joyce asked if four people in Schwegler were interested, could Dinneen combine them with other groups. Dinneen replied that it would probably be possible. She also stated that the next CERT training would be on October 13-15, and there are openings for that class. Normally the trainings occur on the "teenth" weekends in October and April.

Dineen stated that they are willing to present at NA meetings. Shipley asked if there is a wait list for the next training of Listos. Ward asked if there is a fee for training. Dinneen stated all training is free. Collison asked for the info sheet. Dinneen will send and Webber will post to the listserve.

**Presentation: Nicholas Ward, Tenants to Homeowners (TTH), regarding current programs:** Nicholas is program innovation facilitator as well as other roles.

In 2005, TTH became a Community Land Trust. This enabled TTH to keep affordable housing more under the control of TTH. The owner pays a lease fee (\$35/month) along with a maintenance account to provide funds for repairs. When the owner sells, they receive the house equity they have created plus 25% of the increase in value of the structure. The remaining 75% goes to keep the house affordable. When a new owner buys, TTH is able to

offer a down payment at a significant reduction.

They have 126 affordable rentals and hope to increase to 120 affordable homes next year. They have worked with the city on affordable housing policy, establishing the affordable housing density bonus. This allowed them to do more with the land they owned. The density bonus only works with permanent affordable housing.

Helping Hammers, senior home repair program helps seniors repair their properties. TTH can use their permanent crew to help seniors once each week. Fees are on a sliding scale based on income.

The ARM program, Affordable Rental Management, strives to move vacant properties to rental properties. They contact owners of vacant property and assist them to rent the properties. TTH rehabilitates participant houses at around \$5000 per bedroom and then rents the property. The private owner agrees to lower the rent by 50% for a period of 5 years. TTH is working with the city to improve their records of vacant houses and encourage owners to participate in ARM. Ward stated that the 30-year anniversary of TTH is this year, and will be celebrated at the [Annual Fundraiser](#), Sat. Sept. 24, 10 AM-5 PM, Beatnik Court.

Walther asked if ARM houses must be vacant, or can a house become an ARM house when it changes hands. Ward answered that this is a good way to become an ARM house. Joyce reported that Schwegler created a vacant property list and contacted landlords to encourage them to participate. Schwegler then took what they thought were rentals and compared them to the city rental property list.

Shipley asked if donations were possible. Ward stated that this is possible as well. This can result in a tax liability reduction.

**Planning Commission report:** Walther stated that Everygy is on the Planning Commission agenda for July 25 to request a SUP for their substation. They have provided little information about changes to the plans to mitigate issues with the substation. Heatherwood Heights remains opposed to this substation. Walther will post a request for help to the LAN listserve.

**Prairie Park report on proposed Nature Center closure:** Greenfield and Wheeler reported that the proposed city budget calls for closure of the Nature Center. Prairie Park NA is opposed to this closure and met recently to begin organizing in opposition to the proposed closure. An additional concern is recent soliciting in the neighborhood. This included AT&T selling fiber access, and salespersons selling books and magazines. Wheeler added that traffic problems are also an issue, especially 27<sup>th</sup> street. Shipley encouraged NAs to hold at least 3 events each year to build cohesiveness and consult LAN for advice from other neighborhoods.

**Neighborhood reports:**

- Barker: Winkler reported that splash park is open and busy!
- East Lawrence: Collison reported Block Party at 5 PM on Sept. 24.

Joyce moved to adjourn, Collison seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on July 20, 2022.