

Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes

Via Zoom video conference

Aug. 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Participants: Michael Almon, Vice President, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association; Jim Carpenter, Commissioner, LDCMPC, Barker Resident; Phil Collison, Representative, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Travis Harrod, Representative, Springwood Heights Neighborhood Association, LAN Chair; Tresa Hill, Representative, Old West Lawrence Association; Holli Joyce, Representative, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Lisa Larsen, Commissioner, City of Lawrence, West Hills Resident; Courtney Shipley, Mayor, City of Lawrence, Dad Perry Park Resident; 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; Lori Greenfield, Vice President, Prairie Park Neighborhood Association; Charlie Bryant, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department; Rich Lockhart Chief Lawrence Police Department; Myron Grady Lieutenant Lawrence Police Department

Accept minutes from July 20, 2022, and June 15, 2022: Joyce moved to approve, Collison, seconded, accepted by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report (Thompson): \$3,824.11 balance, 8 NA members of 12 members present, quorum 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: Rich Lockhart; Chief of the Lawrence Police Department. Chief Lockhart reported that he is excited to learn about the Lawrence neighborhoods. Police officer since 1990. They are working on creating better connection to the neighborhoods. Former positions in Kansas City, most recently chief in Warrensburg, MO. Lawrence residents are educated and involved, which makes for a safer community. Lives in Quail Run neighborhood. Since he has been in Lawrence, no-knock search warrants and choke holds banned. Lieutenant Grady is Executive Officer Community Diversity and Engagement. Lockhart would like Grady to focus on problem areas and blind spots with community and within force. He would also like Grady to focus on community engagement.

School Resource Officers (SROs) spent the summer following students around, fostering positive interactions. Patrol division taking a larger presence downtown. They are developing points of contact with neighborhoods. They are also having a greater presence around KU to help students acclimate and feel safe. They are continuing with organizational changes, currently wrapping up the budget.

Joyce asked about if LPD would be reaching out to neighborhoods. Lockhart stated that he is open to any means to establish relationships. Webber asked about traffic safety enforcement. They plan to use a speed trailer, and work with Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program. Bryant asked if it is possible to provide data to neighborhoods to understand level and type of crime in individual neighborhoods. Lockhart stated that he will look into options for providing this type of data. They will also work on root causes of crime to reduce crime. Crime prevention through environmental design is also a good option.

Greenfield asked about homeless camping in city parks and traffic. Lockhart stated they work with LPRD to remove camps when necessary. Residents should contact LPD to report camping and traffic issues. Shipley suggested that Lockhart check of legality of camping in vehicles on streets. Winkler stated that splash pad has been popular and asked if that had created problems. Answer was no.

Land Development Code Update Report: Harrod reported the review and overhaul of our Land Development Code has begun. He encouraged members to review flyers attached to meeting invitation and attend meetings schedule for the end of August. Almon stated that he and Webber have been working on subdivision regulations for several years regarding safety of pedestrians and cyclists. There are several regulations that need updating to better consider multi-modal transportation. There are other issues that should be addressed in this review,

including street widths, street layout, solar access, etc. Commissioner Finkeldei has agreed to hold targeted sessions for specific groups where greater detail is required. Carpenter stated that the codes have been amended so many times that a great deal of cleanup work will be required. Lot sizing needs to be addressed as well. Almon stated that initial round of meetings will be listening sessions. Webber added that He and Almon have been working on improving exterior lighting codes and that changes to this area will be addressed by the Code Update. Harrod stated that one reason this consultant was selected was because they had a good track record of listening to the community, they had a good record of work with comparable communities, and that the team would be smaller and better connected to the participants of the update. Almon thanked City Commission for the list of goals for update, which led with Climate Change.

Planning Commission report: Webber reported on proposed rezoning in Sunset Hill scheduled for the Aug. 24 Planning Commission meeting. The change request from the current RS7 to RM12D is included in the Aug 24 meeting agenda. The SHNA executive committee has been discussing the zoning change request. Webber stated that the packet included 6 emails opposing the zoning change. Webber stated that if we want to solve the homeless problem, we need affordable housing. The most efficient way to create that housing is with infill. Complaining about the unhoused and simultaneously opposing efforts to create affordable rental housing is inconsistent. Infill done appropriately will benefit our neighborhoods and our city. Collison suggested that we should never trust a developer to do what they initially promise.

Carpenter stated that this issue is an example of the type of problem that the Development Code Update should address. The way the code is written, lot size is limited by minimum of area. An RS7 must have more than 7,000 square feet, RS5 more than 5,000 SF, etc. This can and does result in lots inordinately larger than the adjacent lots.

Hill stated it is unfair to rely on neighbors to enforce codes, it should be the responsibility of the city. She also stated that she missed the monthly Neighborhood Planning Update for LAN (<https://lawrenceks.org/pds/lan17/>) and Becky Pepper's attendance. Harrod agreed and stated that LAN should decide how they want to interface with Planning.

Almon stated that next week the Planning Commission is scheduled to certify that the budget is consistent with Plan 2040 at the next City Commission meeting. He wondered how this is possible if the Planning Commission meets one day after the commission meeting? Carpenter agreed with Almon that the timing is odd. Carpenter stated that details the city provided to the Planning Commission regarding consistency with Plan 2040 has decreased in recent years.

Neighborhood reports:

- Barker: Winkler reported that the Splash Park is open and well used.
- Brook Creek: Almon reported that they have good news. They have interviewed a coordinator candidate and hope to hire her next month. East 19th street west 1/3 is complete, and the remainder is progressing.
- Dad Perry Park: Shipley reported that Kasold duplex project is across from her house. She has concerns about what a developer might have planned for this development.
- East Lawrence: Collison reported that they are having a block party on Sept. 24.
- Heatherwood Heights: Walther reported that they were not successful with the Planning Commission on stopping the Evergy Substation. They created a petition, but to no avail. She wondered about code enforcement and who is responsible.
- Old West Lawrence: Hill reported that the Pooch Plunge was a success.
- Oread Residents: Thompson stated that building regulations impact what a duplex is and what is built. He suggested that residents can use Lexus/Nexus for data on crime. Bert Nash is developing a 24 unit affordable housing project on Vermont. St.
- Prairie Park: Greenfield reported that school starts tomorrow, so please be aware of pedestrians and cyclists. The NA will be watching traffic. The Nature Center has been restored to the budget. they are

working on a celebration of this event. They are also concerned about the homeless population.

- Schwegler: Joyce reported that school is starting soon, and neighbors are getting ready.
- Spring Hill: Harrod reported on KU Crossing plans on west campus. They plan to break ground next spring. Almon asked about a request from the State of Kansas for tax increment financing for this project. Harrod stated the TIF is for a \$2.5 M sewer update that is needed for the development. They want a portion of the tax revenue to be generated by the retail space to help them build the sewer.
- Sunset Hill: Webber reported that they are watching the Kasold duplex development.

Almon moved to adjourn, Thompson seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on Aug. 18, 2022.