

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

**Via Zoom video conference**

**April 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**Participants:** Phil Collison, **Representative**, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Sheri Ellenbecker, Resident, Sunset Hill Neighborhood; Brad Harrell, Parking Supervisor, City of Lawrence; Holli Joyce, **LAN Chair**, President, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Rich Llewellyn, Fire Chief, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM); Katy Nitcher, **Representative** Old West Lawrence Association; Courtney Shipley, Commissioner, City of Lawrence, Resident, Dad Perry Park Neighborhood; Josh Spence, **LAN Vice Chair**, Vice President, Pinkney Neighborhood Association; Dustin Stumblingbear, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood; Kyle Thompson, **LAN Treasurer**, Representative, Oread Residents Association; Gary Webber, **LAN Secretary**, President, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Bill Winkler, Resident, Barker Neighborhood.

**Presentation: Fire Chief Richard Llewellyn, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM).** Joyce introduced Chief Llewellyn and recommended presentations by the LDCFM for larger meetings of all NA members. Llewellyn thanked all for the invitation. He grew up in central Washington State, in a small town outside of Yakima Washington. Started in fire services in college. His first job was in Spokane Valley, WA. In 2018 he moved from Spokane Valley to Everett WA. He was hired for the Lawrence position in 2021. He is excited to live and work in Lawrence. He has two sons in Canada. He is a strong believer in education, and has two masters, an AA, and a BA.

The first fire department in Lawrence was established in 1857 but was disbanded in 1861. Consequently, there was no fire service on the day of Quantrill's Raid. Today there are 150 employees offering fire and medical services to Lawrence and Douglas County. There are seven stations, five in the city of Lawrence, plus EMS stations in Eudora and Baldwin City. The department has been CFAI accredited four times and holds a class 1 ISO designation. LDCFM is a jointly funded agency, resulting from a merger of the county and city departments.

Data show increasing response times and activity, as the city is growing primarily to the northwest and southeast. In 2020 LDCFM conducted a station optimization analysis that indicates where new stations should be located.

Chief Llewellyn emphasized water safety and encouraged residents to have an emergency plan and be prepared for the weather. He opened the floor for questions.

Joyce asked for a recommendation for home fire supplies and preparation. The Chief replied we need fire extinguishers, fire and CO alarms, and then a phone to be able to call 911.

Ellenbecker asked for an explanation of what happens in the county as compared to the city. Each township used to have a fire department. Some have merged. Calls from Douglas County outside of Lawrence get responses from township fire and LDCFM ambulance. Calls from within the city will summon a LDCFM fire engine and ambulance.

Thompson asked about the LDCFM relationship to KU. Llewellyn replied that LDCFM provides full firefighting services at KU, but not inspections or investigations. They also provide EMS standby for events. KU pays for the EMS standby, but not for firefighting.

Spence asked whether LDCFM would be implementing a plan for the pallet village. Llewellyn replied they would be providing fire service and inspections.

Webber asked about access problems with older residences. The Chief stated codes change and some older buildings can be problematic. Solutions usually lie with the property owner to alter the property.

Ellenbecker asked about the 2018 international fire code now in use, and how often the fire code was revised and by whom. Is there public input? Llewellyn stated that the International Fire Code is updated about every six years by a group of subject matter experts. The local jurisdiction (Lawrence/Douglas County) can make tweaks to the code within limits.

Webber asked about campfires in city parks. Llewellyn stated people need to stay warm, but they need to use fire safely.

Thompson asked about recreational backyard fire pits in the neighborhoods. The Chief replied that recreational fires are allowed under guidelines posted on the [LDCFM website](#). Burning trash is not allowed. Burning leaves and garden waste is allowed with a permit. Burn permits are issued by the Fire Medical Department for the burning of natural vegetation and materials “generated by the normal course of habitation” of a dwelling.

Chief Llewellyn’s contact information:

Richard Llewellyn  
Fire Chief, LDCFM  
(785) 830-7001  
rllewellyn@lawrenceks.org

**Consider accepting minutes for March 15, 2023:** Collison asked for a change in the March minutes: Neighborhood Reports, ELNA, Shalinsky announced the ELNA yard sale, not Collison. Adoption of March minutes was postponed until May due to lack of quorum.

**Treasurer’s Report (Thompson):** \$4,054.11 balance, 6 NA member representatives of 14 members present, **quorum not present.**

#### **Old Business**

- May 17th meeting: Meeting Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 6:30-8:00 hybrid. Speaker: Will Averill, Community Children’s Center.

#### **New Business**

- Joyce reported Dani emailed paperwork for City Funds for neighborhoods.
- Coalition of Neighborhoods that surround KU, Katy Nitcher report. Nitcher reported she met with Julie Murray, Chief of Staff in the Chancellors Office at KU, and representatives from four surrounding neighborhoods. Carla Lepper with KU Chancellor’s office was unable to attend. All participants will meet again on Saturday, April 22. Thompson stated that the Chancellor wants to set up an ad hoc committee with neighborhood representatives. Murray stated that he was told the project will not extend north of 11<sup>th</sup> street.
- June 21st meeting ideas, speakers? No suggestions offered.
- Webber introduced the idea of a newsletter article archive shared by LAN member newsletter editors. LAN could share a Google folder with all editors. Articles of city-wide news could be uploaded and shared by editors for reprint in other newsletters with byline of author and NA. Webber will email LAN editors to gauge their interest.

#### **Neighborhood Reports**

- Barker: Winkler reported that Barker has been a detour street for several months. One of the two lanes is now open.
- Brook Creek: no report.
- Dad Perry Park: no report.
- East Lawrence: Collison reported that they had a very successful yard sale with lots of stuff and more money raised. They are sponsoring a riverside cleanup with Kevin Elliot. Elliot spoke to ELNA and proposed this cleanup. Collison shared Elliot’s contact information:

Kevin Elliot  
785 505 0039  
kevinsouthamerica@gmail.com

- Heatherwood Heights:
- Hillcrest: no report.
- Old West Lawrence: Nitcher reported that traffic calming measures were approved by the City Commission. Nitcher asked about Schwegler's cut-through problems. Joyce stated they are working with KU Endowment on the Central District project impact on the neighborhood. Commercial development has been proposed on Stewart Drive north of 21<sup>st</sup> St. Schwegler NA is most concerned about traffic entering the neighborhood off Iowa at 21<sup>st</sup>. They met with Endowment representative who stated that they will pay for measures determined necessary by the city.
- Oread Residents: Thompson reported their first in-person meeting, not heavily attended, but featuring a spirited discussion of HERE, KU 11<sup>th</sup> and Mississippi project, and more.
- Pinkney Neighborhood: Spence reported that they are also working with Elliot on a neighborhood cleanup. See contact information for Elliot above. It will take place following the ELNA cleanup.
- Prairie Park: no report.
- Schwegler: A house on 19<sup>th</sup> Terrace was purchased and remodeled. It is offered on VRBO as a short term rental for up- to 8 renters. City regulations require the owner to occupy at least 271 days yearly. The STR is already causing traffic problems. Ellenbecker stated that most cities make owners sign affidavit that they live in the rental, register car to the address, vote from the address, and pay taxes from the address. Collison agreed that the city is lax on gathering proof that the rental is owner-occupied. Ellenbecker stated that VRBO advertises that the owner will not be present during the rental.
- Southsiders: no report.
- Springwood Heights: no report.
- Sunset Hill: Webber reported that the SHNA Annual Meeting will be held on April 24, 2023.
- University Place: no report.

**Next Meeting:** May 17, 2023, Meeting Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St, Lawrence, KS 66044 and the Zoom meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87844058616>

**Adjourn:** Spence moved to adjourn, Thompson seconded, meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on April 21, 2023.