

**Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods Draft Minutes**  
**Lawrence Fire Station #5, Jayhawk Room**  
**November 15, 2023, 6:30 p.m.**

**Participants:** Phil Collison, Representative, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Gene Dorsey Resident, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Sheri Ellenbecker, Representative, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Peggy Englehart, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood; Phil Englehart, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood; Holli Joyce, LAN Chair, President, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Millie Pageau Engagement Specialist, Communications & Community Relations; Courtney Shipley, City Commissioner, City of Lawrence, Resident, Dad Perry Park Neighborhood; Kyle Thompson, LAN Treasurer, Representative, Oread Residents Association; Cory Wallace Director, Communications & Community Relations; Gary Webber, LAN Secretary, President, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Bill Winkler, Resident, Barker Neighborhood

**Presentation: Cori Wallace, Director of Communications & Community Relations and Millie Pageau Engagement Specialist, Communications & Community Relations;**

**See, Click, Fix Update**

See-Click-Fix was a web and app based reporting system that addressed street, code, and hybrid issues. During its approximately 2 year operation, more than 4000 tickets were issued, with 1100 related to street repair. The problem was that there were many categories that were not addressed immediately. Up to 1/3 of the tickets were not addressed. Also, tickets were issued but the reporter was not contacted. One year ago the system was discontinued.

The city Identified a project manager and fixed major issues with the system. It is scheduled to relaunch in February, then a second launch in May with automated responses. There will be several different response types based on the issue. Users can expect tickets to be cleared within 365 days. Now every person or department that deals with tickets will be trained to be a subject matter expert. There will be a frequently asked questions list to help users.

The SeeClickFix roll out of request categories mid-February will include the following work groups:

- Planning and Development Services (PDS) (this includes code violations)
- Parks & Recreation
- Police
- Solid Waste

The SeeClickFix roll out of request categories mid-May will include the following work groups:

- Streets
- Traffic
- Storm Water
- Waste Water Collections
- Water Distribution

Webber asked how budget shortfall will be addressed. Wallace stated she is not convinced that money kept issues from being addressed. Street repair is prioritized based on the condition of the street. Local streets are low priorities. Ellenbecker asked if there will be ticket numbers issued so that user can follow. Wallace stated that there will be ticket numbers and a monthly ticket completion list available. Phil Englehart asked about resources and allocation of resources to enforce code violations. He asked if there will be a response to tickets on code enforcement. Wallace stated that plastic bag enforcement will be added to code enforcement responsibilities. There were 1004 total code enforcement tickets. Advocacy for more resources will help the city understand that this is a priority. Collison asked if login is required. Wallace replied that anonymous tickets were possible.

## **A Place for Everyone Update**

The A Place for Everyone joint commission (both city and county commissions will be present) meeting is on Wednesday, Jan. 17th in the City Hall Commission room. It is an open meeting. It is at 3:30 PM due to the County Commission meeting that evening.

A homelessness plan has been in the works for 2 years with many participants, involving mostly Douglas County organizations and residents. The capacity to help those in need has been crippled in recent months. This was not the case prior to COVID. COVID had a detrimental effect. Resources are scarce state-wide. Homelessness involves all types of people.

There are 5 work areas identified and addressed:

1. Affordable housing – we are 4,000 units short of being able to house all our residents. Small starter homes, or cottage homes, are no longer being built. Formerly housing sequence was apartment, cottage home, and then forever home. It is important to realize that all types of homes need to be built. Wallace stated we need more reasons to say yes to affordable housing. Ellenbecker asked about unoccupied HUD low-income housing east of Walmart in south Lawrence. She stated they seem to have a low occupancy rate. Wallace stated that specific housing projects are still being identified.
2. Supportive housing – This is for people in vulnerable populations. This includes disabled, addicted, mental health issues, and others. The Treatment and Recovery Center was built to address this.
3. Emergency shelter - Dorsey cited the pay raise requested by Lawrence Community Shelter (LCS) employees. Wallace stated LCS is an independent agency funded by the city and others. Other cities use corporate donors, this is not the case in Lawrence. Shipley stated that unionizing before negotiations with the city made no sense to her. Wallace stated that LCS has been moving quickly to expand services and improve management. They are developing a drop-in center. She has been impressed with their ability to improve when they have the resources. Dorsey asked about the county-owned church building south of South Park, NE corner 23th and Mass. He suggested it could be a drop-in center. Wallace stated that the roof has been compromised. Wallace stated that the Pallet Village is considered an emergency shelter.
4. Equity and Inclusion – Populations have been left out of the conversation, and an effort is underway to solicit their input.
5. Systems – If we don't have enough information about those in need, people get stuck in emergency housing. Also, we need to increase the use of state and federal systems available to us. Quantifying those in need is important to providing help. Dorsey asked about the point in time count. Wallace stated that this count was changing and improvements were being made. Rick Renfro provided funds to provide an incentive for participating.

Shipley stated that Justice Matters needs to act as well as advocate. She wondered if LAN can be impactful in these efforts. Wallace appreciated the candid feedback that LAN provides. She stated she was also surprised at the faith-based response in Lawrence. Kansas City faith-based services are doing an amazing job with immigrants. She believes Downtown Lawrence and LAN have very similar concerns and could work together. With regard to advocacy, she believes numbers matter.

Dorsey asked is there was any plan to discourage the needy from other communities from coming to Lawrence. Wallace stated that other communities are trying to do this. She asked that we understand that these folks are street homeless, and that there are many residents who don't live on the street but are approaching homelessness.

Ellenbecker asked where Village residents will go during the day. Wallace stated they will be fed and services will be provided at the Village. Only Village residents will receive these services. It will focus on four groups:

1. Disabled
2. Women emerged from domestic violence

3. Over 55
4. Veterans

They have identified the operator, they are interviewing potential residents. Construction is complete. Staff are being hired. Englehart stated that these groups were selected because they have the best chance for success. Shipley stated that she thinks it was a mistake for LCS to manage the Village, because they have a poor record and highly qualified professionals may not be willing to work for them.

**Changes to, adoption of November 15 minutes:** passed by acclamation.

**Treasurer's Report (Thompson):** \$3,962.28 balance, 7 of eighteen members/officers present.

#### **Old/Ongoing Business**

**Tabled Items:** Proposed Bylaw Amendment. Amending the Bylaws requires a 2/3 vote of the voting membership, which would be 12 of the 18 voting members:

##### **Amendment 1: Change Section 2.1a from**

- a. One (1) representative member chosen by each affiliated neighborhood association (voting). An affiliated neighborhood association is any valid, organized, extant, and active Lawrence neighborhood association that has paid organizational dues for either the current or the previous year.

**To**

- a. One (1) representative member chosen by each affiliated neighborhood association (voting). An affiliated neighborhood association is any valid, organized, extant, and active Lawrence neighborhood association that has paid organizational dues for the current year.

##### **Amendment 2: Change section 2.1b from**

- b. One (1) representative member chosen by each affiliated interested organization (voting). An affiliated interested organization is any extant organization that has been accepted for membership by the voting members of the Association and has paid organizational dues for either the current or the previous year.

**To**

- b. One (1) representative member chosen by each affiliated interested organization (voting). An affiliated interested organization is any extant organization that has been accepted for membership by the voting members of the Association and has paid organizational dues for the current year.

Webber moved to amend the bylaws, Joyce seconded. Vote was 7 aye, 0 no. Motion did not pass, as 2/3, or 12 yes, are required.

#### **New Business**

- Steve Lopes has LAN archives. He asked if LAN wants it or if it should go to Spencer. Webber moved to contact Spencer, passed by acclamation.
- Elections of Officers for 2024: The following slate was proposed:
  - Holli Joyce, Chair
  - Courtney Shipley, Vice Chair
  - Gary Webber, Secretary
  - Kyle Thompson, Treasurer

This slate was elected unanimously.

- Stadium expansion, Neighborhood Team report: Thompson reported that demolition started on Dec. 11. The team had a good meeting with the construction company, and they addressed neighborhood concerns. They were supposed to provide a hotline for issues, though none seems to exist. Demolition is ending mid-January. Construction through August 2025. Thompson stated that the plans seem nebulous and rushed. Traffic study in early January.
- Sub Committee: Code Enforcement/Rental Licensing: Joyce proposed that we address this in January. Shipley recommended:
  - Presentation before commission monthly through March
  - Letter to City Commission in February
  - Letter/email campaign in March
  - Individual NAs lobby in March and April
  - Individual neighborhoods comment on proposed budget in April/May

Webber encouraged members to think about funding and number of new employees in preparation for January meeting.

Englehart encouraged LAN members to complete the LDC Update survey, link on LDC Update web page.

#### **Neighborhood Reports:**

- Heatherwood Heights – No report.
- Brook Creek – No report.
- Old West Lawrence – No report.
- Pinkney – Englehart stated Pinkney would like more information on plans for Robinson Park.
- Sunset Hill – No report.
- ELIA – No report.
- Schwegler – No report.
- Oread Residents – No report.
- Barker – no report.
- Springwood Heights – no report.

#### **January-February meeting topics:**

- Englehart encouraged us to schedule an LDC Update discussion before June
- Wallace offered to provide additional details on Code Enforcement and Homeless services, possibly in February.

#### **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024

6:30 PM, Jayhawk Room  
Station 5  
1911 Stewart Avenue  
Lawrence, KS, 66045

**Adjourn:** meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on December 23, 2023. Revised January 3, 2024.