



# Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods

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LAN Monthly Meeting

June 19, 2024, 6:30 PM

Jayhawk Room, Lawrence Fire Station #5

1911 Stewart Ave, Lawrence, KS 66046

## Draft Minutes

- I. **Participants:** Mandy Enfield President, University Place Neighborhood Association; Peggy Englehart, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood; Phil Englehart, Resident, Pinkney Neighborhood; Joseph Grzenda, Representative, Springwood Heights Neighborhood Association; Karen Heeb, Representative, Southsiders - North 1300 Road Neighborhood Association; Holli Joyce, LAN Chair, President, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Susan Keim, Representative, Old West Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Rich Llewellyn, Fire Chief, Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM); Millie Pageau, Engagement Specialist, Communications & Community Relations; Scott Robinson, President Avalon Neighborhood Association; Courtney Shipley, Resident, Dad Perry Park Neighborhood; Dustin Stumblingbear, Representative, Pinkney 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; Randy Swain, Resident, Alvamar Neighborhood Association; John Teefey, Resident, Alvamar Neighborhood Association; Suzanne Valdez, District Attorney, Douglas County; Mariana Nieto, Executive Committee, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Garrett Elliott, Supporter, Brittaney Hall for District Attorney; Netanya Lawrence, Supporter, Brittaney Hall for District Attorney; Virgil Dean, President, Westwood Neighborhood Association; Summerdawn Klain, Representative, Brittaney Hall for District Attorney.

- II. **Presentation: Rich Llewellyn, Chief of Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM):** Chief Llewellyn presented a brief history. LDCFM is a combined agency with Douglas County and City, originally formed in 1857. He became Chief in 2022, came from Washington State. LDCFM is both a funding and governance partnership.

Comprises five stations in Lawrence, all with at least one fire suppression unit. Engines have water, hose, ladders, and pumps. There is one station in Baldwin City. Quints have a larger ladder attached. Ladders do suppression and rescue. Much of their work is complicated, so sending both ambulance and suppression unit is normal procedure. Staff from suppression unit can assist EMTs, and vice versa. Also, if engine is closer, it will respond quickly, followed by Medical.

Current staffing model:

- a. Station 1: Engine 1, Battalion 1, Medic 1
- b. 2: Quint 2 and Medic 2
- c. 3: Quint 3 Medic 3
- d. 4: E4 (E4 is hazardous materials unit), E40 (hauls large volume of water), Medic 4
- e. 5: E5, Ladder 5, Battalion 2

Currently 40 staff. Due to staffing loads and employment deficits, firefighters are working much overtime. The overtime budget is already at the limit, and they have had employee consequences. To address this, if less than 39 employees, Station 5, Engine 5 out of service, staff increased on Ladder and Medic units.

LDVFM provides emergency services for the University of Kansas. The city is currently not compensated for emergency services. They are considering charging for false alarms. They provide some compensated

services to KU and KU Athletics. Dispatch handles both Police and Fire from the same room. Calls are often answered by both LPD and LDCFM. All fires have both police and fire present.

Where is Dept. headed? New equipment purchases are moving toward electric to reduce particulate matter emissions, and to comply with plan 2040. Delivery of EV equipment is currently quicker than internal combustion equipment. Lawrence has outgrown its fire services, especially in the Northwest and Southeast, resulting in slower response times. They need additional engines because fires grow exponentially, and brain matter dies over time. They are considering moving station three north to cover growth there. Call volume has also increased every year. They are proposing new stations and an increase in staffing. They are in the beginning of building Station 6.

Questions:

- Question: Is 4 people per engine common? The Chief answered that this is more than smaller communities, but is the amount recommended nationwide for cities the size of Lawrence.
- Question: Who to call for falls? The Chief suggests you call 911.
- Question about coroner service. Specialty services include water rescue, trench rescue, and (formerly) coroner service. Douglas County has taken over coroner service.
- Question about shifting due to staffing deficits and its impact on service. The Chief stated he believes the quality of service has been maintained.

#### **Presentation: Candidates for Public Office**

1. Suzanne Valdez is running as incumbent for Douglas County District Attorney. The DA files about 3000 cases each year. Valdez suggested interested people consult their annual report. They work with Fire and Police. She is running in 2024 on same platform from 2020; including increased plea as opposed to trials, and alternatives to incarcerating. Most incarcerated persons are perpetrators of serious crimes. Prosecutors are underpaid. They are focusing currently on fentanyl dealers to stop distribution and child sex crime. Finally, reproductive justice is a priority. They will not prosecute reproductive justice crimes.
2. Summerdawn Klaim, Navaho Nation, Haskell student, is representing Brittany Hall who is running for Representative in House District 46 replacing Boog Highberger. This is mostly Northeast Lawrence. Brittany is a member of the Shawnee Nation, a community activist, with this platform:
  - Remembering those left behind,
  - Expanding Medicaid,
  - Bringing diversity to State Government, and
  - Prioritizing our education systems.

She is a Haskell graduate, received a master's degree from Baker University, and is a single mother. She would appreciate our votes.

**III. Changes/Approval of May 15, 2024, minutes:** Approved by acclamation.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** \$4,147.28. balance, 11 of 14 members/officers present. 2024 Members currently are **Alvamar, Brook Creek, Centennial, East Lawrence, Heatherwood Heights, Hillcrest, Oread Residents, OWL, Pinkney, Schwegler, Springwood Heights, Sunset Hill, University Place, Westwood.**

#### **V. New Business:**

1. Balancing Act, Codes Department funding, discussion: Joyce summarized recent Community budget workshop, where LAN members made budget suggestions using The Balancing Act. Peggy Englehart summarized the meeting of a LAN subcommittee working on the balancing act. Wallace summarized

the process lasting the month of May. On Monday at an executive retreat, they discussed the suggested changes. They are also addressing a drop in revenue due to the sales tax shortfall. They are currently discussing what they can do to address the deficit and implement the suggested changes. The recommended budget should be finished by the end of June. The City Manager will write a letter summarizing the budget which should be distributed in early August. She reassured us that all of LAN's suggestions were included in their summary of recommendations. Question: who receives property taxes? Wallace not certain of the division of these funds. Shipley urged discussion with County and City. Joyce thanked Wallace and Pageau for their work with LAN on the Balancing Act.

2. Land Development Code meeting report, Phil Englehart, discussion: Englehart reported that the next Steering Committee meeting is tomorrow, 4-6 PM. He stated the LDC update is a very detailed document. He has identified 4 issues that will be impacted by changes in the code. The meeting tomorrow will address residential infill and redevelopment. Joyce asked about the proposed 90-day break in process. Englehart replied that the steering committee has been receiving many requests to slow the process. It is up in the air. Enfield stated she had been present in meetings where the consultant dismissed any suggestions of a slow-down, and basically stopped discussion of any delay. Grzenda praised Collison's input at the recent Planning Commission meeting, and stated the consultant did not support a 90-day cool-down period. At the most recent City Commission meeting, some commissioners were supportive of a delay.  
Enfield stated that one of her members has been lobbying on parking. She met with a rep of the Homebuilders Association, and they submitted a 7-page letter to the Planning Commission. Enfield asked what the next step was. She suggested nailing down our issues and submitting them to the Planning Commission. She was told by a member of the Planning Commission that if you tear down a detached dwelling, it would not be possible to rebuild a detached dwelling. Englehart stated that this will be addressed in the next steering committee meeting. Enfield suggested that we make certain we address this. Shipley suggested a subcommittee to nail down our issues and suggestions. Joyce will send out an email to the existing subcommittee on the LDC Update. Enfield stated we have 10 days to respond.  
Thompson reported that he submitted letters to Commissioners and Brad Harrell asking about permit parking. Harrell responded that no permit parking before 2025.
3. Downtown Transit Site Selection Committee report, Dustin Stumblingbear: Stumblingbear reported that the map submitted was a combination of three different maps. The Amtrack station was included because it was mentioned in many comments both pro and cons. BNSF owns the property, so it is unlikely that this would be a potential site. The next meeting is next week, addressing site criteria to be used to select the site.
4. Zero Steering Committee report: Shipley reported there would be at least two open houses. Area affected includes entire county.
5. Brick Streets/Sidewalks report, Peggy Englehart: Peggy Englehart reported the project is on schedule. A draft has been published and is available on the city webs site for download. Tomorrow night is an open house at the public library. She encouraged LAN members to read the draft policy. Regarding streets, they are the responsibility of the city. Covered streets can be uncovered in "Area of Applicability". Many streets are not included in the Area of Applicability. East Lawrence is working on an overlay plan, where priorities for uncovering streets will be established.  
Regarding sidewalks, if a brick sidewalk needs repair in area of applicability, it can be replaced with brick. Brick sidewalks are not allowed outside of the Area of Applicability. The policy includes specifications for replacement of brick sidewalks.
6. Stadium Expansion Neighborhood Team report, Kyle Thompson: Committee will be meeting with KU at some point, but they are currently waiting.

## **VI. Neighborhood Reports:**

1. Alvarmar – Currently organizing the NA. Swain asked Wallace if the code rewrite makes sense when few lots are available for development. Wallace stated it is correct, lot numbers are limited.
2. Barker – Winkler reported that he is concerned with the northern part of Barker, especially Learnard and 15<sup>th</sup> where construction activity is heavy.
3. Brook Creek – No report.
4. East Lawrence – Stacy was curious about attitudes toward permit parking. Shipley stated some neighborhoods were interested, but don't want to be the first to implement. The way the revised code is currently written, there would be no minimum parking for residential neighborhoods. Heeb stated that she understood that the parking lot at 9<sup>th</sup> and Vermont may be developed. Shipley confirmed that this and other lots may be considered for redevelopment. Further discussion of parking minimum in LDC.
5. Heatherwood Heights – No report.
6. Old West Lawrence – NA is healing after strife over Neighborhood Traffic Management Project. Traffic circles will be installed in the next two years. New bylaws are nearly complete, and they are dealing with the loss of Pinkney School.
7. Oread Residents – 11<sup>th</sup> street has concrete on the surface, and hill has been lowered.
8. Pinkney – Peggy Englehart reported that Pinkney held their community picnic with good attendance. They had an issue with the historic estate on North Michigan. The owner wants to rezone to multi-family to allow him to open a Short-Term Rental (STR).
9. Schwegler – No report.
10. Southsiders – Heeb discussed concern about building going on around battery plant.
11. Springwood Heights – The ruling on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Crestline lawsuit has been issued. The suit by Church was not successful. The court decided the current city code allows more than one living unit on one lot. will allow more than one unit per lot.
12. Sunset Hill – No report.
13. University Place – Enfield reported an ongoing parking conversation around the LDC update. They are working on a historic district application.
14. Westwood – Dean reported that Catholic Church owns the property on the west side of Engle at 15th. The large lot contains two detached dwellings. The Church is considering developing this area. The process is in its early stages.

VII. **July Meeting topics:** A group interested in developing the Loop downtown on the river may be contacting us to make a presentation.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 17, 2024

6:30 PM, Jayhawk Room

Fire Station #5

1911 Stewart Avenue

Lawrence, KS, 66045

**Adjourn:** meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Gary Webber, Secretary, on June 20, 2024.