



Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods

Draft Minutes

15 May 2025

Participants: Sacie Lambertson, Representative, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Sheri Ellenbecker, Representative, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Holli Joyce, LAN Chair, President, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Courtney Shipley, LAN Vice Chair, Resident, Dad Perry Park Neighborhood; Dustin Stumblingbear, LAN Secretary, Pinkney Neighborhood Association; John Pfeifer, Representative, Schwegler Neighborhood Association; Kyle Thompson, LAN Treasurer, Vice President, ORA; Brooke Ostrander, Coordinator, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association; Barry Shalinski, President, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Gene Dorsey, Douglas County Commissioner; Susan Keim, Representative, Old West Lawrence; Phil Collison, Member, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association; Gary Webber, Member, Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association; Phil Engelhart, Member, Pinkney Neighborhood Association; Peggi Englehart, Vice President/Representative, Pinkney Neighborhood Association; Randy Swain, Representative, Alvamar Neighborhood Association; Holly Krebs, Coalition for Collaborative Governance; Evan Korynta, City of Lawrence ADA Compliance Officer; Cece Riley, City of Lawrence Transportation Planner.

- I.** Approval of 17 April 2025 meeting minutes. Peggi moved to approve, Phill Collison seconded, unanimous vote to approve.
- II.** Treasurer Report-Kyle Johnson- We started April 1,2025 with \$4,562.28. Our balance as of May 1, 2025, was \$4,562.28.
- III.** Evan Korynta , ADA Compliance Administrator discussed ADA Right of Way Transition Plan. Plan is designed to align local sidewalks with federal and state regulations regarding right of way access for people with disabilities or limited movement. ADA transition plan is federally required for any municipality with more than 50 employees. Self-evaluation was taken of local stock of sidewalks and curbs. LIDAR was used to scan the city along with visual inspections to find issues with slopes, defects, etc. Approximately 430 miles of sidewalk and 6500 curb ramps. The sidewalks scanned for this evaluation are only those sidewalks in the right of way. 4500 curb ramps need repair or replacement and 280 miles of sidewalk need repair or replacement. Roughly 182 miles of those sidewalks require repairs with the other 98 miles of sidewalk needing complete replacement. Maintenance has been deferred for many years due to budget restrictions.

Modeling of use changes over time due to population movement or changes in local services such as the closure of a school. The model allows for prioritizing sidewalks that will see higher traffic in the near and long term. Individuals with mobility issues were also considered in designing the priority list.

The Kansas statute for repairing sidewalks puts the entire responsibility on the adjacent property owner. There are similar statutes in the rest of the county. The Lawrence community has moved to attempt to assist property owners with the financial burden of repairing sidewalks. Cost-partner program exists should the property owner work with the city contractor. This covers the destruction and removal of sidewalk debris. The city will cover the cost of fixing trees that could be causing sidewalk degradation. Corner lots that are owner occupied get 50% financial assistance from the city of Lawrence due to the increased sidewalk coverage on their property.

Brick sidewalks must conform to the same standard as concrete sidewalks. This increases cost to ensure brick sidewalks do not break apart more quickly. Brick is a non-standard right of way construction item which further adds to cost.

Full city investment over 20 years will cost 103 million dollars in 2024 dollars. 2025 CIP allocates 2.2 million dollars for this work with annual increases to a top level in 2030 of 5.1 million dollars.

Phil Collison question-how is this different from previous city plans to fix sidewalks in our city?

Answer-The old program only focused on trip hazards per property owner with limited funding. The old plan ignored brick sidewalks as there was no plan or process for fixing brick sidewalks. This plan is a corridor approach, block end to block end. This plan focuses on all aspects of a sidewalk including curb ramps. This plan was adopted in 2024 with work beginning in 2025.

Kyle Thompson question-Are property owners with brick sidewalks allowed to keep their brick sidewalks?

Answer-Now that the city has a brick sidewalk policy the option to keep brick sidewalks or switch to concrete sidewalks is being given to property owners along the project boundary. The new brick sidewalk will be built to ADA compliance.

Kyle Thompson question-Are all old brick sidewalks 5 feet wide?

Answer-some sidewalks are 5 feet wide. Where there is limited space for turnarounds other locations such as driveways are possible alternatives. The Land Development Code allows for 4 foot wide sidewalks in the older portions of Lawrence.

City has 2 financial assistance policies available to property owners. First policy under Lawrence housing guidelines city will pay to repair the sidewalk but it will be concrete as it is the cheapest material to install.

Kyle Thompson question-Are there federal dollars funding this project?

Answer-The city did file an application for a RAISE grant. The new administration has renamed the grant. Many letters of support from federal legislators with our city application. Decision on grant will be made public by end of June 2025.

IV. Coalition for Collaborative Governance-Holly Krebs. Holly feels the community conversation regarding the possible changes to the Lawrence Public Pool in 2024 was more us being talked at and not engaged with regarding our pool. After conducting some research Holly has found that our city government budget has doubled in the last ten years without a clear explanation for this phenomenon. Holly is asking for members of the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods to join her and her group in further community conversations with the government of the city of Lawrence, KS.

V. Neighborhood Reports

A. Pinkney-Upcoming vote on the change of zoning at 3rd and Maine Street for the 20 May 2025 City Commission meeting. Peggi asked LAN for a letter of opposition to the proposal at 3rd and Maine Street. Phil Collison moved to support a letter to the Lawrence City Commission from LAN opposing the proposed change of zoning at 3rd and Maine Street. Susan Keim seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Pinkney Neighborhood picnic 21 June 2025 at Clinton Park 10:30am-12:30pm.

B. Sunset Hill-Had annual meeting and elected Matthew Paul as new President of Sunset Hill. Currently don't have a VP but looking for someone. Put flies on all properties in Sunset Hill including rentals. Had lots of new members at the annual meeting. Neighborhood management traffic program update for projects in Sunset Hill.

C. Brook Creek-Firefly Festival between 11th and 15th Streets on the Burrough Creek Trail starting in May. Large festival with music and art on June 14. May 31 Yard and Art sale in conjunction with East Lawrence.

D. Schwegler-Board meeting at end of April, next general meeting is in June, date tbd.

E. East Lawrence-City of Lawrence has begun working on East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan. Public meeting at Carnegie Building regarding the plan on 22 April 2025 4-6pm.

F. University Place-No update.

G. Old West Lawrence-Have quarterly meeting on 1 May 2025. Block Party set up for September. Watershed project in full swing, getting out of the neighborhood is an adventure.

H. Oread-Gateway Project moving forward as usual.

I. Alvamar-all the grass is being stripped from the golf course behind their neighborhood.

VI. Next meeting 19 June 2025 at Jayhawk Room, Fire Station #5 6:30 p.m.

VII. Adjourned.