



January, 2014

Next meeting:

February 1, Watkins Museum

9:30 to 10:30 am.

Agenda: Election of officers, Budget for 2014, Planning and development issues, and YOUR input

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Two years have passed, and it is time for me to step down as President of the Old West Lawrence Association (OWLA). The annual winter meeting of OWLA will be held soon to elect a new President and to reinstate the other officers. Please join us at our membership meeting February 1.

Many issues continue to impact Old West Lawrence. I work closely with the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) to monitor actions by the Planning Commission, the City Commission and other bodies. This year, three issues were of particular concern to our neighborhood.

First, developers sought a change in the development code that would have permitted rezoning single-family properties into multi-family properties without having to go through the normal planning process.

This would have permitted the breakup of single-family homes into multi-family rentals without any input by neighbors. LAN successfully fought this off. But fights

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of this type are never over; they simply shift to the next engagement.

Second, the Library redevelopment continues. OWLA gave its support to this project, in part, because of the promise that the artwork planned for the project would include the parking garage as a platform for some of the artwork. We now learn that no artwork will be installed on the parking garage. OWLA expressed its displeasure with this decision and will continue to press for rethinking where the artwork is installed.

Third, the City's comprehensive plan is about to undergo a major update. The developers have called in their political chips and gained a controlling majority on the steering committee. Even the so-called "neighborhood representative" has no history with LAN and has close ties with the pro-developer mayor.

The developers are poised to redraft the plan to give greater powers to the developers and remove any public input by neighborhood organizations. LAN is working hard to prevent damage and even to create a better plan if we can assemble the necessary political support to push for smart growth rather than developer driven, non-planned growth.

These and many other issues will continue to be acted upon by LAN with OWLA support. As always, you are encouraged to take part in the process. LAN and OWLA can always use more volunteers to carry out its many important functions. Your help will be appreciated. Just contact me or any of the officers of LAN or OWLA if you would like to help.

Kirk McClure, President

REMINDER ABOUT YARD PARKING ON FOOTBALL GAME DAYS

We had an issue last year with residents of OWL selling parking spaces in their front and side yards on football game days. The City Commission explicitly upheld the ban of this practice in all city neighborhoods except the Oread Neighborhood, south of 9th Street. This means that selling parking spaces in front or side yards is not permitted in OWL. Note that anyone can sell parking spaces in rear yards that are accessed from an alley. Selling parking spaces on a paved driveway is also permitted, as long as the sidewalk is not blocked. If you know of a violation, call police dispatch at 832-7509. Sergeant Trent McKinley, Lawrence Police Department, 830-7404, can answer questions.

A HUGE THANK YOU

...to the volunteers for the Fall OWL Picnic on Sept. 28th, 2013!!! Everyone was so great to work with and helped out exactly where they were needed and more!

Set Up and Clean Up

Kirk McClure; Jeannie McClure; Charles Higginson; Rick Frydman; Linda Horvath; Phil Minkin; Neal Barbour; Keith Skillman; Jenny Skillman; Curtis Marsh; Ian Hurst; Ross Edwards

Children's activities

Hannah Hurst

Tablecloths picked up, delivered, and set up

Rosalea Cartter; Peter Cartter

Cover & decorate tables

Andrea Albright; Nora Murphy; Eileen Fitch

Burger & Hot Dog cooks

Richard Andrade; Michael Morley; Justin Bates; LeeAnn Ward

Hosts

Mike Wildgen; Linda Wildgen; Pam McKeon; Abbie Hodgson; Steve Clark; Dan Schriener; Sally Hare Schriener; Debra Karr

Kegs

Burdett Loomis; Dakota Loomis

Cake Walk-(idea and execution!)
Alli Lopez; Sarah Crawford Parker

Ice-Cream Cart
Dan Riedeman/Sherrri Riedeman

Donations
Steve Maceli-tablecloths
Hilary Brown-veggie burgers

A big thank you to Cottins for delivery and pick up of tables and chairs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Next year Richard Andrade has agreed to be the picnic organizer. Stay tuned for dates and times. Please let him know how you would like to help.

Laurie McLane-Higginson

Attention Former Officers and Activists!

Does your attic need cleaning out? The Kansas Collection in the Spencer Research Library at KU has an archive for Old West Lawrence, and we are preparing to submit a new batch of documents and other items.

This would be an excellent time to declutter! Please gather any materials relating to the neighborhood or local advocacy that you have and give them to OWLA for processing. Anytime is a good time to donate, but now is even better! Contact karenkressin@hotmail.com.

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