

OLD WEST LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting – January 30, 2021
Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom

Call to Order: President Eric Kirkendall called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Approximately 45 members participated along with President Kirkendall, Vice President Maren Bradley, Treasurer Steve Lopes, and Secretary Mary Carson. City Commissioner Lisa Larsen participated in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Lopes delivered the treasurer's report and reported an end of December 2020 association treasury balance of \$4,842.00. Lopes reported the association will not renew liability insurance for the association until COVID protocols allow an in person gathering such as OWL Day again. Lopes reported an expenditure of \$100 for preparation of newsletters distributed to the neighborhood. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was approved by vote of the members present.

Approval of Minutes: Secretary Carson presented and reviewed the minutes of the membership meeting held by Zoom on October 12, 2020. A motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2020 was approved by vote of the members present.

Agenda: Kathy Tuttle made a motion to add a discussion of Accessory Dwelling Units to the agenda. The motion was approved by vote of the members present.

Lawrence Neighborhood Traffic Management Program: Tresa Hill, OWLA's representative to the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) discussed past efforts in OWL to reduce traffic, speed and improve traffic safety in OWL, which have included stop signs, 20 mph speed limits, speed bumps, and installation of the flashing beacon crosswalk at 7th and Tennessee. Hill reported the City intends to consolidate a neighborhood traffic management program and will be reducing speed limits in all residential neighborhoods to 25 mph from the current 30 mph limit. Members discussed safety issues and their experiences with the rarely observed 20 mph speed limit in OWL and running of stop signs. Eric Kirkendall reported speed gun observation of cars traveling at 45 mph on Mississippi St.

Dustin Smith, traffic engineer with the city of Lawrence, made a presentation on the City's new Traffic Management Program. The program will begin with an education effort, including signs, posters, and a traffic management education website. Smith reported that the installation of new 25mph signs will proceed from west to east in the city. The city will collect before and after data on speed to assess the impact of the education efforts and use the data to target traffic law enforcement in the initial phases. Smith indicated the emphasis will be on education and not on writing tickets.

Smith announced the City will begin pilot studies for traffic calming efforts in specific neighborhoods in February and March of 2021. Neighborhoods may apply to be part of a pilot study starting in February. The City has employed a traffic consultant to

assist with the program. In neighborhoods chosen for a pilot study the City anticipates performing a comprehensive study to determine traffic calming strategies appropriate to the neighborhood. A lengthy discussion of the program followed.

Michael Morley asked if OWL needs the education phase since 20 mph speed limit has existed in OWL since the early 1990s. Steve Lopes gave some history on obtaining the reduced speed limit and installation of stop signs. Both Morley and Lopes agreed speeding and lack of enforcement of speed limits are a major problem. Kathy Tuttle said the City's enforcement of traffic regulations in OWL and other residential neighborhoods is far less than in the past. Dustin Smith indicated the City has dedicated funding to enforcement, but the police department resources remain limited.

Dustin Smith encouraged neighbors to report traffic law violations and related issues to the Lawrence Listens website (part of the City of Lawrence website - <https://lawrenceks.org/listens/>), which allows reporting by location. All information posted there is reviewed by the police department and traffic engineers and will be used to target enforcement efforts. Bill Tuttle asked whether the posting of more speed limit signs in OWL would help. Kathy Tuttle asked whether the City was working with or keeping KU informed about timing and location of traffic calming studies.

Charlie Sedlock discussed the "built environment" at intersections and the use of same to produce traffic calming. Dustin Smith said intersection traffic calming will be part of the program. The City has temporary speedbumps, curbs and other devices to test traffic calming options. There are no temporary traffic circles.

Maren Bradley encouraged reporting traffic concerns on the Lawrence Listens website. Katie Oliver reported that speed bumps on Arkansas St. seemed to help initially but no longer appear to slow speeds. Josh Hunt said he purchased and installed small signs on existing road sign poles encouraging slow speeds and caution due to the number of children in the immediate area of his home (800 block of Indiana). Hunt said he thought the signs were helping, but they were removed by the City. Hunt encouraged volunteers to be part of a group to work with the City. Charles Sedlock asked about risk assessments tools, data collection. Additional discussion followed with a consensus forming that more enforcement of traffic laws in OWL is necessary, in addition to studying other methods of calming and reducing traffic.

President Kirkendall offered a motion seeking authorization for OWL to apply to be part of the City's pilot Traffic management team. The motion was approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Kirkendall suggested the creation of a team of volunteers for the OWL traffic management team, to work with the City if OWL is chosen to be part of a traffic management pilot program. The motion to create the committee was approved by a vote of the members present. Josh Hunt, Charlie Sedlock and Katie Oliver volunteered to serve on the committee.

Stormwater System Improvements: Eric Kirkendall presented information received from Matt Bond, Engineering Program Manager for the City of Lawrence, about the status of long-standing stormwater flooding issues in OWL and long discussed stormwater system improvements as part of general improvement of the stormwater system in the Jayhawk Watershed – from the Kansas River to Memorial Stadium at KU. The City sought proposals from engineering firms for a hydrologic and hydraulic study of the Jayhawk Watershed. The city has received responses and expects to evaluate and make a recommendation to the City Commission in March 2021. The study will look at the existing stormwater infrastructure and its storm event capacity, which will help identify areas of the existing system in need of replacement/upgrades. Once selected, the consultant will begin gathering data, including elevation studies of the existing system and elevations of other underground utilities that may conflict with potential storm water system alignments. The proposal also includes construction drawing. Bond anticipates a multi-phase construction project. City Commissioner Lisa Larsen reported the stormwater improvement project is set in the City’s Capital Improvement Plan and that \$8.2 million is earmarked for 2024. President Kirkendall and others thanked Lisa Larsen for her regular participation in OWLA meetings.

Neighborhood Plans – OWL Participation. Tresa Hill, OWL’s representative to LAN, reported on updates to neighborhood plans in other neighborhoods. She indicated there are old versions of a neighborhood plan for OWL that contained plans and recommendations specific to OWL for zoning, streets, sidewalks, and storm water systems, and related matters. OWL adopted a final plan in 1981 that was accepted by the City. A 1996 plan addendum was prepared and presented to the City but never adopted. Thus, OWL neighborhood plans were not incorporated in the City’s long-term plans (Horizon 2020 and 2040 Comprehensive Plan). Hill reported that some but not all neighborhood associations have updated or are working to prepare or update neighborhood plans. The updates require assistance of the City planning staff and at this point the planning department is understaffed. City Commissioner Larsen provided history on the issue from the City’s perspective and said the city commission has directed the city manager to add to the planning department staff to work on neighborhood plans. A motion was presented to authorize President Kirkendall to write a letter to the City asking that OWL be placed on the list to update the neighborhood plan with the assistance of the planning department. The motion was approved by a vote of the members present. Kirkendall noted it may take several years before City assistance is available.

Land Development Code - Accessory Dwelling Units Proposed Amendments. Kathy Tuttle reported that Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) are not permitted under the single family (RS5) zoning category applicable in OWL, but that many exist. A current proposal under discussion with the Planning Commission would amend the Land Development Code (Code) to permit accessory dwelling units in all residential zones in the city of Lawrence, including OWL. Tuttle and Tresa Hill provided extensive background about the zoning history in OWL and past discussions of accessory dwelling units. An OWL committee was formed in 2020 to study this issue. Draft provisions to implement the ADU amendments to the Land Development Code were discussed. The

draft amendments appear to provide that only owner-occupied lots will be permitted to have ADUs. Dale Slusser raised issues about the proposed ADU amendments' requirement for an ADU to maintain historic patterns and styles, which may conflict with historic preservation rules applying in OWL. Kirkendall reported that a the previous ADU working group did not reach consensus on the question of ADUs in OWL and that OWLA has not taken an official position on the question. Slusser suggested creation of an OWL working group on this issue, to review and comment on all proposed ADU related Code amendments. Tresa Hill suggested the committee also consider ADU impacts on storm water problems in OWL, parking, traffic, corporate ownership, party houses, trash, given the City's lax enforcement of existing zoning regulations. The members voted to approve formation of a committee and Dale Slusser, Tresa Hill, Michael Morley and Kassie Edwards Nieters volunteered to serve.

Election of Officers: A slate of officers was presented to the membership as follows:

President, Eric Kirkendall	Treasurer, Steve Lopes
Vice President, Maren Bradley	Newsletter/Block Worker
Secretary, Mary Carson	Coordinator, Karen Kressin
LAN Representative, Tresa Hill	

The slate of officers was approved by a vote of the members.

Miscellaneous. Kirkendall acknowledged and thanked all the new participants in the meeting today and welcomed them to OWL and OWLA. Krista Barbour gave an update on her collection of stories about houses in OWL. She is working with Charles Higginson on a book collecting the stories she received from OWL residents, which should be available by late spring or early summer. Bonita Yoder said that 829 Mississippi is on the market and will have an open house.

Adjournment: On motion made, seconded and approved by all, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Carson, Secretary: Approved: _____