

East Ninth May 27 CAC Meeting Summary

MEETING ATTENDED BY: Director of Arts & Culture: Porter Arneill; **Chair of the Citizen Advisory Committee:** Mike Amyx; **ELNA Representatives:** Phil Collison, Dave Loewenstein, John Sebelius; **City-at-Large Representatives:** Burdett Loomis, Rev. Verdell Taylor, Margene Swarts; **Downtown Lawrence, Inc Representative:** Emily Peterson; **Warehouse Arts District Area Representative:** Tom Larkin; **Lawrence Arts Center Representatives:** Tom Carmody, Ben Ahlvers; **Business Representatives:** Will Ogle, Marcia Hill; **Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission Representative:** Katherine Simmons; **LiveWell Lawrence Healthy Built Environment Workgroup Representative:** Tim Herndon; **el dorado inc:** Josh Shelton, Kara Schippers; **Lead Artist Sans Façon:** Tristan Surtees; **Team Historian:** Dennis Domer

Date: May 27, 2015

Time: 7:00PM-9:00PM

Agenda Topic #1: Project Name _____

Notes:

Mike Amyx: Can you explain how the project name came to be? It's always been 9th Street to me.

Phil Collison: Do other streets and parks have a special name? I like just 9th Street.

Josh Shelton: *East Ninth* is just a clarification of the blocks we are working on. It's intended to be the name for the project; we're not proposing to rename the street.

Will Ogle: East of Massachusetts, 9th Street is East 9th Street.

Burdett Loomis: The project is comprised of all blocks of East 9th Street – Massachusetts to Delaware, so the project name seems appropriate.

Dave Loewenstein: I don't have a problem with the name of the project, just the logo presented at the last meeting, which I don't see anymore.

Josh Shelton: If anything, the name we have proposed is an anti-brand. *East Ninth* is very literally the name of the street. I have found that it is helpful when writing about the project to give it a separate identity from the street itself for clarity, and I completely understand the concerns about branding the neighborhood.

Moved by Phil Collison, seconded Burdett Loomis, to change the name of the project to East Ninth. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Topic #2: Statement of Values

Phil Collison: Is there a Statement of Values for any other City advisory group? If so, how does the City put those together? What are the guiding principles with other groups?

Dave Loewenstein: Whose values are these? How did we arrive at them? Shouldn't the CAC have participated in setting these values?

Katherine Simmons: Are we voting to approve them today?

Mike Amyx: We are here tonight to focus on the Work Plan.

Phil Collison: Is there a course of action with the Statement of Values?

Mike Amyx: Should we ask other City advisory groups about how their Statements of Values were formed?

Josh Shelton: To clarify, it was our understanding that the Design Team was charged with presenting a Statement of Values in the Work Plan, and we tried to cast a broad net and be inclusive of everyone that might be a part of the project while being specific to the project.

Mike Amyx: According to the contract dated February 20, it is not there.

Phil Collison: If other City advisory boards have Statements of Values and they're all different from one another, we can see how they came about and model that.

Katherine Simmons: That's what we are doing here. We are meeting so we can offer up suggestions.

Tom Carmody: The Statement of Values presented seems broad and general enough to move forward.

Dave Loewenstein: That's my concern; they have no teeth. We all have different definitions of equity. ELNA's values are more specific – can we bridge the gap? (Dave then shares ELNA's Statement of Values with the CAC)

Margene Swarts: ELNA values are for a finite area. This project will be accessible to all of Lawrence.

Tom Larkin: I agree, ELNA is well represented on this committee, but there are also others on the CAC, so the Statement of Values needs to be a little broader. Continuing to tweak these Values won't change any minds.

Burdett Loomis: Most all of ELNA's values fit into these values. I think all of the Values are straightforward other than #2. What do 'equitable' and 'civic' mean in this context?

Emily Peterson: To me, 'equitable' means the project will be fair and balanced and 'civic' means the project will come about through all the proper channels of the City.

Phil Collison: The process for the ELNA Statement of Values was a good one. It would be nice to do it here as well.

Dave Loewenstein: What is our role here? To thumbs up and thumbs down ideas? We are a talented group of individuals and we haven't done any work yet. Should we squeeze in extra CAC meetings to do work so the regularly scheduled CAC meetings can be left for making decisions?

Mike Amyx: Our responsibility is to give our feedback on the Design Team's contractual arrangement with the City. I'm not opposed to additional meetings, but I want to remind everyone that this is a Public Works street project. It's simple – a better roadway through East Lawrence.

Dave Loewenstein: I think it would work to have just one meeting in-between in which we would set our own agenda and have a looser conversation.

Marcia Hill: Am I wrong, but weren't the Public Workshops in April just that?

Katherine Simmons: A lot of work went into the Public Workshops, and this Work Plan captures all of that work.

Tim Herndon: Back to the Statement of Values and Emily's definitions of 'equitable and civic,' couldn't we just add "to wit" at the end of Value #2? I think the definition of that Value then becomes evident in all of the other four Values. I want echo my comment from the last CAC meeting that value lists are hard to come up with, and the City went through an enormous process to vet and hire a Design Team. We have to let these people loose to produce some plans for us to respond to. I fear we will get into analysis paralysis that will prevent us from completing the project.

Mike Amyx: Until the Work Plan is approved, this is the work. The plans and renderings won't happen until it is approved.

Margene Swarts: So are we adopting the Work Plan and the Statement of Values tonight?

Josh Shelton: The Work Plan is a living document. We will add to it as we go.

Phil Collison: Would it be good to add a Statement that the CAC will bring the Statement of Values from each of their constituent groups?

Agenda Topic #3: Review the Draft Work Plan

Mike Amyx: Josh, can you give us a Work Plan update.

Josh Shelton: The first four sections of the Work Plan reflect work that has been completed up to this point. The last two sections outline work that is to come. You'll notice that the work documented in the Citizen Participation section directly influenced the Design Process and Artist Participation sections.

Phil Collison: Can we add page numbers to the Table of Contents? In the Project Background, it mentions bus routes. There are no bus routes down 9th Street.

Josh Shelton: That is a quote from the Lawrence Cultural District Task Force Goal.

Phil Collison: Did the Lawrence Cultural District Task Force come before or after the grant? I was under the impression it came after the grant.

Diane Stoddard: The Lawrence Cultural District Task Force was formed before the ArtPlace grant.

Tom Larkin: The grant came much later.

Phil Collison: Did the Task Force recommend the 9th Street renovation or was that from the Lawrence Arts Center?

Phil Collison: Are there summaries from the walkabouts?

Josh Shelton: Those were informal gatherings, so we did not take notes.

Phil Collison: On the History Public Workshop pages, I have an issue with the last summary statement. Dennis Domer said that 9th Street was and always has been a business and residential corridor – 'residential' is left out in your summary.

Dennis Domer: 9th Street is a comfortable mix of business and residential. Most of the residential addresses are on the named streets, not 9th Street, but we should add the word 'residential' to the statement in question.

Josh Shelton: I'll work with Dennis to get the language right.

Phil Collison: On page 57, which 'Institutional' partnerships are you referring to?

Josh Shelton: The Lawrence Arts Center.

Tom Larkin: The Lawrence Arts Center is the institution providing funding in the form of the grant.

Josh Shelton: This list is referring to the potential ongoing funding resources for the project.

Phil Collison: For the "Try it Out" event, will there be live music on 9th Street? Where at? Music is also one of the categories for the East Ninth Artists.

Tristan Surtees: These are just examples. The "Try it Out" event is a way to turn the street into a social interaction. The music category doesn't necessarily mean that there will be month-long live performances.

Josh Shelton: It could be that a blue grass band could respond to the Call for a picnic setting performance. But let's let Tristan walk us through the Artist Participation Model.

Tristan Surtees: First I want to say that this model is tailor-fit to East Lawrence; it's not something we have used elsewhere and adapted for this project. The "Try it Out" is a one-day event in which the proposed design for the street is physically mapped out on the street and is meant to be an enjoyable experience in which the Talents of Lawrence are showcased. The East Ninth Artist commissions are somewhat like Poet Laureates in many cities. They will give artists the opportunity to get to know this place just as we have and create new works. And for the Integrated Arts Collaborations, we will put out a Call and the jury will select artists to work alongside the Design Team throughout. The three categories for these collaborations are lighting, public gathering spaces, and thoroughfares. This approach allows for the creative process to be a responsive one.

Josh Shelton: It also allows artists to inform one another as they work.

Tristan Surtees: It's important that the project supports local artists, but we also want to institute an equal playing field. Otherwise, where do we draw the cutoff line for interested artists? We don't want to exclude anyone.

Phil Collison: Will there be a designated studio for the artists?

Tristan Surtees: There is not a predetermined studio.

Ben Ahlvers: Is the "Try it Out" event meant to push the boundaries of what is possible with the project?

Tristan Surtees: It's an opportunity for us to try out what it's like to have experiences together on the street and see what that feels like.

Josh Shelton: It should help demystify the design process so everyone can experience it together.

Dave Loewenstein: The collective of the Calls are troubling because the selections are juried by outsiders to conduct experiments in our neighborhood. Wouldn't it be better to spread the money out over 10 years so the street isn't flooded with lots of new work all at once? To do so many projects at once seems dangerous.

Tristan Surtees: This all happens at once to better inform the overall design process.

Phil Collison: Can you explain the lighting category? Will there be light shows? These artists probably won't be from Lawrence.

Josh Shelton: The lighting commission came about from the first Public Workshop as a response to concerns that in some places light needs to be lower and in some places the introduction of block-appropriate lighting could help increase the perception of safety on the street at night.

Mike Amyx: How will the juries work?

Porter Arneill: The jury will be made up of members of the CAC and Public Works. Jury positions will be volunteer positions with lots of responsibilities and interested parties should be aware of that before volunteering.

Mike Amyx: Will you make the recommendations for the appointments?

Porter Arneill: Yes, I will work with the Design Team to make recommendations. Those will then go to the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission.

Phil Collison: Will the Design Team make the appointments?

Josh Shelton: We are under contract to make that decision, but we feel it is important to vet the process through the City.

Ben Ahlvers: So what is the CAC's role during "Try it Out"? To go and experience it and make recommendations?

Josh Shelton: Yes.

Burdett Loomis: Why does the East Ninth Artists portion have to come so early?

Porter Arneill: So all of the artwork can best inform the project.

Tristan Surtees: I would love it if the East Ninth Artists went on for 10 years, but there is a lot of support needed for these commissions, so it is best that they happen while we are still overseeing the Artist Participation portion of the project.

Agenda Topic #4: Next Steps/Schedule

Josh Shelton: In regards to additional meetings, it gets tough to delay the schedule with extra meetings when we have already set future travel arrangements for our out-of-town and local consultants.

Mike Amyx: We still have a lot to work out, but yes, maintaining the schedule is important. Can we pick a day next week that everyone is available? We will send out an email to schedule the next meeting – tentatively next Wednesday evening.

Moved by Burdett Loomis, seconded by Dave Loewenstein, to adjourn at 9:00PM. Motion carried unanimously. The next CAC meeting will be June 3rd at 6:30PM at City Hall.