

# Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

## **EC Meeting Draft Minutes – Winter 2026**

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 6:30 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. Members in attendance: Jon Dunham, David Mucci, Mariana Nieto, Betsy Ostrander, Matthew Paul, Joan Stone, and Gary Webber.
- II. Minutes of the fall meeting, November 19, 2025, accepted and approved by acclamation.
- III. Treasurer's Report, balance of \$1,189.77, the report was approved by acclamation.
- IV. Old Business
  1. LAN update was given by Webber. Funding for Neighborhood Associations, Code Enforcement and rental registration were discussed during the last three meetings.
  2. Sunset Hill Neighborhood Sign Discussed. Subcommittee: Gary Webber, Chris Ostrander, Mariana Nieto, Jim Jordan.
  3. No volunteer for Vice President Officer. Matthew Paul, James Jordan and Joan Stone will continue in their current positions. An invite for this position during our annual meeting.
  4. Paul asked for SHNA members' suggestions for overall mission/purpose discussion during our annual meeting. The goals suggested included:
    - a. Infrastructure, such as applying to be added to the city's list for curb and gutter repair,
    - b. Beautification,
    - c. Code compliance and
    - d. safety.

Paul will report to the membership at the Annual Meeting on the EC's goals for 2026 and beyond.

5. Set date for Annual meeting:

- a. The 2026 SHNA Annual Meeting is on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7:00 pm, West Middle School.
  - b. Guest Speaker: Treni Westcott, City Codes Compliance Manager
  - c. We will set out yard signs for a second year. All SHNA members will receive emails announcing the annual meeting. Members without email addresses will receive letters by mail. Flyers are passed out every other year (not 2026). Mariana found a web site to order neighborhood meeting signs for approximately \$31.99. Approved by acclamation to order signs. Stone will place order and put out any additional signs needed for the annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at West Middle School.
  - d. During annual meeting Paul will discuss Agenda, Approve Minutes and Treasurer's Report and invite any additional input from SHNA members. Membership renewals will be accepted at the meeting.
6. Centennial Park discussion: Webber has contacted the city regarding the unhoused camp in the park. First response from the city indicated they would be working to house the camp residents, trespass them if necessary, and eventually clean the camp. The second response was received stated that city staff would continue to make efforts to house the campers, but the city would not be able to trespass them. The camp is on land owned by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and is part of the intersection of US 59 and US 24-40. KDOT stated they would not trespass campers on the land. EC discussion included contacting the LJW or encouraging the KDOT to work with the city.

V. New Business

1. Library Meeting: SHNA was invited to attend a 2-hour public input meeting regarding the strategic plan for the Lawrence Public Library. Webber attended the meeting and reported that representatives of city neighborhood associations were invited by Lawrence Public Library staff to discuss ways that the Library and the neighborhoods could support each other. Online survey at: <https://uw7j8rxna4k.typeform.com/to/EPSPjXdl?typeform-source=l.facebook.com>
2. The current mailing list for the EC is not working properly. Paul has set up a new Google Group for EC communications using the same addresses.

3. The next EC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 6:30-8:00 PM, via Microsoft Teams.

VI. Meeting adjourned.

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## **SHNA News**

### **Please Join Us at the 2026 Annual Meeting!**

Daffodils are emerging, which means, among other things, that it's time to mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2026 SHNA Annual Meeting. This year the meeting is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

**West Middle School Cafeteria**

**2700 Harvard Rd, Lawrence, KS 66049**

Please enter by the north door adjacent to the auditorium. You will receive an email invitation with an agenda around the first of April.

Please try to attend if you can. This is your opportunity to learn more about SHNA, meet your Executive Committee members, and ask questions about what is happening in Sunset Hill. SHNA President Matthew Paul will facilitate the meeting, and Treni Westcott, City of Lawrence Code Compliance Manager will speak to us about code compliance, the rental registration program, and short-term rentals. We will also be electing three members of the Executive Committee, discussing their plans for SHNA in 2026, and asking for a volunteer to serve as Vice President of SHNA.

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## **Membership Renewal**

It is time once again for us to ask you to renew your membership to SHNA. SHNA asks members to pay \$5 annual dues for residents and rental property owners, and \$10 for business owners to support initiatives and administration of the neighborhood association. These dues have not changed since they were established in 1994. Most of the funds generated are used for office supplies, postal and printing fees, and \$50 annual donations to West Middle School, Sunset Hill Elementary, and the Community Mercantile Education Foundation. We also provide \$25 grants for block parties when requested.

In 2024, SHNA upgraded our membership dues options to include online dues payment via Zeffy. This has proven to be a popular and convenient option for members and saves SHNA money and time. One very helpful option is the ability to set up an autopay order that pays

your dues automatically at the end of March each year. If you selected this option last year, you will be receiving an email from Zeffy reminding you that your dues will be paid automatically on March 31. This email also explains how to opt-out of the autopay option.

If you paid with Zeffy but did not select auto-renew, you will be receiving an email from Zeffy asking you to renew your membership. If you would like to renew or join via Zeffy, you may do so from the “Join” page [<https://sunsethillna.org/join-shna/>] on the SHNA website.

If you would prefer, you can use the renewal form downloadable from the link above to print and mail with a check or cash, or renew at the Annual Meeting. Whichever way you chose, we hope that you will renew it in 2026! Your dues allow the Executive Committee to pursue initiatives on your behalf and communicate with members. If you have any questions about renewal or membership, contact Matthew Paul at [president@sunsethillna.org](mailto:president@sunsethillna.org). Thanks for your support!

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### **Executive Committee Discusses SHNA Mission and Goals**

At their fall meeting in February (see draft minutes above) the SHNA Executive Committee discussed the goals of the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association for 2026 and beyond. Our bylaws provide only minimal goals, and state that our “...concerns include, but are not limited to, safety, beautification, residential character, and integrity of the area.”

In January of 2026, the EC sent out a request to all SHNA members for suggestions for goals for 2026 and beyond. The EC received one response, a suggestion for a goal of better code compliance enforcement by the city.

The EC created a set of goals that included:

- Beautification
- Code compliance
- Infrastructure maintenance, such as applying to be added to the city’s list for curb and gutter repair
- Safety

These goals are not prioritized. A discussion of goals will be included in the SHNA Annual Meeting agenda.

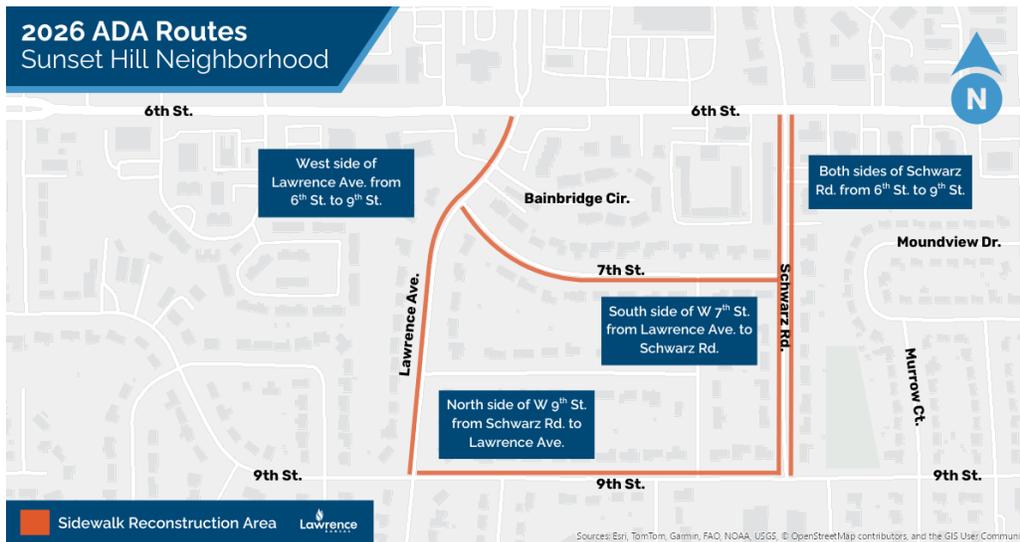
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### **Neighborhood News**

#### **Sidewalk Upgrades Planned for Sunset Hill**

Four streets between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> just north of Sunset Hill Elementary will be part of the City's 2026 ADA Right of Way Transition Program to identify sidewalk hazards (see map below). The property owner is responsible for the cost of repairing their identified hazards. The sidewalks are:

- a. Both sides of Schwarz Rd. from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.
- b. West side of Lawrence Ave. from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.
- c. South side of 7<sup>th</sup> between Lawrence Ave. and Schwarz Rd.
- d. North side of 9<sup>th</sup> between Lawrence Ave. and Schwarz Rd.



Through the ADA Right of Way Transition Program, the City has committed to cost-partnering with property owners to aid in completing the necessary sidewalk repairs. The City will cover costs for things like excavation, grading, ADA curb ramps, design, traffic control, and any hazards related to city-owned property (including street trees).

Property owners adjacent to the affected sidewalks will be receiving letters introducing the program and explaining the process. To learn more about the ADA Right of Way Transition Program, visit the website at: [<https://lawrenceks.gov/mso/ada/>]

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### When Recycling, “Check Before you Chuck.”

Did You Know? At the City of Lawrence Recycling Program, “Nesting” is our #1 recycling problem.

When smaller items get stuffed inside a cardboard box or paper bag and then tossed in the blue cart, it feels organized... but at the recycling facility, it often turns into trash. This is called “nesting” your recyclables.

**Here's why nesting is bad:** staff and equipment can't quickly tell what's inside mixed boxes. That increases contamination and the whole box may be pulled off the line.

**Keep it simple:** recyclables should be loose in the cart

**Dump your recyclable items** into your blue bin -- don't leave them in a bag or box

**Break down boxes** and make sure they're totally empty (no "bonus items" inside)

Clean, sortable recycling helps keep contamination down and keeps more material out of the landfill. Please check before you chuck.

**For more information visit:** [lawrenceks.gov/recycling](http://lawrenceks.gov/recycling)

From [The Flame Online](#). The Flame Online is an excellent way to learn more about and have a voice in what is happening in Lawrence.

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### **2026 Construction Preview Released by City**

The City of Lawrence has released its 2026 Construction Preview, a quick, community-friendly guide to major City projects and transportation improvements planned for the year ahead, including project timelines, expected traffic impacts, and ways to stay informed.

The preview is now available online at [lawrenceks.gov/construction](http://lawrenceks.gov/construction).

One of the planned projects takes place on the east border of Sunset Hill Neighborhood, on Iowa St. from 6th St. to Harvard Rd. Street maintenance work including mill and overlay, curb and gutter work, stormwater/ADA improvements, and anticipated lane reductions and turning restrictions during construction. Construction will begin in late Summer 2026.

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### **Efforts to Remove Camping from Centennial Park Stalled**

The SHNA Executive Committee (EC) has been in contact with the Lawrence Homeless Solutions Division (HSD) for the last two years regarding campers northeast of Centennial Park. One year ago, the HSD stated they would be working to transition the campers into housing, trespass them if necessary, and eventually clean the camp.

Recently, in response to an inquiry by the EC, the HSD stated that city staff would continue to make efforts to house the campers, but that the city would not be able to trespass them. This is because the camp is on land owned by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and is part of the intersection of US 59 and US 24/40 (6<sup>th</sup> and Iowa). KDOT initially agreed to work with the city to remove the camp but later stated they would not trespass campers on the land.

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**That's all for now. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!**

And thanks for supporting SHNA!