

## Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Spring 2026 Newsletter

### SHNA Annual Meeting Draft Minutes – 2026

Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association 2026 Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2026, 7:00 PM, West Middle School Cafeteria

Draft Minutes

- I. Matthew Paul, President welcomes guests and introduction of 2025-2026 Executive Committee Members in attendance: Matthew Paul, Joan Stone, James Jordan, Marianna Nieto, Jon Dunham, David Mucci and Rusty Monhollon
- II. Treni Wescott, Code Compliance Manager, City of Lawrence, Planning and Development Services, was introduced. Treni presented and reviewed various topics regarding code compliance and specific criteria and guidelines. Google City of Lawrence Code Compliance for various departments and contacts. Treni answered questions of members
- III. Treasurer's Report was given by James Jordan. SHNA donated \$50.00 to Sunset Hill Elementary, West Middle School and Community Mercantil Education Foundation. Annual dues are \$5.00. Mr. Jordan has sheets on the table for anyone wishing to pay their dues today. The report was approved by acclamation.
- IV. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting were approved by acclamation:  
<https://sunsethillna.org/2025/05/06/annual-meeting-draft-minutes-2025/>
- V. New Business:
  - a. Matthew Paul gave a summary of the SHNA Executive Committee for 2025 and reviewed the Nominees for the 2026-2027 Executive Committee:
    - i. Nominate James Jordan to serve an additional 3-year term,
    - ii. Betsy and Chris Ostrander to serve an additional 3-year term
    - iii. Matthew Paul to serve an additional 3-year term
    - iv. Request for any volunteers for the Vice-President Officer (currently open). No one volunteered for the Vice-President position.
    - v. All positions were approved by acclamation.
  - b. Matthew Paul reviewed the Applause Awards process.

- i. Joan Stone asked members to send her nominations for any community improvements they notice.  
(<https://sunsethillna.org/2025/10/26/applause-award-winners-2025/>)
- c. SHNA quarterly newsletter is published by Gary Webber and Matthew Paul.
- d. Past clean-up of Ludlam Park and Centennial Park were reviewed. Clean up for 2025 was not scheduled due to the encampments located in the parks. The City of Lawrence recently cleared and restored the encampment sites (April 2025). Thank you!
- e. SHNA has worked with the Traffic Management Program to calm traffic on Crestline. Speed bumps have been installed on Crestline between Bob Billings and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- f. In the past we have hand-delivered “Welcome Neighbor” packets to new property owners.
- g. SHNA members attended monthly Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods (LAN) meeting.
- h. SHNA members participated with Lawrence Library on strategic planning.
- i. Matthew Paul concluded the meeting reviewing the SHNA Goals – and asked for any recommendation, open for member comments/additions (see attached goals).
- j. Contact us at [exec@sunsethillna.org](mailto:exec@sunsethillna.org) - Or via webpage “contact us”

VI. Meeting was adjourned.

### **Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Goals**

#### **"Ultimate" goal – Improve the neighborhood as a place to live**

- I. Neighborhood Quality (Physical condition, appearance, and upkeep)
  - 1. Curbs, Streets & Sidewalks
  - 2. Beautification (landscaping, entrances, signage)
  - 3. Parks & Green Spaces
  - 4. Code Compliance & Property Standards

- II. Safety & Security (Reducing risk and increasing resident confidence)
  - 1. Traffic Safety (speeding, signage, crosswalks, traffic calming)
  - 2. Crime Prevention & Awareness (neighborhood watch, communication with police, alerts)
  - 3. Emergency Preparedness (storm readiness, communication plans, resource awareness)
  - 4. Safe Public Spaces (parks, walking paths, visibility, maintenance tied to safety)
  - 5. Lighting Improvements (streetlights, dark areas, park lighting)
- III. Community Engagement (Building connection and participation)
  - 1. Social Events
  - 2. Applause / Recognition Awards
  - 3. Volunteer Opportunities
  - 4. Communication (newsletter, social media, updates)
  - 5. Welcoming New Residents
- IV. Advocacy & Partnerships (Representing neighborhood interests and building external relationships)
  - 1. City Engagement (coordination with city officials, council meetings, LAN)
  - 2. Infrastructure Advocacy (streets, utilities, public services)
  - 3. Development & Zoning Awareness (monitoring changes, community input)
  - 4. Grants & Funding Opportunities (identifying and pursuing funding sources)
  - 5. Partnerships (schools, local organizations, nearby neighborhoods, businesses)

**EC Meeting Draft Minutes – Spring 2026**

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 6:30 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. Matthew Paul, President, welcomes Executive Committee. Members in attendance: Matthew Paul, Joan Stone, James Jordan, Marianna Nieto, Jon Dunham, Rusty Monhollon, David Mucci, Betsy and Chris Ostrander and Gary Webber
- II. Annual Meeting Recap: Treni Westcott's presentation was informative. All members agreed the Centennial Park cleanup was successful and appreciated. Minutes of April 28, 2026, Annual Meeting were approved by acclamation.
- III. Treasurer's Report was given by James Jordan. SHNA donated for 2025 and 2026. \$50.00 to Sunset Hill Elementary, West Middle School and Community Mercantil Education Foundation. The report was approved by acclamation.
- IV. Old Business:
  - a. The committee discussed member renewals. Membership in 2026 is about half of what it was in 2025. Gary Webber has sent emails and will send a reminder email. The committee also discussed ways to increase membership. Next year, members plan to walk through the neighborhood and distribute flyers.
  - b. LAN. You can go onto the LAN Website for any current information. Gary Webber reviewed details from the last LAN Meeting. Same topics as before. Strategic City Planning and Funding.
- V. New Business:
  - a. Goals and follow up:
    - i. Community Engagement: we could add a virtual option for members to view our next annual meeting and hopefully increase attendance.
    - ii. Possibly piggyback to another event with the annual meeting such as a bake sale.
  - b. Sunset Hill Neighborhood entrance signs remain on hold. Although the signs would be a nice addition, the cost is too high at this time.
  - c. Matthew Paul reviewed our goals and asked Gary to put them in the newsletter.
  - d. Matthew Paul gave a summary of the SHNA Executive Committee for 2025 and reviewed the positions for the 2026-2027 Executive Committee. The new terms were approved by acclamation and renewed:
    - i. Nominate James Jordan to serve an additional 3-year term,

- ii. Betsy and Chris Ostrander to serve an additional 3-year term
  - iii. Matthew Paul to serve an additional 3-year term
  - iv. Joan Stone to serve an additional 2 years
  - v. No one volunteered for the Vice-President position
- e. Matthew Paul suggested we scheduled the next meeting for August 19, 2026

VI. Meeting was adjourned.

## **SHNA News**

### **Speed Humps Installed on Crestline**

The month of May saw the installation of speed humps at five locations along Crestline Drive from Yale Road to Bob Billings Parkway. These traffic calming devices were the result of an application submitted last year to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program. The application was submitted by a group of about 80 residents living near Crestline and the Executive Committee of SHNA.

While Sunset Hill residents may have mixed opinions on the merits and efficacy of speed humps, there is little doubt that traffic on Crestline has decreased in both volume and speed. This is good news for residents along the street who have struggled for years to enter and exit their driveways, and to pedestrians attempting to cross this collector street. Sunset Hill is one of the most walkable neighborhoods in Lawrence, and the completion of this project has improved the safety of the entire neighborhood.

The Executive Committee of SHNA has been working to slow traffic on Crestline for at least 5 years and is grateful to the department of Municipal Services and Operations for their support. The city engineer and his staff did an excellent job of informing the neighborhood of the proposed project, gathering community input, and keeping residents informed about the project once it was approved. Overall, 74 of the 111 respondents to a call for public input supported the proposed speed cushions, 9 indicated partial support and 27 were not supportive of the proposed speed cushions.

The efforts of SHNA were critical to the success of this project. The EC would like to thank the residents who signed the petition supporting the application, and especially Mike Malone who facilitated the gathering of signatures. When we work together, we have the power to make positive changes that improve the safety and livability of Sunset Hill Neighborhood. Your annual dues to SHNA make these changes possible. If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, now is a good time to do so. You can renew either online or via the mail from our membership page at:

<https://sunsethillna.org/join-shna/>

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## **Executive Committee Finalizes SHNA Goals**

At their fall and winter meetings 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.”

At the Annual Meeting on April 28, SHNA President Matthew Paul reviewed the goals developed by the EC and asked for additional suggestions from the participants. The final list of goals is included in the draft minutes of that meeting in the opening article of this newsletter.

SHNA is always interested in hearing from neighborhood residents about concerns they have and suggestions for future goals. If you would like to provide input, the easiest way is to email SHNA President Matthew Paul at [president@sunsethillna.org](mailto:president@sunsethillna.org), or to the Executive Committee at [exec@sunsethillna.org](mailto:exec@sunsethillna.org). You can also join our quarterly EC meetings online by requesting an invitation in an email to the President. Matthew will reply with an invitation and a link to the online meeting.

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## **Neighborhood News**

### **Campsites Removed from Centennial Park**

After many years of working with the city Homeless Solutions Division (HSD) to urge the city to remove the campsites in Centennial Park and return a safe park to the citizens of Lawrence, the SHNA Executive Committee is pleased to see that the camps were removed in April. The EC contacted HSD Director Misty Bosch-Hastings to thank her for this much-needed remediation. My email thanking her for her efforts, and her reply are copied below.

Hi Misty,

Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Executive Committee was extremely pleased to see that the camps northeast of Centennial Park have been removed. We are hopeful that the park can now return as a place for Lawrence residents and visitors to enjoy recreation and nature. I hope you were successful in finding safe homes for the campers.

I would like to update our members in the next SHNA newsletter. Could you help me by briefly explaining how you were able to relocate the campers despite resistance from

KDOT? When we last communicated, KDOT was unwilling to trespass the campers on their land.

Once again, thanks for your efforts on behalf of the unhoused in Lawrence. I know you have been frustrated by the unremitting criticism and the lack of appreciation for the Homeless Response Team's efforts and the real success you have achieved. Please know that we appreciate your tireless work on behalf of the unhoused and the Lawrence community.

Gary Webber

Hi Gary,

Thank you for your message. I really appreciate you reaching out and your continued support.

I know this encampment has been very concerning for your neighborhood for some time. Because the area was on KDOT property, our ability to act was limited until we received permission to move forward. Once that was in place, we were able to coordinate efforts to address the site, with KDOT fiscally supporting the cleanup on their property.

Throughout this process, the Homeless Response Team remained focused on engaging individuals and working toward safer, more stable outcomes. So far this year, four individuals from that encampment have entered treatment, achieved sobriety, and are now housed. Others have transitioned into shelter or relocated to other areas outside of Douglas County.

At this time, there are no large encampments remaining in Lawrence. We do still see smaller, short-term "pop-up" situations with individuals who are more resistant to services, but those are much more manageable and allow our team to respond quickly and consistently. Please don't hesitate to reach out if your neighborhood notices individuals beginning to camp. That early communication really helps us step in quickly and keep situations from growing into larger encampments.

I hope this progress brings a sense of relief to your neighborhood and allows Centennial Park to be enjoyed as intended.

Thank you again for your kind words - it truly means a lot.

Misty

The EC has been involved in efforts to house the campers in Centennial for as long as this problem has existed. We know you are as proud of Centennial Park as we are and are equally pleased to see it return to its place as a premier recreation spot in Lawrence. If you

support the efforts of the SHNA Executive Committee, please consider joining SHNA or renewing your membership. Your \$5 annually makes our work on your behalf possible. Thanks.

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**That's all for now. Stay cool this summer!**

And thanks for supporting SHNA!