

Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association Spring 2026 Newsletter

EC Meeting Draft Minutes – Summer 2026

SHNA Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 6:30 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. Matthew Paul, President, welcomes the Executive Committee. Members on-line in attendance: Matthew Paul, Gary Webber, James Jordan, Joan Stone, Mariana Hinojosa and David Mucci
- II. Minutes of May 20, 2026, Spring Meeting were approved by acclamation.
- III. Treasurer's Report was given by James Jordan: Annual Donations (50\$) to Sunset Hill Elementary, West Middle School and Community Mercantile Education Foundation have been given for this year. Checks will need to be ordered soon. Gary Webber will research options for costs on ordering checks. A balance of \$1,154.52. The report was approved by acclamation.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. The committee discussed the membership drive and low renewal rates. Gary Webber has included membership information in the newsletters. The committee considered sending letters, postcards, or an email reminder before the next annual meeting. Postcards would be easier and less expensive to mail and could also be distributed to new families in the Sunset Hill neighborhood. The committee agreed to mail postcards before the next annual meeting.
 - b. LAN Update by Gary Webber. LAN has a new secretary, currently no updates are available on their website. LAN did send out a Vision 2020 Committee Engagement form from the City of Lawrence. This form is due by December 22, 2026. The executive committee agreed to meet in person at The Merc on Wednesday, November 11th at 6:30 to discuss and complete the form.
 - c. Vice President office is still open.
 - d. Google group (<https://groups.google.com/g/shna-ec>) for the EC is working well and all members have access. Google file store / calendar and Web hosting has moved to another website due to cost. A site for all members to have access is our goal.

e. Gary Webber reviewed the list of past activities and planned content for the October newsletter. The newsletter will highlight the Applause Awards and invite nominations from residents and committee members.

V. New Business

a. Jon Dunham's passing left a vacancy on the Executive Committee. The committee will seek nominations at the next annual meeting. Members who know a neighbor interested in joining the committee should reach out.

b. Recurring Goals/Discussion: Gary Webber proposed forming a committee to clean Centennial Park and is seeking a group to take on the task. The city has an online form that should be completed. The committee will revisit the topic in the spring. Gary and his wife, Phyllis, currently clean Ludlam Park three times a year.

c. Storm shelter possibilities were also discussed. Many Sunset Hill homes do not have a basement. This option would improve the quality of our neighborhood. The City of Lawrence does not have a resource for storm shelters. In the past a local church was considered. The Committee agreed to consider any options and review this topic again.

d. The fall meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

VI. Adjourn meeting

SHNA News

Jon Dunham, EC member Since 2021, Passed Away

Long-time Sunset Hill resident Jon Woodward Dunham, died unexpectedly at his home on June 5, 2026. He was born May 12, 1941, in McPherson, Ks., son of Maxine and Howard Dunham.

Jon was active in the community, and in SHNA. He served on the Executive Committee starting in 2021. His support was very much appreciated, and he will be missed. For an obituary in the Journal World, follow this link:

<https://obituaries.ljworld.com/us/obituaries/ljworld/name/jon-dunham-obituary?id=61696965>

Opening in EC and in Officer Position

Because of the way SHNA is organized, the Executive Committee (EC) is the sole administrative body in the Neighborhood Association. The EC has nine members, four of whom are Officers.

They meet quarterly and address issues and projects involving SHNA. Their volunteer work is vital to the successful functioning of the Association.

With the passing of Jon Dunham last June, there is now an opening on the EC. In addition, the Vice President position is also vacant. The EC would like to invite anyone living or owning property in Sunset Hill to consider volunteering for one of these positions. If you would like to learn more about the duties of the EC and Vice President, follow the link below to the "About" page of our website:

<https://sunsethillna.org/about/>

If you are interested in volunteering, please email SHNA President Matthew Paul at president@sunsethillna.org.

Call for Applause Award Nominations

It is time again to nominate our neighbors for the annual SHNA Applause Award!

Once a year the Sunset Hill Neighborhood Association recognizes neighbors who have recently enhanced their home through renovations, landscaping, or other improvements. If you know of someone that has been working hard on their home, rental, or business and would be a good candidate for this award, please send a nomination email to Joan Stone at jomstone1959@gmail.com.

Thank your neighbors for their hard work and investment in Sunset Hill! Nominate them in an email to Joan! The names of the 2026-2027 Applause Award recipients will be published in the Winter issue of this newsletter._

SHNA Membership at Lowest Point in Years

SHNA membership as of the September 16, 2026 EC meeting totals 56. This is almost exactly one half of the 2025 membership. This decline was discussed at the September 16 EC meeting. A number of possible reasons were discussed, including the decision to send email invitations to the Annual Meeting rather than the traditional mailed letters, not flyering the neighborhood as in years past, and others. Since we are over half way through our Mar.-April membership year, the EC decided to focus on increasing membership for the 2027-2028 year.

If you would like to support SHNA with your \$5 resident or \$10 business dues, you can join or renew at: <https://sunsethillna.org/join-shna/>.

Neighborhood News

Sidewalk Repair Near Sunset Hill Elementary Upgraded

At the 2025 annual meeting, one participant asked about issues involving the sidewalk South of Sunset Hill Elementary that connects Yale Rd. to Wellington Rd. The participant noted that rainwater runoff was eroding the ground beside the sidewalk and creating mud puddles after rains and slippery conditions during freezing weather.

Not long after that meeting landscape crews from USD 497 installed plastic barriers to deflect rainwater runoff from the sidewalk. Unfortunately, this was only partially successful. Runoff continued to erode the soil south of the sidewalk and accumulate at the base of the slope. A month later, the landscaping crew returned, removed the plastic barrier, and installed a runoff filter tube along the sidewalk. This proved more effective, but still allowed erosion.

Early this spring, USD 497 again addressed this issue by installing a concrete curb in place of the runoff filter tube. This solution was very effective, and erosion of the soil south of the sidewalk has stopped.

In related news, after requests from neighbors, West Middle School administration agreed to close shutters on HVAC enclosures on the roof of the school. This reduces noise pollution in the neighborhood.

The Executive Committee would like to thank USD 497 for their prompt action on these issues. Lawrence Public Schools works hard to maintain safe and attractive campuses. Their efforts to solve traffic issues, though not always entirely successful, have improved traffic conditions at the end of school days around both schools. The SHNA EC thanks them for their efforts in a small way each year, by donating \$50.00 to each school for their general funds. By working together with our public schools, we help provide a safe and supportive environment for the education of Lawrence students.

Safe Winter Walkways Program

Lawrence residents are needed to volunteer for the Safe Winter Walkways Program.

Volunteers are matched with residents needing assistance shoveling the sidewalk in front of their house, and the program makes every effort to match volunteers with residents in their neighborhoods.

- All volunteers are asked to commit to the entire snow season and be willing to shovel after each winter weather event.

- Volunteers are not required to provide snow removal for private driveways, sidewalks or walkways, but they may choose to also clear those.

More information is on our website: lawrenceks.gov/safe-winter-walkways

From “The Flame Online”.

Lawrence Public Library Wants to Help with your Little Free Library

In an effort to better serve the Lawrence Community, Lawrence Public Library Friends and Foundation has begun offering free books to owners of Little Free Libraries (LFL). These books are left over from their periodic book sales.

If you would like more information on this program, or would like to add your name to the list of LFL owners, contact Angela Hyde, Program Coordinator of the LPL Friends & Foundation at ahyde@lawrence.lib.ks.us.

That’s all for now. Enjoy the fall colors!

And thanks for supporting SHNA!