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Pensacola Park Post

A Monthly Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association Distribution
Find us also on the web @ www.PensacolaPark.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Neighborhood Yard Sale

Neighborhood yard sale scheduled for Friday August 12th and Saturday August 13th. The event will include any neighbor who wants to participate within the Pensacola Park District. Timing is up to the individual homeowner. PPNA will make an official announcement in the post in August, along with a generic post for yard signs, Craigslist, and Facebook. Individual homeowners are in charge of promoting their own yard sale details.

HISTORY CORNER: Lexington's Union Station by Rebecca C. Glasscock

Although the private motor car was all the rage, trains and buses were still viable transportation options as Pensacola Park became a reality. Greyhound employed five early residents of Pensacola Park: Douglas Ross, a driver, who moved to 151 Wabash in 1942; Joseph Clarks, a supervisor, who moved to 163 Goodrich in 1947; Arlow Knight, a driver, who moved to 1875 Pensacola Drive in 1947; Raymond Park, a driver, who moved to 111 Goodrich in 1947; Earl Pelfrey, a driver, who moved to 1877 Pensacola Park in 1947; Harold Waits, a driver, who moved to 132 Wabash in 1950.



Compared to the bus, the train was a much more powerful force, in terms of moving people and goods. Kentucky's railroad history goes back to the early 1830s, when Kentucky's first railroad company, the Lexington and Ohio, built a railroad between Lexington and Frankfort. When it began full operation in 1834, the cars were pulled by horses. Later, the train was powered by wood. In 1851, the railroad, built by the Louisville and Frankfort Company, was extended to Louisville. Chartered in 1850, the Louisville and Nashville (the L&N), was Kentucky's first interstate common carrier railroad, completing a line to Nashville in 1859. By 1900, Kentucky had 3,000 miles of rail mileage, but by that time, Lexington's rail depots were already run-down. Rather than building separate depots, the L&N, Chesapeake & Ohio (the C&O), and Lexington and Eastern decided to build one together, Union Station. Southern declined to participate and built their own depot on South Broadway. In 1905, property on Main Street was purchased from the Lexington Auditorium Company. As seen in the picture, a viaduct was built over the railroad tracks so one would not need to cross the tracks when going between High and Main. The station opened on August 4, 1907. A reported 3,000 came to celebrate as C&O Passenger Train #24 pulled into the station. At its peak, up to 26 passenger trains passed through Union Station a day. During those glory days of the train, the rails provided livelihoods for several Pensacola Park residents: John W. Combs (who moved to 122 Rosemont in 1923) was a flagman for the L&N; Chester Holliday (who moved to 108 Suburban in 1928) was a brakeman; Jack Robinson (who moved to 149 Rosemont in 1928) was a switchman; James Gallagher (who moved to 132 Penmoken in 1930), was an assistant cashier for Railway Express Agency; Quigley Webster (who moved to 131 Suburban in 1930) was a switchman; William Yent (who moved to 133 Suburban in 1931-32) was a Division Passenger Agent for the C&O; Thomas Riley (who moved to 101 Penmoken in 1933-34) was a chauffeur for the Railway Express Agency; Ann Wilgus (who moved to 114 Suburban in 1935) worked for the L&N as a stenographer; Russell Arnold (who moved to 176 Penmoken in 1937) was a cashier for the C&O; Delbert Furman (who moved to 157 Suburban in 1937) was a signalman for Southern; Raymond Smith (who moved to 139 Suburban in 1937) was a signalman; and John Sweeney (who moved to 160 Wabash in 1948-49) was a clerk for the L&N. The first train in had been the C&O; alas, the last one was as well. On May 9, 1957, the C&O George Washington ended the passenger rail era in Lexington. The next year, in March of 1960, the building was demolished and Stewart Dry Good's garage was built. Today, the Fayette County Clerk's office, the Lexington Police Department, and a parking garage occupy the site.



DREAMTIME

Market Gardens

Free delivery of produce every Saturday in Pensacola Park on orders of \$15 or more. Please order no later than Friday for a Saturday delivery. Your order supports local organic foods and Pensacola Park residents.

For more info, check us out at www.dreamtimemarketgardens.com



CANDIDATE Q&A:

Every election Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association reaches out to the candidates to ask them a series of questions generated from the neighborhood. This year is no different. We will post in the upcoming newsletters responses from the candidates who sought to engage with our neighborhood efforts. If you do not see a candidate below, they have not responded to our request to meet our neighborhood nor answered our questionnaire. If you see a “no response” followed by a date, they did not respond to the questionnaire but have scheduled a time to meet with our neighborhood. The full Q&A can be found on our website (www.pensacolapark.org) under the 2022 LFUCG Candidate Q&A tab along with the scheduled date and time for the candidates who are coming to meet the neighborhood in person.

3rd Question Asked: *Per the KRS Chapter 67C, fair, diverse representation is cited as a must when it comes to a planning commission, but Lexington has declared itself not a consolidated local government but an urban county government under KRS Chapter 67a, which means it has its own governing rules in this arena. Currently, they do not have governing bylaws that address a balanced governing body, nor mandates that only a certain number of appointees sit on the commission that have direct financial interests in development; there seems to be no restrictions on how long a district representation can sit on the commission, no real transparency on who is sitting on the board (e.g. more than just a name on LFUCG website), and a lack of professional representation when it comes to the city's infrastructure (e.g. social workers, environmentalists, landscape architects, urban planners, civil engineers, professors, transportation engineers, traffic engineers, storm water engineers, etc). While the planning commission is appointed by the mayor, they are confirmed by Council. If you are elected to the Council, how do you propose amending our current planning commission bylaws to be more transparent, equal and fair?*



Response by At-Large Candidate, Bill Farmer Jr.: I wouldn't limit the conversation to just the Planning Commission.

Response by At-Large Candidate, Chuck Ellinger: No written response given. Verbal response was given verbally at the June 2nd 7pm meeting at Hunter Presby.



Response by At-Large Candidate, James Brown: I strongly believe in transparency and accountability, in addition to having good, diverse and equitable representation on all our boards and commissions. I am in support of a full review of our city's charter to ensure that as our community continues to grow and develop we have the right designation and structures in place.



Response by At-Large Candidate, Richard Moloney: The mayor and Council are committed to diversity and inclusion across all boards and commissions. The Planning Commission, like every other board, has term limits and members are bound by the ethics rules regarding financial disclosures and conflicts of interest. When approving applicants, we strive for diverse representatives from our community willing to serve as volunteers.



Response by At-Large Candidate, Dan Wu: I think it's vital to bring impacted communities and neighborhoods into planning & development process early and often with the city playing a facilitator role. I would like to see that engagement be a requirement of developments, especially those seeking zone changes. I think City Council should use the Comprehensive Plan's goals & objectives to assess each of the mayor's Planning Commission appointments to ensure they will uphold those aims.



Response by District 10 Candidate, Dave Sevigny: I've reviewed the bylaws for the Planning Commission and they can only currently be changed by the Commission themselves. Lexington has a large number of diverse and talented people, and it would be helpful to further specify in the bylaws certain types of representation on the Commission. The current bylaws seem to handle ethics on the Commission in a reasonable way. It would be helpful to have the makeup of members of the commission have specific talents or requirements that would enable them to be able to question the LFUCG Dept of Planning more credibly on cases that come before the Commission. Any commission or council should be used as a check and balance to make sure that staff and employees are presenting things thoroughly and fairly – and one of the ways to do that is to ensure your commissions and councils are equipped and confident to ask the right questions. I'm also in favor of term limits for everything because it's only with those that we can proceed to get new and innovative ideas in place vs. “we've always done it that way.”



Response by Incumbent Mayor, Linda Gorton: One of the primary goals since taking office is to increase diversity and transparency on all of our boards and commissions. We need to do a better job of clearly providing information to the community. Community members should not have to dig through a variety of laws and rules to find the answers to simple questions. I am grateful for your question, and I will tackle this issue. The Planning Commission does such important work and is very demanding on members. My appointments have been diverse and inclusive. Instead of waiting for people to apply, I have conducted fairs and workshops around the city to educate community members about LFUCG boards/commissions and increase and diversify the pool of applicants and increase transparency across our government. I wanted to provide some additional resources and information to your questions. Voters in the city of Lexington and Fayette County approved a ballot referendum in 1974 to merge into a single governmental unit – an “urban county government” created and governed by KRS Chapter 67A. Lexington-Fayette County is the only urban county government in Kentucky. There are laws and rules that address some of the issues raised by the question. The Planning Commission is required to be comprised of 11 members and the terms are 4 years. (Zoning Ordinance, Section 1-8). Each member is eligible to serve 3 consecutive 4-term years (Council Rule, Sec. 4.506). The Planning Commission is required by statute to adopt bylaws that govern how it conducts its business (lexingtonky.gov/planning-commission). By statute, only the Planning commission can amend its bylaws.



Response by Mayoral Candidate, David Kloiber: I agree that our planning commission is not representative of the concerns of our residents, and as Mayor I will appoint new members from diverse backgrounds in order to address the problem. If there is an interest in creating requirements to the appointment process to prevent these issues from happening again, I am happy to work through the process with the community. A brief outline of the process is as follows: There would need to be support for a referendum, and after a successful vote, the state representatives would be asked to vote to amend 67a to include similar language to 67c. The process would take some time, but I would gladly work with the community on this, as it is currently the only way to amend the issue posed in your question.

ABOUT PENSACOLA PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY AND PENSACOLA PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Pensacola Park Preservation Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed by Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association in order to bring together residents and businesses located in the Pensacola Park Nationally Registered Historic Boundary, for the common good of (1) preserving the historic integrity and resources of the area; (2) creating an environment that promotes sustainable and appropriate growth for the neighborhood; (3) providing historic education and assistance to those in the Pensacola Park Neighborhood for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic homes, structures, and landscapes; and (4) Unifying and being representative of all the original streets in the Pensacola Park Historic boundary. Also check us out online at www.pensacolapark.org, and follow us on Facebook @ Pensacola Park Neighborhood Association.

If you have any questions or would like to submit topics or op-eds to Pensacola Park Post, please feel free to write us at pensacolapark@gmail.com. If you would like to stop receiving the free monthly post, please write us and put “stop post” in the heading, along with your physical address. Thank you.