

**Lawrence Community Meeting Re: 128 N Union Street**

Thu, Jun 01, 2023, 5:30PM • 38:00

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 00:02**

I'm your city alderperson. I'm sorry there's no room in this [...]. I'll stand right next to you. Anyway we're [...]. This is a great opportunity to communicate together. [...] to learn the situation.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 00:16**

I just want to kick things off a little bit of kind of reminding us where we are in this conversation. Did anybody walk through campus to get to this building, [or in circles?] Did any of you see any beautiful historic buildings on the walk over here? Anybody do a little research on Appleton and Lawrence University and how they're connected?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 00:16**

So, let's all first remember the reverence that we all have for history in this city. Right? And the reverence that Lawrence themselves has for the history of this city. There are numerous historic buildings that are used. My meeting earlier today was with the president, um, first opportunity to meet her. And it was in that fabulous building with that tree that I have no idea what kind it is, but it's the oldest of its species right here on campus. That's where the president chose to put her office, right?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:10**

So, as we have this conversation, talking about history and talking about working together to keep our history together, let's remember, we're all on the same team. We love history. Lawrence loves history. I live in a house that's on the national registry [...]. Right?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:27**

So, we're here together to talk, to learn about what we can [...], and do it as a community that will be together for another 100 years if we do it right. And if you live in Appleton, you know how important that is. Lawrence University is part of our history, and we want it to be [continuing too]. So, it's [...] a talking together and treating each other as family because we are. We live here together, agreed? So, we're gonna—I'm gonna introduce the president, have her come up, and then we're gonna slide right into a q&a. Everybody good with that? We've got a hard stop at 30 minutes, so we'll give her all the questions in that we need to. Agreed?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 02:00**

Good afternoon, and welcome to Lawrence. Nice to have you all on campus. So, we invited you to come to campus to talk about the fact that that we have made a decision to raze the house on Union Street, because we think it's important for you to understand our commitment to the community. Our commitment to the community extends beyond this campus and also the blocks around it. We've been working really hard at partnering with different community organizations and those that will elevate both Lawrence and the community.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 02:42**

My team members that are here with me today are all a part of our future and the future of this community. This community and the university are very closely tied. And we understand our responsibility in that process. When I came to Lawrence two years ago, I of course, spent some time learning about the community but also about the infrastructure of our campus. And that infrastructure does require work.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 03:13**

When you have historic buildings, you have to give them a certain amount of care. Unfortunate, there also—there is a building that has not received the care that it needed in order for it to be a viable building. And that building on Union Street is the one that we, after a painstaking process of discussion on campus with our board, and you're really thinking about how or whether it could be saved, we made the difficult decision to take it down.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 03:48**

But we've also made it in the context of other buildings that we have, we have two homes on N Park Street for instance that I look at every single day because they're right across the street from me. And we have decided to make an investment in having those houses [...] so that they can lift up the community. That's the work that we are trying to do, but we have to do it within the context of higher education and a focus on our students and our employees and what we need to do for them as well. So that is how we came to this conclusion. It is where things stand right now. We're happy to hear your thoughts. And I turn [...].

**Alderman Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 04:37**

Alright, it's Q&A time. Are you ready?

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 04:45**

Hi, Kris. I just want to also clarify that I am the alderman for the district in question here. So, City Park district, so happy to represent your voices on Council and communicate with the university, however you might need. Because of where we are, we're right on the boundary. So, Kris represents Lawrence and the Lawrence community, and I represent the homes around Lawrence.

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 05:08**

So, we do have quite a few questions that came in either on my email or comments from the community. Most of them regarding this sort of track record that LSU having a history of razing homes in the City Park neighborhood. And how is this—I mean, when is this going to stop is essentially part of the questions here. So, I'll just read a couple of the comments just—I said I'd read them, so I'll read them. So, "LU has a bad history and reputation of letting historic homes fall into disrepair. This must stop." This a neighbor on Union Street. "Lawrence has plans to spend 35 million on a—million dollars on a campus gym but can't afford to repair historic property? I don't think so." Another member on District Four. "If LU plans to grow the student population by as many as 500 students shouldn't these spaces be livable, instead of tearing them down?" Neighbor on Eldorado Street. And finally, "I would be very disappointed to see this property go get turned into a parking lot. They have—they already have a parking lot for students at the football stadium. It's not like you're using that space." And that's another member from District Four. And so, I think there's some very good points there. And sort of if you could elucidate to what is the plan for this particular area, thank you.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 06:27**

As I have already indicated, our commitment is to building up communities not tearing them down. I've been here for two years and inherited a house that is in disrepair. That is [...]. I have no intention of turning that land into a parking lot. That is not our thinking. We are simply taking down a structure that is unsafe and [...]. So, we're also in the process of a master planning process for our entire campus. And one of the things that's important to us is that we not just build parking lots all over the place. That actually limits the future of the institution [...]. So that's the plan at this point.

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 07:15**

So, nothing going in there to replace it? Just an empty lot?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 07:20**

We are in the process of a facility's master planning process.

**Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4) 07:24**

Master planning process.

**Female Attendee 1 07:25**

Are you in talks with the city about rezoning that specific lot?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 07:29**

No.

**Female Attendee 1 07:29**

For a different use?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 07:32**

Just to clarify, did everybody hear the answer to those questions? The question is: are we taking down the house to put up a parking lot? What was the answer? The answer is no.

**Female Attendee 2 07:47**

What is it zoned for right now?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 07:49**

One question.

**Female Attendee 2 07:50**

Residential? Okay.

**Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:51**

I'm wondering, because I had a conversation with Kurt Craanen, who is the city buildings—building inspection chair. And I'm [not even?] sure that everybody knows that the city was not involved with saying the building is not safe. And [...] what's it called, the state preservation something or other? But the city has to issue a permit to give you permission to do that which will be coming. But the city was not involved in inspecting or condemning or anything.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 08:29**

That is correct.

**Male Attendee 1 08:30**

So why did your flyer say that? I received a flyer in the mail in my mailbox yesterday that specifically said that the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Society, in conjunction with the city of Appleton's Inspections Office came to the determination that because of fire and other safety hazards, that was the reason why the building had to come down. Why did your flyer say that?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 08:54**

So, I, I, I didn't see the flyer. I'm the president. I'm sorry. I didn't send the flyer out. But what I can tell you—and I'm happy to tell you the process—was that, in order for us to take the building down, we have to go to the

State's Historic Preservation Society. And that is done through the city. So, the city was involved in the process of contacting the State Historic Preservation Society. State Historic Preservation Society then communicates that to the city who communicates to the University.

**Male Attendee 2 09:30**

So, what specifically was wrong with the building that you couldn't save it? And why does Lawrence have this history of letting properties get that bad?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 09:40**

I cannot speak to the past. I can only speak to the future. And the future of Lawrence is that we're trying to build up the community in many ways. Some ways I can't talk with you about right now. But that's our goal. And that's why we're fixing the houses on North Park Street. I've been here for two years and in those two years have really made a commitment to this community in ways that we haven't seen in a number of years. But I can't speak to what happened [in the past].

**Female Attendee 2 10:07**

Is there anyone here that can?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 10:10**

No. There isn't [unfortunately].

**Female Attendee 1 10:13**

What specifically was wrong with—what's the fire hazard? Is it knob and tube? Because many of those surrounding the park have knob and tube in the attic. And we're aware of those risks. And...

**Female Attendee 2 10:24**

You got the fire escape.

**Male Lawrence Representative 1 10:25**

I can [...] to that. So, there are issues with the foundation. There are issues, uh, mechanical in the lighting that's in it. It's close to 100-year-old [...]. And we looked at it—our internal piece of equipment, we have had outside experts, contractors come in and look at it as well. And they [...] agree that this cannot be fixed. We will have to tear it down.

**Female Attendee 1 10:53**

I mean, that's really hard to believe. We've sat through 1000s and 1000s of home inspections, specifically at 100 and plus year old homes. And there's always a way to preserve and restore these properties. A fieldstone foundation is like six feet wide or four feet wide. It's not going to crumble in on itself. So—

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 11:20**

[...] for today. Again, many of us in the room that live in and enjoy the historical nature, right? We [are familiar], one, that we own our houses. It's our job to take care of our house to the best of [...]. The University's job is to also respond to everything else in terms of how much in versus how much out. The—it is, legitimately a—it is still a balancing act of can we afford to do this without taking away from that. And this is the situation that any business or organization has to deal with. And I think for our sake, today, we have to understand it wasn't done light heartedly. It is not their intention to level everything historic and put up [modern]. We know that by...

**Female Attendee 1** 12:01

So, I'm just simply saying the cost of the foundation repair and replacing knob and tube, which would be fire hazard and structurally, that can't cost more than a full demolition. So, again, back to what's the intention for the property? And we don't have an answer for that.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 12:21

You have the answer to, that we are going through a facility's master planning process right now. I can tell you that we're not planning to put a parking lot on that property. We're also not planning to build any structures on that property in the short term, because we're going through a process that will take us at least through this calendar year. And then we'll have some [...].

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 12:44

I think you also have to be careful of—and I know that [president] has spoke of this earlier—these guys are making decisions for today and in the future. If 10 years from now, 20 years from now, a different decision is made by a different board, there's no—nobody can make a promise that actually will satisfy the historians in us. All we can say is what are we trying to do? And do we have faith that they are going to do that to take care of the community as best as they can. And I think that that's the best we can get right now. She is saying to you, "It is not our [plan]." And that's true. With the CFO, the attorney, and the president in here saying that, what they can control is what's going on. I'm gonna come to this side if that's okay? [...]

**Female Attendee 3** 13:32

It sounds like you're--because--I'm [...] I live at [XXX]right along the park. I realize there might not be much we can do about the current—and I know you're talking about "we can't promise the future." But what we can do is have a set of policies that guide us for all the homes that Lawrence owns in city park.

**Female Attendee 3** 13:51

So are there policies and procedures how you address. I heard you saying you decided to paint, but is that decision based on some policy that you have internally to guide you? Or is it change from [...]. And I [want to?] say this, but it might light some fires, but I did hear a few years ago, after that house was moved and then burned down, that the university was considering putting a dorm in that general area.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 14:26

Once again, first of all, I don't have a master plan [...]. So, there is—there have been all sorts of conversations over the years about what to do with various properties on campus. I can only speak to where we're going and where we are now and what our plans are [...]. That's all I can speak to. So, I don't really know how to respond to that other than to say our commitment is the lifting of this community, and that's what we're [doing here]. That's [...]

**Female Attendee 3** 14:58

Sure. Regarding this other question, do you have policies in place that guide you on how to [...] and pay for the upkeep of the homes?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 15:06

We have, we have policies on our property absolutely.

**Female Attendee 3** 15:12

And are those policies public?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 15:14**

No. They're not. We're a private institution.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 15:17**

I will say that they have worked with the city to know boundaries and [if there are] any special rules that they must pay attention to. And they follow all of those city ordinances as they're supposed to. So, if there is a standing rule regarding a historic district, they are fully aware of what the lines are and follow to a T as [...].

**Female Attendee 3 15:38**

And one more question, following up on that. Given that we found out about this after the decisions were made, would there be any opposition to having the public be invited to these discussions before the decisions are made in the future regarding the city park?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 15:53**

I'll cover this one if it's okay. We have to remember that Lawrence University is its own entity. Just as if you wanted to work on your house, you probably wouldn't hold a public forum on it. As a private indiv—private organization, they have the right to do on their land what is legal to and following all codes. But I think that by them being here, what they're showing is they want to listen, they want to be good partners and be good stewards of it. And I think that them taking the step of tuning up the paint on the houses that were not mentioned today is a great first step. I think the fact that they did open it up to this discussion is showing that they want to hear, that they want to listen. They want to be able to validate who they are in the community, but what we have to remember, from a legal standpoint, and from the city's standpoint, we don't have the right to say "Don't do that," or "Let us have a vote first," as long as they are operating within their legal [...].

**Male Attendee 3 16:57**

Thank you. I'm a volunteer with the Historical Society and urban planner for many years and a native Appleton. And first of all, I would like to say that it's very unsatisfactory having discussion about this without being able to know a bit about the historic—the history of the site and so forth. Why was that house a [fire?] in the first place? Is that part of a plan? How many other houses out here that are just hanging, they're [acquired] and not being used, and they will come to the city state. And also, I have seen a plaque that says Historic Preservation district. What does that mean, really? Is that house in the district? And doesn't that—aren't there sanctions involved in doing something contrary to the to the objectives of the historical aspect of the neighborhood?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 17:52**

This is the only house that we have plans to raze.

**Male Attendee 2 17:57**

Right now.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 17:59**

This is the only house that we are planning to raze. I cannot speak to what will happen 50 years from now.

**Male Attendee 2 18:06**

You mentioned—when she asked about "Is there a plan in place for these properties?" And you said, "Yes." But clearly there hasn't been for a long time, or they would have been taken care of, right? So, is this a new plan that's been put in place to take...?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 18:19**

I'm a new president.

**Male Attendee 2 18:20**

Oh, I know. And I love what you're doing.

**Female Attendee 1 18:21**

Yeah and...

**Male Attendee 2 18:22**

Thank you.

**Female Attendee 1 18:22**

...appreciate it, and the consideration of total impact, love that. But we're coming from a place—we've all been here longer than that. And there's not been the greatest track record.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 18:36**

That's why we invited you here today.

**Female Attendee 1 18:37**

We appreciate that.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 18:38**

So that we can actually have a dialogue about how we can move forward in a civil manner.

**Male Attendee 2 18:48**

Thank you.

**Female Attendee 2 18:48**

So, I think there's a big question just kind of lingering. If you can explain to us why this particular property hasn't been maintained. You have maintenance staff. We see them all over our neighborhood. But it's clear—because in 2016, if you look at Google Maps—this house was much nicer. How many years ago? Not that long ago. And it has quickly deteriorated, and you've just let it sit. So, what—for what purpose? Why isn't it being used or maintained?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 19:26**

I cannot speak to the decisions that were made prior to my arrival [...].

**Female Attendee 2 19:31**

Well do you have maintenance staff here tonight? Like your sheet said there would be people here to answer these questions. There's other houses...

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 19:39**

[We're answering the questions] that are really relevant to our future. That's what we're here to discuss—our commitment, the commitment that I as the president of Lawrence University today has made to this community and how [...].

**Female Attendee 2 19:54**

Okay, so if we walked around the neighborhood, we can see other houses are quickly becoming the same way. They might be that students live there. That could be whatever. But, you know, looking into the future, we're just curious, like, what's the—are you going to build a three- or four-story dorm dormitory in our neighborhood, our historic neighborhood? You know, we're concerned about our community and our neighborhood. And we consider Lawrence and all the students at Lawrence and the staff our neighbors and our friends. And we try and treat everybody fairly and equally. So, we're just we're just curious for the future. This is kind of a big deal for your neighbors.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 20:38**

I understand it's a big deal. That's why we invited [...]

**Female Attendee 2 20:42**

Okay.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 20:43**

That's why we invited you here. And I think I've already said that we don't have plans to build anything on that property right now. We're in the process of [...] the master planning process.

**Female Attendee 2 20:56**

When those plans come out, will we get more than two days' notice? About a meeting or something? Just so that we can, you know, prepare ourselves? And I mean, there were lots of things that I wanted to research for tonight, but I just didn't have the time. You know, like, what classes could this could Lawrence—classes, which ones could benefit from something like this? You know, like urban studies and history and...?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:24**

Quick question before [...]. Have any of you ever been invited to a community meeting to have these discussions before?

**Male Attendee 1 21:31**

Yes. I have.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:33**

And how long ago was it?

**Someone 21:35**

Peace Park.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:36**

No, I'm talking about Lawrence.

**Male Attendee 1 21:38**

About Lawrence?

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:39**

Has there even been an invite to Lawrence to discuss Lawrence's decision making.



**Male Attendee 1** 21:43

No, and that's part of the problem. That's the problem here.

**Alderperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 21:46

But the good news is, this is the first one.

**Someone** 21:49

Yeah.

**Male Attendee 1** 21:50

No, wait, wait, wait, wait, I'm sorry, person, I really have to apologize here. The reason why this meeting happened is because I emailed you and you about this. And the reason why that happened is because I heard this from one of your facility staff members having a random conversation with me on the street. I live two doors down from this property. I'm arguably the one who's going to be the most impacted by this, not only from the disruption that's happening, or the fact that there are two—or now going to be four vacant lots that Lawrence has that book ends my property. You have been talking about—and I apologize. I'm really, really—I came in here with a very civil sort of understanding sort of mindset. But I've been hearing conversations about how we need to value history, how we need to think about the future, how Lawrence is trying to build up community. And the whole reason why this meeting is happening is because I heard this, and I complained. It had nothing—

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 22:43

That's absolutely not true.

**Male Attendee 1** 22:44

You were planning on having this meeting all the—

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 22:46

Yes. Yes

**Male Attendee 1** 22:46

—the entire time?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 22:47

And you can ask any member of my team.

**Male Attendee 1** 22:49

When? Please tell me what days you guys decided to make this. Please tell me what day you guys decided to have this meeting? And I will gladly tell you when...

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 22:57

[I don't?] know exactly but I tell you that was not in response to your complaint.

**Female Attendee 2** 23:04

What's the date for this to start?

**Male Attendee 1** 23:06

July 1.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 23:07**

I truly don't know how that's helping us move forward. We're here, we're here to talk about...

**Male Attendee 1 23:11**

Well, the reason, the reason why I'm bringing this up, the reason why I'm bringing this up is this: I—like I said I'm most impacted by this. Whatever happens, whatever your future plans are for this property or the vacant property that's at the corner of Washington and Union, both of those things impact me, whether it is a parking lot, whether it is a dormitory, whether it is a classroom building, whether it is green space. I don't know. This—these are conversations that really should be happening, particularly with people that live in the immediate vicinity. When I first met you, I don't know if you remember this.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 23:43**

I remember.

**Male Attendee 1 23:44**

What did you say to me when I met you on the Lawrence green?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 23:47**

I don't remember exactly.

**[There was some laughter.]**

**Male Attendee 1 23:50**

You said, "by virtue of me being a neighbor of Lawrence, that I'm a member of the Lawrence community," and I have taken that to heart. The thing here is we're talking about us being one big happy family, and that we are one big community together and that the whole purpose of Lawrence's goals is to lift up everything that's going on. How is that happening when these decisions are happening behind closed doors? How is this going to happen? If we are not invited into the process of what you happen to do? Whatever decision you do, if it is a parking lot or a dormitory, is going to have a positive or negative impact on my property because I live two doors down from four vacant lots. I feel like it's a little disingenuous to have a community meeting to talk about this particular house and then say, "I do not have any sort of constraint whatsoever to invite you into the future planning of what happens with these properties."

**Male Attendee 1 24:48**

I also think it's disingenuous for the City of Appleton to also take that position. I apologize for saying that, but in other major cities—in any major city—and I'm struck with my own personal experience, Washington In DC—every single university in that city has to submit a 10-year plan to the District Council and get that approved in order to do any development whatsoever. And the reason why is this—this exact reason. The neighbors are the ones who are most impacted by the decisions that are made by private organizations, in the sense this case, the university. We certainly have to have the ability to say, "You know what, this is fine; I'm totally fine with you doing that," or "I think that you need to rethink the strategy, you're going to do X, Y, and Z." And I find that absolutely infuriating that we're being told "No", that we're being told that you have made this decision. You've done it behind closed doors, you're having a community discussion to explain that decision. And that's it. So, I want to hear from you. I want to hear what your vision is after hearing this. Because I know that you came from another large city. You came from Philadelphia, correct me if I'm wrong—New York.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 26:02**

At some point I was in New York. Yes.

**Male Attendee 1 26:06**

This is not germane to just, you know, those large cities. This is—this happens in other cities.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 26:13**

You know, I I'm a bit taken aback, I have to say, by your approach, because we have opened this for discussion. And part of what I was hoping to accomplish today was to figure out how [we would be involved?]. I'm not willing to [...] in a place that's not productive. I am not a disingenuous person, never have been, that's not how I live my life. I am very intentional about the fact that this university has a responsibility to the community. I'm trying to lift it up by fixing two houses that I know are eyesores to the community. I think that's a good step.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 26:58**

I've been here for two years.

**Male Attendee 1 26:58**

I agree with you.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 27:00**

And I have had a lot to do on this campus, to make sure that my students and my faculty and my staff have the care that they need coming out of a pandemic. I started in the middle of a pandemic. So, what I'm doing today is saying, Okay, we realize that we have some properties that have not been positive contributors to our neighborhood. And we want to do something about it, and we have made a commitment to doing something about it. And we want to engage you in the process of doing it. But I want to do it in a positive way. There is no reason for any of us to feel any animosity towards one another.

**Male Attendee 1 27:00**

So have I.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 27:46**

I am new. I am trying to work with you and to figure out a way of working. So, let's do that. Let's talk about how we be productive. I have heard you say you would like to have engagement in the process of the master planning process. Let's think about that. Let's talk about how we can all be good neighbors together in a way that really is positive and allows us to work together to lift up this neighborhood that I know has been brought down by some of the things that we have not done. I am here to try to move forward in a better way.

**Male Attendee 1 28:28**

Understood, and I respect that. I do think before we—one last thing. I do think though, that an evaluation also needs to happen, not just in the properties at the corner of Park and Washington, or this property, in particular at the corner of Union and Washington, but all of the properties that you guys are handling. You are—they're being used as storage facilities for the facility staff. They're being used as a halfway house. They're being used as classroom buildings. A fraternity lives in one of these houses. And these are the historic homes of Appleton. So, I think that there should also be as part of this master plan an evaluation of the uses of these particular properties. Because right now, I don't think that they are being used to their fullest extent.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 29:14**

I could not agree with you more.

**Female Attendee 3** 29:17

It would be great if the city of Appleton or the citizens of Appleton get an idea of what that plan is.

**Female Attendee 1** 29:23

And have another open discussion prior to what happens at that vacant lot.

**Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4)** 29:30

Given that there is so much community interest and feedback concerning this particular process, is the administration possibly open to considering delaying the razing of this home so that more discussion can happen and possibly find that middle ground that satisfies both the community concern yet meets the master plan goals of the university?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 29:53

We are here to listen to the community and then we will go back and make some decisions after this.

**Male Attendee 4** 30:03

How long has Lawrence University owned that structure?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 30:09

I do not know the answer to that. A long time, decades.

**Male Attendee 4** 30:15

Okay, so I see there is a replacement [roof on her?]. It's newer, there's a newer roof on it.

**Female Attendee 5** 30:26

In the long run, would it cost more to repair this house or to tear it down and still [...]

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 30:38

I'll let the CFO over there answer that question. Or maybe the proper answer is—I'm guessing they did...

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 30:44

It will cost significantly more to repair [...]. Significantly more.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 30:48

That's a good question. Good question. Do you have time for one more or no?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 30:52

One more.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 30:52

One more. This gentleman here.

**Male Attendee 5** 30:56

I'd like to say to everybody, appreciate [...] the information that you plan to paint the houses at 224 and 228 Park Street. We really appreciate that. Question is, is there an inventory of the structural or other safety needs of the buildings that Lawrence owns and are there other candidates for demolition? Or are there other buildings

that you guys own that, at this point, are upside down in the calculus of whether it makes sense to maintain that building versus destroy it?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 31:36**

There are no other buildings that we're considering razing at this point. As a matter of fact,...

**Male Attendee 5 31:40**

That's not the question. The question is, has there been inventory of the structure and safety needs of the buildings that you own?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 31:46**

Absolutely, absolutely. So, since my arrival, we have done a lot of work on assessing all of our facilities. That that means on campus as well as [...] community. And so, the work that we are undertaking right now, is really trying to lift them up in appropriate ways. I realized that the houses on North Park are just kind of scratching the surface on some of the things that we have to do. We have to do them. And we will, but we have to do them in a fiscally responsible manner that also supports what needs to happen on campus for our students [...].

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 32:06**

I'm sorry, we haven't touched at all on like the fiscal angle. And one of the questions that I received from a constituent really reflects that in saying that Lawrence is spending money in other parts of the community but isn't spending the money, surely wouldn't take \$35 million to repair this home, or maybe all the properties, all the historical properties. So, are there any initiatives or fundraising efforts that the university is willing to share, that will revitalize the homes that are in disrepair?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 33:03**

We are always fundraising. And...

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 33:05**

For this particular purpose, though?

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 33:07**

If someone wants to give us money to fix those houses, I would be...

**Alderman Israel Del Toro (District 4) 33:11**

But for this specific...

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President) 33:12**

...more than happy to accept that. So yes, facilities are part of our fundraising plan. As a matter of fact, you're a faculty member here, you know very well, that we've made a strategic investment in our facilities, and continue to look at all of our structures to make sure that we are moving them forward in positive ways. So that continues to be a goal, and I'm sorry, but we can take probably one more question.

**Female Attendee 2 33:45**

In regards this house, in particular, it does sound like it's going to happen, the demo is going to happen. Okay. Is there any way—I don't know what's inside—but that Lawrence could offer a way for the neighbors in that district or in our neighborhood around City Park to try and salvage some of the things that are inside that home? For example, lighting, or woodwork or anything. That way we can keep it in the City of Appleton in our neighborhood—the windows, doors, flooring. And I don't mean to like offer it to Urban Evolutions—or what, if

that's, whatever that place is—but I mean, like, genuinely offer it to the neighbors that are going to keep it in that neighborhood? Because some of us are looking for that kind of stuff all the time.

**Male Lawrence Representative 1** 34:41

We can definitely look into it. I don't know what [...]. I don't know what liability issues are going to be. Because that house would also be unsafe for, like, me to go in. And, you know, you need to wear a hardhat and [...].

**Female Attendee 2** 35:03

Okay. I think that's really important to at least-and if there's other houses and buildings in the future, maybe keep that in mind too. I think that was kind of ease a little bit of the pain from that. And Lawrence could benefit from this.

**Laurie Carter (Lawrence University President)** 35:19

Can you please give us your contact information?

**Male Lawrence Representative 2** 35:26

I'll take that also, but if you have—didn't have—if you had questions and you didn't think of them in the way you wanted to express them, or we didn't have time for them, communications at Lawrence.edu will be kind of like fielding questions from specific to this property, to this discussion that we had today.

**Aldersperson Israel Del Toro (District 4)** 35:44

And you can also reach out to your aldermen, happy to mediate those questions and funnel them over to the university.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 35:52

Today is a good start, right? It's not the answers. [...] But it is that we're taking a step forward, and there's conversation questions, and they are listening and taking notes to try and work together. If—this was there a long time, a lot longer than me and a lot longer than most of us. And this is the first time that I'm hearing of that they are sitting down. Whether it was prompted or not at this point is a moot point. At least they're here. And they are listening and making the effort on some of these houses. So, let's take this as meeting number one of a positive half step if nothing else, and then perhaps in the future, we start working together and having these conversations.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 36:32

But you have to appreciate three people showing up who have nothing to do with what got us to this point. They're just trying to get things back in line to what has to happen there. Decisions were put in place decades ago, and they're now trying to sort through that. And I give them credit for standing up here and being ready to take some of the harsh questions that exist because they're valid, and I appreciate us having it.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 36:56

Let's continue to have a conversation. And we'll work together towards more solutions. Again, the voices are out there. The ears are here. Hopefully these conversations can continue. You have alderspersons contact. They gave you the website to go to if you did not fully get your questions answered. And let's move forward and see where this next step takes us.

**Female Attendee 2** 37:15

Can someone just say the date that the demolition is planning to happen or the start of it just so we can...?

**Male Lawrence Representative 1** 37:24  
July 17th through the 20th

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 37:27  
17th through the 20th that was.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 37:29  
Of July. Okay?

**Female Attendee 2** 37:29  
Of July?

**Female Attendee 2** 37:31  
Thank you.

**Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11)** 37:32  
All right. Thank you everybody. Thanks for your questions and your patients. We appreciate it.