

EPNA SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

September 25, 2023 / 6:00 pm / Meeting called to order by President, Andrew Austin
Eastland Parkway Neighborhood Association

Welcome & Attendance

- President Andrew Austin opened meeting at 6:03 at Christ Centered Church
- Thanks to Pastor Willie and the church for opening their facility
- Council Member Denise Gray gave opening remarks concerning a letter she received from the Health Department and the possible impact on the neighborhood.
- About 50 people were in attendance.

Special Meeting concerning Health Dept Needle Exchange Program at Anniston Mini Mart

John Moses, Team Leader of the Harm Reduction Program

- Proposed a 2 hour a week mobile unit for needle exchange at Mini Mart on Anniston Drive
- Mission of Health Department to keep Lexington well and caring for all people.
- Harm Reduction includes seat belts, child car seats, smoking, stop signs, alcohol abuse and drug abuse.
- Why a needle exchange program? To prevent infection. 5 times more likely to go into treatment.
- Kentucky and West Virginia are areas where drugs and infections are most vulnerable.
- Only Health Departments can provide needle exchange.
- It was approved in 2015 by the City Council. Cost effective - 10 cent needle versus \$10,000 HIV infection.
- Narcon will be available. Narcon does not work for fentanyl.
- Generic Narcon will be less expensive so more can be available.
- 210 people died of opioid overdoses in KY.
- Return rate of 90% of needles. Start with a bag of ten. The mobile unit will build relationships.
- 555 referred to treatment programs.

Question and Answers - Concerns of Neighborhood

- Close proximity to schools, daycares, and parks
- Children walking home from school and bus stops.
- Drawing more people into the neighborhood from Eastland, Catholic Action Center, Marathon Station on New Circle and Bryan Station in.
- In summary, the majority of the speakers were very understanding of the need for a needle exchange program but strongly opposed the location at the back of a neighborhood. Expressing the idea that there are many other locations nearby that are better suited and would potentially reach more people who need this program. The Health Dept said they would take that back for committee discussion and welcomed alternative location suggestions and contacts.

Next Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is the Meet & Greet on October 24, 2023 at 5:30-7:00.
