

Revised 8/10/09

King Neighborhood Association
Minutes from Neighborhood Association Meeting
July 08, 2009
503-823-9133 (voice mail number for KNA)
<http://kingneighborhood.org/>
<http://kingneighborhood.wordpress.com/>

List of attendees (at end of minutes)

Quorum met.

Agenda (*Exhibit 1*)

Minutes from June meeting

The minutes from June 10, 2009 were approved without changes.

Standing reports

Update from Portland Police Officer Sims was not present.

Please email Officer Brian Sims directly with specific questions and incidents (for example, give addresses, dates, or other information that he can research): bsims@portlandpolice.org or call the police non-emergency number at 503-823-5833.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

There was no report.

Last Thursday on Alberta

Magnus Johannesson, representing Team Last Thursday, the organization responsible for the event gave an update on his intentions to make Last Thursday a positive, neighbor-driven, art-centered event. He hopes that Last Thursday does not become a “flea market” that is dominated by peddlers of mass produced items. He said he does not want any amplified music other than small speakers used by street musicians. \

There were three public forums to discuss issues with the continuing event. The first was in May, the second was scheduled for July 21st at Acadia Ballroom, 19th/Alberta, 6:30 pm.

The City of Portland has stepped in and taken responsibility for security and traffic control. In order to address the issue of public urination, the portable toilets will be left out until clean up is complete around 10:30 so that stragglers will have options. There have been problems in the vicinity of 18th and Alberta and it is hoped that volunteers with flashlights can discourage this behavior by patrolling side streets and dark areas.

The Multnomah County Health Department will be patrolling to verify that no homecooked food is offered for sale that is not made under license. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission will be patrolling to monitor alcohol related regulations.

Contact the Last Thursday organization by email with suggestions:

Magnus Johannesson
LastThursdayPDX@gmail.com
971-221-7747

Speed Limit on Alberta

Magnus Johannesson suggested the possibility of requesting the posted speed limit on Alberta Street be lowered to 20 mph as was done on Fremont in the Beaumont Neighborhood. Due to the large amount of pedestrian traffic and the narrowness of the street, a lower speed limit could increase safety. In discussion, there was

uncertainty if there was a need to lower the limit by such a small amount. *It was stated to currently be 25 mph but is actually 30 mph.* There was also doubt expressed that signage would change behavior when currently speeding is common on side streets and the limit is unlikely to be enforced. The issue was tabled pending more information on the process for changing the limit and the cost to the City for the change were it to be implemented.

Public safety action committee (PSAC)

Rick Sills reported that the Public Safety Action Committee was discontinued by Paige Coleman, NECN Executive Director and that he and Capt Walker of the Portland Police were surprised and confused by this. Mr. Sills recommended that this community resource be sustained.

Church Street Issues

Neighbors raised concerns regarding the persistently large amount of drug trafficking on Church Street from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to 7th avenue. Other concerns included drug use in parked vehicles, reckless driving and intimidation. Celeste Carey, Crime Prevention Program Coordinator, recommend that concerned neighbors get to know one another and form a block watch to aid police and not to confront perpetrators or suspicious persons. Ms. Carey noted that this neighborhood in general has been fraught with crime problems for 30 to 40 years and past pleas for help from the police had gone substantively unheeded. Many long time residents may not expect help and therefore will not call police when crime is taking place. This puts new residents in the position of feeling unsupported in their objections to the continuing problems. The formation of a block watch can unite neighbors to realize that they are not alone in their concerns and give them the tools to effectively make a positive change. As the City of Portland and the Police Bureau have made crime reduction in inner Northeast more of a priority in the past few years, longtime attitudes of mistrust need to be overcome.

Three of the houses on the street are owned by a well-known landlord Joe Boczki, with a history of renting to vulnerable populations such as people with criminal histories or who lack visas or other documents. Therefore he was able to rent substandard housing to people who were unlikely to complain. Recently he has placed a large number of his properties in the hands of a company that is selling many of them to raise cash to take care of his wife. If the properties are sold, some of the problems may be displaced.

Rat Infestation

Etta Baker brought her concerns about a recent increase in the rat population being noticed in the vicinity of 7th Avenue, Prescott Street, and Skidmore Street, possibly due to recent utility work being done on sewer lines nearby. She was referred to Multnomah County Vector and Code Enforcement:

5235 N. Columbia Blvd.

Portland, OR 97203

[Driving directions](#)

(503) 988-3464

Email: vector.nuisance@co.multnomah.or.us

Also the responsible city agencies can be reached by calling the City of Portland information and referral line at: 503-823-4000.

Graffiti Abatement Program

Budget cuts have hampered the city's Graffiti Abatement Program. Commissioner Amanda Fritz is looking at alternative funding such as nominal fees for service. Support for continuation of the program and its funding should be directed to her office:

1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 220

Portland OR 97204
(503) 823-3008
Amanda@ci.portland.or.us

Bureau of Development Services Cuts

Due to a decrease in fee revenue from building permits, the Bureau of Development Services Nuisance Enforcement Budget has been cut from \$300,000 to \$40,000. To report a nuisance or violation, the complaint line has been combined to a single phone number: 503-823-CODE (2633).

LIST OF NEW ACTION ITEMS

Research process for lowering speed limit on Alberta
Discuss the continuation of the Public Safety Action Committee

Magnus Johannesson
Rick Sills, Capt. Walker,
Paige Coleman

Attendees:

Charles Boardman, resident (*Chair*)
Scott Breon, resident (*Treasurer*)
Etta M. Baker, resident
Faith Cathcart, resident
Matt Jamison, resident
Magnus Johannesson, Last Thursday organization
William Lucas, resident (*At-Large Rep #3*)
Rick Sills, PSAC Rep.
Traci Manning, resident
Maureen Mimiaga, resident
Trace Salmon, resident (*Co-chair*)
Lynsee Sardell, resident
Josh Eddleman, resident
Irek Wielgosz, (*At-Large Rep #4*)
Celeste Carey, Crime Prevention Coordinator