

King Neighborhood Association Meeting  
King Neighborhood Facility  
4815 NE 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
<http://kingneighborhood.org>  
<http://kingneighborhood.wordpress.com>

September 8, 2010 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**List of attendees** (at end of minutes)

Quorum not met.

**Agenda** (Exhibit 1)

**Minutes from previous meetings**

The minutes from August 11 were not approved, due to lack of quorum.

**Standing reports**

**Update from Portland Police**

Officer Pryce responded to questions reading a recent shooting in the area, in particular resident concerns about police response times for the incident. Two residents expressed concern that it took two calls on each of their parts before officers arrived. Officer Pryce explained that the police do not have someone covering the King area from 1-7 am. He also suggested that the Neighborhood Response Team should be consulted if there are concerns about a specific area, and recommended contacting the Bureau of Building if city codes are being violated.

The neighborhood association voted to approve a letter to Mayor Sam Adams thanking the police for their hard work, as well as requesting that officers be assigned to the neighborhood 24/7 and response time should be improved.

**Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods**

Shoshana Cohen reporting on NECN activities: NECN's Parking Issues Roundtable was successful. NECN to hold Neighborhood Association board membership orientation on September 28, 6-9 pm.

**Discussion/presentation topics**

**Portland Community College expansion plans**

Michael Leighton from the Humboldt Neighborhood Association presented information about the proposed expansion of PCC's Cascade campus. Humboldt NA is concerned that the expansion will negatively impact local homes and businesses, as PCC expansion has displaced homes and businesses in the past; Humboldt NA has passed a unanimous resolution requesting PCC consider building taller buildings and making more productive use of the land it already holds, and re-examining what zoning allows. Leighton requested the support of the King NA, and will draft a letter of support for review.

**'Sabin Triangle'**

Austin Peterson, Sabin Community Association president, presented information about a proposed Architects Without Borders project that seeks to do improvements on the 'unused' concrete plaza at NE 15<sup>th</sup> and Prescott. As the neighborhood raises funds for future construction, AWB will help develop ideas with input from the community, and will hold a forum for local residents at some future point. The project is estimated to take two years.

### Oregon Historical Society Ballot Measure

Felicia Williams, PSU instructor overseeing the PDX Civil Rights Project, and Sharon Thorne of the Oregon Historical Society discussed the Oregon Historical Society's funding ballot measure. Without more funding, the OHS and its library may close, eliminating research access to the largest archive of Oregon history. Felicia explained OHS Quarterly is the only peer-reviewed journal focussed on Oregon; the ballot measure is a levy on Multnomah County residents only. The ballot measure requests a levy of 5 cents per thousand dollars on assessed value, for five years.

### Portland Development Commission

Alan Silver gave a presentation on PDC activities along King Boulevard as part of the Oregon Convention Center Urban Renewal Area.

The gateway and heritage markers project: \$500,000 has been allocated to begin construction of the Gateway project where MLK and Grand merge at Schuyler. Groundbreaking on the Gateway plaza will occur on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, February, 2011. Stephen Green, not in attendance, has requested a letter of support for the gateway project. The folks in attendance evinced no enthusiasm for a letter of support.

The heritage markers at the Gateway site and along the boulevard, with those on the boulevard to be constructed at some future date, will include plaques with text and photographs, covering the topics of: civil rights; community; immigration; and commerce and culture, as they relate to the lived experience of folks in the N/NE neighborhoods, centering on Albina.

Other construction projects that the Portland Development Commission is involved in:

- 14 of 16 units have been sold at Vanport Square. Of the two remaining, one has been leased.
- The rest of the Vanport Square project, residential on the west side and commercial on the east side of the empty lot at MLK & Alberta, is stalled.
- The new Miracles Club residential building on the east side of MLK between Mason and Skidmore is under construction.
- The Heritage Building (the old Weimer Warehouse) continues to rent slowly.
- The Fremont Building (at MLK and Fremont) has an indoor mezzanine which makes it difficult to lease, but a tentative long-term lease partner has been found.
- Headstart hopes to tear down its building at Skidmore and MLK and rebuild it for mixed use, with commercial tenants on the first floor and low-income housing on the top.

### Safeway redesign

Nancy Harp and Diane Phillips of Safeway Stores gave a presentation about the upcoming remodeling of the Safeway at MLK Blvd. & Ainsworth. Safeway has struggled to maintain both a reasonable amount of landscape vegetation and suitable numbers of parking spaces in its proposed design, and requested a waiver from the city allowing Safeway to achieve a lower ratio of vegetation to parking space surface area than normally allowed.

King residents expressed dissatisfaction with the current bike parking in front of Safeway.

The neighborhood board association voted to offer a letter of approval for the Safeway redesign if concerns about bike parking and trees are addressed; Diane and Nancy will take KNA's concerns back to Safeway and report Safeway's response to KNA member Maureen Mimiaga, who offered to write the letter of approval should KNA conditions be met.

### Build Your Block campaign

Lauren Vitti from (the recently opened Alberta branch of) Umpqua Bank presented information about the Build Your Block campaign, wherein Umpqua Bank will donate up to ten thousand dollars to a community project. Umpqua has narrowed the possible types of projects to three, and is accepting votes among the three proposals at their branch. More information is available at the branch or at (<http://www.facebook.com/albertaumpqua>).

### Future topics

In October, KNA will discuss Last Thursday and its place in our neighborhood; and Iva Cunningham of the new Alternative Medical Choice clinic at 4867 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard will come and tell us about her clinic's services.

Folks interested in joining the KNA board are invited to seek more information about board responsibilities! Multiple positions are open.

### Attendees

Alan Silver, *KNA Secretary*

David Lomax, *KNA At-large board member*

Irek Wielgosz, *KNA At-large board member*

Maureen Mimiaga, *King resident*

Nancy Harp, *Safeway*

Diane Phillips, *Safeway*

Misha Hashitani, *King resident*

Janice Lucas, *KNA At-large board member*

Rick Sills, *King resident*

Felicia Williams, *Portland State University*

Austin Peterson, *Sabin Community Association President*

Shoshana Cohen, *NECN and King resident*

Lauren Vitti, *Umpqua Bank*

Officer Pryce, *Portland Police Bureau*

Michael Leighton, *Humboldt Neighborhood Association and Portland Observer editor*

Windy Ford, *King resident*

Matthew Ford, *King resident*

Sharon Thorne, *Oregon Historical Society*

Jacob Mercy, *King resident*

Trace Salmon, *King resident*

Russ Eisenberg, *King resident*

Lyndsey Vaughan-Dieter, *King resident*

Ernest Jones, *King resident*