

King Neighborhood Association Meeting
King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue
<http://kingneighborhood.org> & <http://kingneighborhood.wordpress.com>
December 8, 2010 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

List of attendees (at end of minutes)

Quorum met.

Agenda (Exhibit 1)

Minutes from previous meetings

The minutes from October 13 and November 24 were approved without revision. The minutes from November 10 were approved with the deletion of the line “Lyndsey and other neighbors questioned”, which appears in the draft minutes on page 5, in the third paragraph of the summary of the discussion involving Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives.

Standing reports

Update from Portland Police Bureau (PPB)

Officer Ryan Bren joined us, noting that he desired and waited for an assignment to the precinct roughly contiguous to King Neighborhood, and is happy to be the assigned district officer now. He believes that an assignment as a district officer makes it possible for him to serve the neighborhood’s needs as much as possible. He plans to attend all KNA meetings, and get to know folks in the neighborhood. He invites ideas about how he can present information that’s useful, at NA meetings, as well as information and insight into livability issues, chronic nuisances, etc., so that he can learn how to focus policing efforts and try to come up with creative solutions to neighborhood problems.

He welcomes contact from all neighbors: he can be reached at ryan.bren@portlandoregon.gov. Resident are invited to join him on ride-alongs in his police vehicle at any time during his shift, as an opportunity to exchange information about the neighborhood, and the police department. A ride-along can be anywhere from 30 minutes to an entire shift, as a resident desires; sixteen is the minimum age for a ride-along, and 16- and 17 year-olds need parental/guardian consent.

In response a question about call response times (non-emergency calls to specific officers about neighborhood problems), he noted that officers seek to return all contacts from the public as quickly as possible, but trainings, days off, and emergencies sometimes get in the way. Three days is generally a realistic amount of time to allow an officer to return a phone call or email. NRT (Neighborhood Response Team) officers work at desks and should be able to return calls more quickly. Trace Salmon noted that NRT member Officer Mako hasn’t responded to his call about a ‘party house’ in the neighborhood, and Officer Bren promised to touch base with Mako about it.

Officer Bren noted that King is an interesting district for policing – it’s geographically small, compared to other precincts, with several major streets that run through or around it, providing a constant flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. The district is densely packed residentially, without a high number of commercial businesses. He tries to spend a lot of time in the neighborhood, making connections with people and learning who lives and belongs in the neighborhood, with the hope that he’ll have an easier time intervening in situations before

they escalate.

He isn't aware of many places in the neighborhood that have repeated disturbances (particularly referring to commercial areas) – there used to be a high number of calls for such crimes as thefts and petty robberies at the QuickTrip on MLK and the market at 15th and NE Prescott; very few calls arise from those locations now. Officer Bren is in frequent contact with the folks at both locations. One spot that has repeated problems is at 15th and NE Killingsworth. To find crime stats, one can go to the PPB website; there's a link to crime stats and you can search by neighborhood, or by type.

Officer Bren noted that there is nothing particularly significant in the past month's crime statistics. In discussing his personal specialty as an officer in working investigations, he noted that this precinct has a high number of requests for follow-up services (to prior calls). He's had a good deal of success following up on old investigations in the area, seeking out extra information that's not in the files regarding older cases, and trying to find connections to more recent crimes.

Officer Bren and resident Teri Phillips have been in contact recently regarding crime activity in the block where she lives. He explained to us a bit about community warrants, and he promised to talk with North Precinct District Attorney Jim Hayden about the possibility of pursuing a community warrant to address Teri's concerns. Officer Bren will also bring information about prosecutions to the next NA meeting – towards the end of the year, the Police Bureau reviews the past year's prosecutions to determine how court rulings have impacted policing, and to respond accordingly.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN)

Shoshana Cohen describes NECN as the organization that works with 12 neighborhood associations in North/Northeast Portland on issues of civic engagement and community needs. Please visit NECN's website (<http://necoalition.org/page.cfm>) for information on NECN and its programs.

NECN in November restarted its Safety and Livability Team (SaLT) (Rick Sills represents King NA on that NECN committee). SaLT is planning a forum on 'sharing the road' – pedestrian, bicycle, automobile safety – in January, and is discussing holding a forum on helping communities to be more proactive in creating safer neighborhoods; please contact Shoshana at NECN with ideas for this.

NECN's Land Use and Transportation Committee (LUTC) (like SaLT, all NECN-affiliated neighborhoods have a seat on this committee) voted to suggest to the NECN Board that it take a position against supporting the expansion of the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area into the Rose Quarter. The LUTC is also following developments concerning a proposed biogas facility in the Cully neighborhood, as well as discussing the possibility of a forum on cell and wifi towers in neighborhoods.

Shoshana offered NECN's resources in facilitating an action planning meeting for the King NA, to help King NA prioritize its goals for the coming year, and means for achieving them. King NA responded positively to this offer, and will pursue scheduling such a meeting.

Discussion/presentation topics

Create Plenty

Cheryl Lohrmann introduced herself, and Create Plenty, a “social profit organization,” which began as an art awareness project, Leave No Plastic Behind, encouraging plastic-free living. Create Plenty has expanded to educating about plastics issues, with the mission of creating intention in actions as consumers and citizens, and the goal of helping to develop an intentional local economy that doesn’t create waste and is centered on health, sustainability, and supporting local enterprise.

Working with Susie Root, a new art teacher at King Elementary School, Cheryl will work with third- through fifth-graders at King, educating them about plastic waste and creating a ‘plastic free’ challenge. Gathered plastic will be used to create an art show (past Create Plenty art shows have contributed panels to the International Plastic Quilt Project). Cheryl would like for the youths to come to a King NA meeting in April and educate NA members about plastic, and invite members to their art show. The youth will then brainstorm solutions about addressing waste-stream issues, and will come back to KNA in May and present their solutions.

King NA approved a motion to invite Create Plenty students from King to join the NA meetings in April and May as outlined by Cheryl Lohrmann.

Step It Up

Linda McNeil introduced herself and Step It Up, Inc., a career development organization to help N/NE Portland youth. Begun in 2004 out of McCoy Academy, Step It Up now serves nearly fifty people, is developing a Board of Directors, and planning to take its programming statewide. Step It Up helps find internships for youth in industries they have an interest in, and has also begun a pre-internship program to help acclimate youth to some of the expectations an internship would bring to bear.

Participants range in age from 14 to 25, and the program seeks out potential high achievers who aren’t receiving the support needed to achieve professional goals. Of participants eligible to graduate, 100% have graduated high school, and all have gone to college. Internships come with a stipend. Forty percent of participants completing internships have been hired by the firms they interned with. Youth interview organizations to learn about them, and to ask whether they’d be interested in offering an internship through Step It Up. In response to a question from Teri, Linda noted that Step It Up is not engaging youth in juvenile detention facilities, since it doesn’t have the experience or expertise to work with that population at this time.

Step It Up is hoping to secure help from NAs in reaching resident teenagers, and invited King NA to participate in its yearly Run/Walk at Irving Park on June 25, 2011, as well as to coordinate efforts to fundraise for programs that benefit neighborhood youth. Linda will submit information to King NA for posting on its blog and newsletter, and KNA and Step It Up will keep in conversation about potential ways to partner to reach and aid neighborhood youth.

Change to the KNA by-laws regarding appointment of a board chair; and currently open board positions with the KNA

Alan Silver noted that King NA is unable to appoint a board chair, and presented again a proposed change to King NA’s by-laws:

The proposed change to the by-law reads:

Proposed: to remove Article VII C2 (which reads “Candidates for the office of the Chair must

have served on the Board for at least one year preceding their election to the position of Chair.”) so that there would be no special requirements that must be met in order to elect the Chair. Article VII C1 (“Only persons eligible for membership shall be qualified to hold an elected or appointed position. Persons removed from the board are not eligible for board service in the future.”) would still apply.

King NA will consider and vote on this change to the by-laws, which was originally presented at the October 13 NA meeting.

KNA Board chair, co-chair, treasurer, and one at-large position are all vacant. NECN has a form showing general expectations for the board positions, while King NA’s by-laws lay out explicit duties for board members. Irek suggested re-creating a breakdown of the time that duties for each position might require.

Movies in the Park

King has the opportunity to host a ‘movie in the park,’ arranged through Portland Parks and Recreation, in 2011; King hosted a well-attended Movie in the Park at King School Park in August, 2010. Trace Salmon offered to take the lead in completing and submitting the application to Parks and Rec; King NA voted to allot \$500 for the movie and to submit August 6, 7, and 13 as possible dates for the movie screening. A couple of movie suggestions were named (including Toy Story 3), and Trace invites more suggestions. The ‘package’ offered by Parks and Recreation for \$500 includes the movie, a screen, a band, popcorn, and the ability to sell advertising during the screening of the film.

Follow-ups to previous discussions

A letter to City commissioners regarding Last Thursday and its impact on the neighborhood

Rick Sills noted that the City has never sent any representatives to neighborhood meetings to discuss Last Thursday (LT), and presented a draft of a letter to the City concerning the effect that LT has on the neighborhood and its residents. Janice and Irek commented that the letter comes across as too emotional and inflammatory, and ought to be reworked to be more apolitical and precise. Rick agreed to continue to work with interested persons on crafting a letter that reflects the intent of the NA in standing up for the interests of the neighbors.

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives (PCRI)

Cyndi Natalello of PCRI (a community development corporation [CDC] which presented an overview of its work rehabilitating housing in N/NE Portland and making it available to low- and moderate-income residents for purchase or rental, and listened to feedback about neighbor concerns about a PCRI-owned apartment complex in the King neighborhood, during the November 10, 2010 King NA meeting) reported that PCRI hasn’t received any complaints in the last month about any of its facilities. PCRI welcomes comments from the public, and has made a comment form available on its website (http://www.pcrihome.org/contact_us.php). Trace asked about vacancies at the PCRI apartment complex on 10th Avenue just off Alberta, and Cyndi noted that two families moved in within the past week.

Attendees

Alan Silver, *KNA Secretary*
Irek Wielgosz, *KNA At-large board member*

Janice Lucas, *KNA At-large board member*
Rick Sills, *King resident*
Louisa Davis Sills, *King resident*
Teri Phillips, *King resident*
Shoshana Cohen, *NECN and King resident*
Officer Ryan Bren, *Portland Police Bureau*
Trace Salmon, *King resident*
Fred Dieter, *King resident*
Cheryl Lohrmann, *Create Plenty*
Linda McNeill, *Step It Up*
Cyndi Natalello, *Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives*
Andrew Gravel, *Portland State University*