

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

April 13, 2011 – 6:30 to 8:30 pm

List of attendees (at end of minutes)

Quorum met.

Agenda (Exhibit 1)

Minutes from previous meetings

Minutes for the February and March meetings will be approved at the May meeting.

Announcements and Motions

The NECN Land Use and Transportation Committee will hear from the Portland Bureau of Transportation about community solutions to pedestrian improvements at their meeting at the King Facility on Wednesday, April 27.

There will be a N. Williams Traffic Operations Safety Committee open house at Immaculate Heart Church on Saturday, April 16, to look at transportation safety issues in that area. There will be a strong focus on bike traffic.

Lyndsey Vaughn Dieter proposed a King neighborhood-wide garage sale for June 11th. She plans to ask participants for a \$5 donation to pay for the cost of printing and placing advertisements. Canvassing for the event will begin May 21 and end June 4 and will publicize both the garage sale and clean-up event, as well as be an opportunity for soliciting KNA participation and email addresses for the KNA mailing list. Signage packages will be printed and assembled May 31 to June 4, and from June 5 to June 10 signs will be distributed to participants. An online Google map of sales locations will be compiled as registrations are received and the final map should be ready to go live by the print ad date. Shoshana confirmed that NECN will accept registration forms and donations (KNA has mailbox). Nora Diver moved to have the garage sale. Maureen Mimiaga seconded. The vote yielded 12 yeas and 0 nays. Motion passed. Lyndsey will continue to work on signage and coordination.

The Sergeant-at-arms of the Miracles Club dropped off some information on the soon-to-be-opened Miracles Club residential development. Alan will put the information onto KNA's blog.

Standing reports

Update from Portland Police

Officer J. Buller, from the Portland Police Bureau, filled in for Officer Ryan Bren. Officer Buller wasn't able to speak first-hand on happenings in the King neighborhood because he works on the west side of I-5, but he ran through a list of crimes that had taken place in King in the past month. Terri Phillips asked if Officer Buller had information about the drug free zones program. Officer Buller said that nothing had been officially announced by city council yet, but he believes the program will have a new name and assumes it will be the exact same boundaries. He continued by explaining the program is a very positive thing—that when those zones went away crime went way up—and that drug and prostitution zones typically go hand in hand. Officer Buller suggested talking to Officer Dennis Mako about the possibilities of getting new areas

of the neighborhood zoned. In response to a question from Alan Silver about gun free zones, Officer Buller suggested talking with Sergeant Resch, who is on the gun task force.

Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Shoshana Cohen made NECN announcements:

A storytelling event and exhibition of photographs called Portland's Lost Black Neighborhoods will take place on April 29 from 6-8:00pm at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. Former Vanport residents and younger members of the Black community will share their stories and poems of Portland.

The Local Leaders Institute will present a community consensus building forum called "Dialogue and Decision Making." The workshop, which will take place on Monday, May 2 at the Community Conference Room at Planned Parenthood, will be led by Koffi Dessou and Irene Konev, Inter-group Dialogue Facilitators from the City of Portland Office of Human Relations.

NECN has launched the new Community Economic Development Committee, which will be looking into ways to do more grassroots, neighborhood-level economic development. Shoshana invited interested parties to talk with her.

Shoshana mentioned that everyone should have gotten a coalition-wide mailer about neighborhood clean-up dates in the mail. The King Clean-Up will be held at the North Precinct parking lot on June 4.

NECN Safety and Livability Team (SALT)

Alan Silver gave a brief summary of background information about Last Thursday and announced that letters from Mayor Sam Adams and Commissioner Amanda Fritz in response to the KNA Last Thursday letter will be posted on the KNA blog. One item of note gleaned from the letters is that the City has hired an event planner, and so is not going to entirely hand over the event to Friends of Last Thursday (FoLT) at this date. The FoLT town hall meeting held on April 2 was summarized as a formal unveiling of FoLT's structure and Katy Kanfer's notes from the meeting were passed around for those who weren't in attendance. A list of questions the SALT committee has concerning Last Thursday were also passed around. Discussions of Last Thursday will continue at SALT meetings.

Rick Sills announced upcoming meetings regarding air quality: DEQ Science Advisory Committee Advisory Meeting to Evaluate Short Term Air Toxics Benchmarks Feasibility on April 19 at DEQ headquarters; EPA representative to Present Harriet Tubman School Air Toxics Monitoring Results on April 27 at Harriet Tubman School. Rick explained that Portland is amongst the worst cities in the nation for air quality. Rick also announced that the SALT committee has been meeting with the Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM). Currently, there isn't an emergency hazard map for the King Neighborhood, but POEM is available to partner with the neighborhood to create a map.

Discussion/presentation topics

Portland Voter Owned Elections

Spencer Burton, of Portland Voter Owned Elections (PVOE), presented a campaign for a ballot measure on voter-owned elections for the offices of mayor, city council, and auditor. The goal of PVOE, a group of political activists funded by donations, is to gather enough signatures by Fall 2011 to get a measure on the 2012 ballot, and then to focus on disseminating information about the measure to the voting public. A very similar measure was on the ballot for the last election cycle and failed by a narrow amount (less than 1%). Spencer said this was a result of insufficient time to raise money and educate the public; also, there was voter confusion regarding a difference in the terms used in the public education campaign and what the bill was actually called on the ballot. The measure would provide public financing for candidates who don't have access to large donors, which Spencer believes addresses current equity issues. The funds provided to

candidates would “give them the opportunity to be heard and reach a certain thresh-hold of voters.” Money for election campaigns would come from a general election fund financed by taxes (as opposed to “special interest”). The proposed law has been reviewed every year and revisions have been made. Spencer asked the KNA board to consider endorsing a YES vote endorsement. Shoshana explained that there is a history of NAs endorsing specific bills or causes. Rick motioned to vote on endorsement. Katy Kanfer motioned to put a vote of KNA endorsement of the bill on KNA's May meeting agenda. Rick Sills withdrew his motion and seconded Katy's motion. The vote was 5 yeas and 0 nays. Spencer agreed to come to the May meeting to present again.

Create Plenty International Plastic Quilt Project

Cheryl Lohrmann from Create Plenty, a non-profit that address aspects of our “throw-away” culture, presented the International Plastic Quilt Project, which engages anyone who wants to take a “plastic challenge” to reduce personal plastic consumption. Cheryl presented her work to raise awareness about single use waste—usually plastic—making its ways down rivers and streams to the ocean and the fact that recycling captures less than 5% of plastic per year. Create Plenty received a grant from NECN to work on the International Plastic Quilt Project with King Elementary 6th graders and their art teacher and Cheryl hopes to bring some students to share their work at next month's KNA meeting. There is an exhibit planned for June where over 200 new quilt squares will be submitted to the project from all over the city. The other half of the project is to think of solutions to plastic problems, primarily by reducing waste. [Cheryl also announced that on Thursday, April 14, Alberta Co-op would be supplying ingredients to make home cleaning supplies and hosting a workshop. Cheryl asked if anyone could think of ways to give these cleansers away to members of the community who don't have access to this information. David Lomax said seniors at Loaves and Fishes and community centers might be interested in accepting these cleansers.]

Post Office Employment Issues

Steve Lemm and Jamie Partridge, USPS postal workers, presented on a crisis facing the postal service. They attributed longer lines at USPS branches, under-staffing, and late or unusual deliveries to a 3 year hiring freeze at the USPS. Currently the postal service is only hiring transitional or temporary workers, who may not be familiar with the area—as opposed to hiring career employees. Additional routes have been added to carriers' normal routes, which leaves them working long days and delivering mail at unusual times. They warned that further labor and delivery cuts are ahead (potentially moving from 6 day service down to 5), and that up to half of all postal branches are in line to be closed. Their solution is to end the hiring freeze and hire transitional staff (who are on probation during their term and have no benefits) as career employees. Steve and Jamie explained that the USPS is not actually in debt, but appears to be because of an “accounting problem.” As a result of a law passed in 2006, the USPS puts close to 6 billion dollars a year into retirees pre-paid health care. Steve and Jamie said that no other agency or corporation they know of is required to pre-fund retiree benefits. Bill 1351, which the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) supports, proposes changing that. They asked KNA to consider writing a letter or resolution that NALC can bring to congress and/or local management. David moves for KNA to write letter in support of bill 1351. Alan seconds. 10 yeas 0 nays. Motion passed.

MLK Boulevard Business and Livability Committee

A group of KNA members would like to for a new sub-committee. They recognize there are different areas of the neighborhood with businesses and different business concerns, and are concerned with how businesses affect the livability of the neighborhood. Their committee would foster small business incubators, would try to support current businesses, and would try to support the MLK Business Association. Their committee is also interested in transportation on the MLK corridor. Alan motions to create this committee. Jeff Scott seconds. 13 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed. Next committee meeting date will be posted on KNA blog.

Good Neighbor Agreements

Celeste Carry, the ONI Crime Prevention Coordinator, said she can be of assistance concerning good neighbor agreements (GNA). GNAs can address problems such as noise, trash, loitering, and graffiti. The city will help enforce a GNA if neighborhood associations ask, but the NA can do it on their own. GNAs are not legally binding, but they help with documentation to show that problems exist if there is a call for more serious action. Celeste invited KNA to contact her if there are any specific GNA issues we'd like to discuss, or if we are having problems with derelict, vacant, or abandoned properties. Celeste will be at the next SALT meeting to talk about a gun exclusion ordinance.

Communications Committee

Alan announced the committee is working on a logo for KNA and is open to input and ideas. The committee did not have any projects far enough along to present.

OPAL

A decision regarding KNA support of the OPAL petition (Tri-met transfer time extension to 3 hours and giving unlimited transfer time after 6pm) was tabled. Neighbors in attendance many questions and did not feel prepared to make a decision. Alan suggested starting again by considering what our neighbors need and will invite OPAL to continue sending info.

Vanport Square Project Update

Nora Diver brought neighbors up to date about the proposed housing development at Vanport Square. The developers have applied for a subdivision permit (approx. 2 months until approved); before the permit is granted, a notice will be mailed to the surrounding neighborhood and there will be an opportunity for neighborhood feedback. Some neighbors voiced concerns about parking and traffic because parking is prohibited on the east side of NE Garfield at the site. The developers have previously stressed their inclusion of a two-car garage for each proposed unit. Nora explained that the city doesn't require parking to be addressed in the development plan because their goal is for citizens to use more public transportation and become a more dense population. The landscaping that is currently there would come out once the permits are approved. Nora will contact the developers to let them know we are particularly concerned with talking about the congestion and lack of parking in that area during the daytime hours. Rick asked about how storm water run-off was being addressed. Nora said that dealing with run-off is part of city code and that all the storm water needs to be dealt with on site (much of this planning was accomplished during the commercial phase).

Vision Zero

Nick Falbo and Michelle van Tijen were present to announce the final Vision Zero committee workshop on Wednesday April 20, where they will be looking at solutions to transportation safety issues such as: understanding Killingsworth and MLK as "main streets" and addressing feelings that they are not safe; working with youth at the Boys and Girls Club to see how they envision making MLK more pedestrian friendly; speeding motorists near Jefferson High; speeding motorists on Mississippi and Skidmore. The current stage of the project is focused on empowering neighbors to solve these problems and the Vision Zero group welcomes input from all different types transportation users. The group plans to make instructional brochures about how citizens can engage their community/city government to solve transportation/safety problems.

Tabled topics

Juneteeth celebration, 2011

King Neighborhood Association Members

Jamie Partridge, *National Association of Letter Carriers*

Katy Kanfer, *KNA Secretary*

Alan Silver, *KNA Co-Chair*

Shoshana Cohen, *NECN and King resident*

Terri Phillips, *KNA At-large board member*

Van Bogner, *KNA At-large board member*

Maureen Mimiaga, *KNA At-large board member*

Lyndsey Vaughn Dieter, *King resident*

Nora Diver, *King Co-Chair*

David Lomax, *KNA At-large board member*

Laverne Simmons, *King resident*

Jeff Scott, *KNA Treasurer*

Cheryl Lohrmann, *Create Plenty and King resident*

Rick Sills, *King resident*

Attendees

Steve Lemm, *USPS*

Spencer Burton, *Boise NA*

Cyndi Natalello, *Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives*

Elizabeth Nardi, *Boise*

Officer J. Buller, *Portland Police Bureau*

Nick Falbo, *Vision Zero*

Michelle van Tijen, *Vision Zero*

Emily Wilson, *Humboldt*

Celeste Carey, *City of Portland Crime Prevention*