

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

June 8, 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 May regular meeting and special meeting were unanimously approved without amendments.

**Announcements and Motions**

Alan Silver started off the meeting by asking attendees to share what they'd love to see in their neighborhood, or to share what they are passionate about. Attendees responses follow:

Would love to see:

- information kiosks built and maintained
- street murals sponsored/created
- welcome packets delivered to new neighbors
- children in the neighborhood being supported
- old businesses cleaned up (litter, graffiti)
- the neighborhood become quieter, safer—without gunshots, without junk & debris and vandalism
- positive representations of the diversity, art, and culture of this community preserved
- other neighborhood associations reaching out to renters

Are passionate about:

- local food and making it accessible to people who live in the neighborhood
- trees and products made from trees
- making connections between people and nature
- gardening, and being a part of the solution—not part of the problem
- providing nutritious food and social opportunities to seniors
- about creating community in compassionate, peaceful, artistic ways
- getting people involved in the neighborhood association and seeing continued growth
- turning MLK into most vibrant street in Portland

Maureen Mimiaga motioned to approve the June agenda. Motion seconded by Jeff Scott. 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Jeff motioned to approve May regular meeting minutes, Maureen seconded. 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Alan Silver motioned to approve May special meeting minutes, Irek Wielgosz z seconded. 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Alan made several announcements concerning the neighborhood, including:

- Tanuki, a sushi restaurant, has applied for a liquor license at the NE corner of Fremont and MLK, where Belly restaurant used to be located.
- On Wednesday, June 8, at noon, the Portland Development Commission (PDC) will unveil a new

- electric vehicle charging station and solar canopy on a PDC-owned parking lot at 3620 NE MLK.
- Two new establishments will be opening soon at NE Beech and MLK—Vietnamese restaurant and Beech Street Parlor.
- On Friday, June 17th from 5-8pm Unthank Park will be re-dedicated . Participants in the ceremony will include Portland Parks Director Zari Santner, Portland Police Chief Mike Reese, Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith, and the Self Enhancement Drummers & Dancers.
- VisionZero organizers have finished their informational brochures and will be making them available to the neighborhood association.
- Alan will be starting to work on the KNA bylaws and solicited the help of anyone who would like to participate. The Alameda NA newsletter just announced changes to their bylaws.
- Our United Villages sponsors a series of free workshops called Tools for Community Building. Workshops are held on second Thursdays from 6-8pm at the Our United Villages Conference Room at 3625 N Mississippi Ave.
- KNA has recently sent out several letters: in support of the location of Juneteenth Forward, but declining financial support; support of NNEBA MLK Dream Run starting location and route; to PBOT in support of request for traffic improvement for the pedestrian crossing at MLK and NE Failing.
- National Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 2. The North Tabor NA voted to give \$50 each to first four block parties (within their neighborhood) to sign up for national night out. If King neighbors are interested in organizing something like that—let Alan know. Nora Diver mentioned that when she was doing outreach in the neighborhood someone specifically asked for help with a block party, and so she thinks there is interest. Maureen offered to write up instructions for organizing a block party and to send it to Trace to post on the KNA blog. Shoshana Cohen added that insurance has gotten more complicated for block parties and to check in with her for help with writing up instructions.
- A team of experts will conduct a Resource Team Visit with Alberta Main Street from June 21-23 to develop general and specific recommendations for actions/opportunities. The team will interview and listen to community members, business owners, building owners and city officials both in focus groups and individually. On Thursday June 23 at 6:30PM, the resource team will preview their findings at a public presentation at St. Andrew Catholic Church in the Community Center.
- Anyone interested in helping with the King Neighborhood graffiti clean up should contact Alan.

## **Standing reports**

### *Update from Portland Police*

Officer Bren did not notice anything unusual or out of place as far as recorded calls for service for the past month. Additionally, he said there wasn't new information about the shooting at NE 9th and NE Alberta. Officer Bren acknowledged concerns about that location and agreed that it is a sort of hub and so is trying to focus more of his time and patrol efforts around that intersection. In response to questions about gangs at the May meeting, Officer Bren has put in a request for representatives from the Gang Enforcement Team to talk about the history of Portland gangs at July's general meeting. Neighbors can email questions for the team to Officer Bren in advance and he will pass them along. Officer Bren has continued to receive an increase in email traffic, which he thinks is significant because it is a helpful way for him to focus his patrol efforts, and many emails are coming from neighbors who find his contact information on the KNA blog, indicating that the blog is a useful resource. Neighbors are always invited to do a ride along with Officer Bren, and he suggested the opportunity be posted again on the KNA blog. Noise complaints seem to be the biggest issue in King, accounting for the greatest number of calls that come in through King neighborhood. Irek Wielgosz inquired about an vehicle accident at NE Fremont and MLK, saying that he saw four police cars gathered there in response, and that a tree and the bus stop were both gone. Officer Bren was not working that night and so didn't know. Rick Sills asked if from Bren's view there is an uptick in gang

activity. Officer Bren's personal sense is that activity in this neighborhood has lessened since last year and years past. The gang activity map shows that the majority of gang events and violence are happening further east toward Gresham, and on the west side in downtown. While we still see groups of gang members hanging out in certain NE locations, events of gang violence are occurring in other parts of the city. Jeff asked if people are lying low because of the recent shootings, and Officer Bren that would be a great question to ask the Gang Enforcement Team. Teri Phillips asked what can be done to move gang members out of houses that are constant nuisance. Officer Bren replied that it depends if they are renting or owning--one problem the police force runs into is that some of the homes are owned and maintained by generations of gang members. In closing, Officer Bren reminded neighbors that if there are ever special interest topics we are interested in hearing about, with advance notice he can request special presenters in to talk. Officer Bren announced that he will be out one more month for family leave, but will still be responding to emails.

### *Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods*

Shoshana Cohen had several announcements on behalf on NECN:

- NECN is planning a volunteer appreciation party on July 19. More information will be forthcoming.
- Topic ideas for 1-2 hour, small workshops/roundtables is solicited. NECN is starting to plan a series based on what neighbors agree would be useful training tools.
- Oregonian writer Nikole Hannah-Jones will present her work on census data and changes in N/NE Portland on Wednesday, June 29 at 6:30pm at Planned Parenthood.
- The next SALT meeting will be Monday, June 20. Discussion for this meeting will focus on youth violence issues and there will be presentations by panelists who are doing youth-gang outreach and education.
- The next Land Use and Transportation meeting will be June 22. King still does not have a representative for this meeting. PCC expansion plans will be a discussion topic. They are also hoping to have an update from PDC about expansion of the Interstate Urban Renewal area, which would potentially bring in MLK, Alberta, and Killingsworth.. Lew Frederick and Ben Cannon spoke out in opposition of the current Columbia River Crossing proposal, citing concerns for public health stemming from air pollution and congestion, and also expressing . Lew Frederick put the editorial out and mentioned NECN and tomorrow there will be a Metro council vote on it—at 2pm at the regional council center.
- NECN Economic Development Council met this morning and will also meet June 22. They are looking at how to have community voice represented in economic development happening in our neighborhood, as well as gathering and disseminating tools, loans opportunities, incubators. The council is in the idea phase.
- NECN recently sent a letter to Commissioner Amanda Fritz with questions about equity issues in the community. Shoshana said to contact her for a copy of the letter.
- David Lomax said he will continue as King representative on the NECN board. Jeff motioned to support, Alan seconded. 9 yeas, 0 nays. The second position for a King representative is still vacant.

### **Discussion/presentation topics**

#### *Loaves & Fishes fundraiser*

David Lomax, who runs the Loaves & Fishes senior center and Meals on Wheels program, presented information about his work and an upcoming fundraiser. The senior center serves 200 seniors per day through Meals on Wheels and 80-90 per day in the center. David explained that there is an increasing need for service because the Baby Boomer population of seniors is growing. In the past year, he's seen a 12% increase in demand for the Meals on Wheels program and a 13% increase at the center. Fundraising helps with provide meals for seniors, who are not required to make a donation for meals. This year, the Sixth Annual Summer in September BBQ & Festival is from noon to 6pm at Dawson Park. The event will feature authentic Creole Jambalaya. David asked KNA to once again support the event as a sponsor, and also asked

for help with marketing and day-of operations. For previous iterations of the BBQ, a group of 35 volunteers worked 4 hours shifts—this year more components have been added, and so more people will be needed to help. Last year KNA sponsored the event with \$500. David asked if KNA could double the amount and commit \$1000 in sponsorship funds. Alan said we would talk about it and have an answer at the July meeting. David said that would be fine for his event timeline.

### *Friends of Last Thursday (FoLT)*

Rochelle Saliba presented as a representative of FoLT, describing it as the community arm tasked by the City of Portland to make Last Thursday into a more friendly, safe, and respectful event. She explained that their main task is education and outreach: letting visitors know what the “ground rules” of the event are. Rochelle reported that for May's event infractions were down and Alberta street was reopened in record time. FoLT is looking to add members to its steering committee and has drafted a more relaxed member agreement for neighborhood association representatives to sign (as opposed to the member agreement a n individual would sign). Sabin and Concordia NAs are both represented on FoLT. Rochelle said there are Potential volunteers can get in touch with FoLT through their website. FoLT will also be distributing a survey of some kind for neighbor feedback. An open forum will take place the first Wednesday after Last Thursday from 7:30-8pm at Talisman Gallery on Alberta, and will serve as a venue for neighbor feedback. Rick asked about the two steering committee members who had resigned instead of signing the member agreement. Rochelle said they will not be asked back onto the committee, and added that FoLT already has representatives from the NAs those individuals were a part of. When Rick asked why the former steering committee members would not be asked back onto the committee, Rochelle said there had been disagreements with those individuals because FoLT wasn't looking at vendor registration and because FoLT is working with the city on safety issues. Rochelle elaborated that FoLT decided not to explore vendor registration options because registration isn't in the spirit of Last Thursday. During Last Thursday, FoLT dispatches volunteer ambassadors to educate the public about noise and litter, which are the primary issues affecting the neighborhood. Rochelle commented that people seem to like the ambassadors because they are “fun,” and that they've seen “a lot of positive response from meeting people where they are.” Lyndsey Vaughn-Dieter asked if FoLT is tracking some of the issues that have been a problem with neighbors and can show that there has been improvement. Rochelle said we could look at complaints called in to the police. Lyndsey noticed when she was driving to work the morning after Last Thursday the street looked quite clean. Rochelle said in the future there will be people coming the day after to do a more thorough cleaning. Alan asked Rochelle what the best way to communicate KNA concerns/desires with FoLT would be, to which she responded: call, go to the website, come to a meeting, answer the survey that will come around.

### *Groundwork Portland/Emerson Street Garden*

Cassie Cohen, Program Director of Groundwork Portland, announced a celebration on Saturday, June 11, to acknowledge the accomplishments of young people who have been helping to design and construct the Emerson Street Garden (NE Emerson between NE 8<sup>th</sup> and NE 9<sup>th</sup>). Students from King School have been working with their science and art teachers to learn about garden design, and have also been working with architects from the Portland Water Bureau. An on-site, outdoor educational learning center is halfway through construction; there will be a cob structure with benches and roof, chalkboard, and shed. Social Studies students from da Vinci have been learning about history through engaging with N/NE elders in, and have designed an archway that includes art, history, and poetry. And as it is a garden, there are vegetables and fruits. The unique part of the site, Cassie believes, is that it is a brownfield site: contaminated property. Cassie has worked with city officials to move contaminated lead soil to a fenced-off area in the rear of the garden, and is currently working with PSU to use phytoremediation in an effort to leech the led out. The goal is to dilute the lead to safe levels. The EPA has shown interest in the process at Emerson, and would be excited to see the phytoremediation figured out and replicated across Portland and the rest of the country. In the meantime, comprehensive testing has been done in the garden, and they have the green light to be gardening and eating the produce. Volunteers will work on a collective garden rather than having individual

plots, and produce will be shared between volunteers, with an undetermined amount intended to reach people who need it the most. David Lomax expressed interest in accepting surplus produce for Loaves and Fishes. Cassie said they are open to ideas. For example, a brainstorming session with the PTA at King School resulted in the idea for forming a garden there. Neighbors of the school have said they would make their yards available for students to use, which could mean there would be more produce available for seniors or for possibly selling at the King Farmers Market. Joe Sneed, an artist who had temporarily teamed up with Emerson Street Garden, will be moving on, but he played a key part in an important phase of the garden. As far as funding is concerned, the garden had been awarded one grant, which has been used in its entirety. They accept donations, have support from volunteers, and also have created a strategic plan for future funding. In consideration of time, Alan requested further questions be emailed to Cassie and responses could be added as an addendum to the minutes.

### *Urban Farm Collective*

Janette Kaden came to the local food movement by way of the Tin Shed, a restaurant on Alberta which she co-owns. In 2009 she started the Urban Farm Collective (UFC). UFC turns vacant land and into productive food gardens. UFC currently cultivates 10 gardens in North and Northeast Portland. Garden volunteers and land and water donors share in the bounty, dispersed at a farmstand at St. Andrew Catholic Church. UFC donates surplus to St. Andrew's food pantry, which serves about 200 people each week. As of this year, UFC has officially been named as an Oregon Sustainable Agricultural Land Trust (OSALT) project. Presently, they are growing on ½ acre of land, and goal is to be on one whole acre. UFC also aspires to make the gardens more livable spaces by having gathering places on-site. Rick asked if lead testing had been done on the garden sites, to which Janette responded that there had been. Another goal of UFC is to have a closed system so they don't have to rely on outside resources to keep the gardens running (seeds, water, amendments, etc). Alan asked neighbors to consider how KNA might continue as partners/supporters of UFC. Janette said current community supporters of UFC include: St. Andrew Catholic Church, Oregon Women Trade Association, and OSALT.

### *PSU Mural Project in King*

Students from the PSU community development colloquium, who have been working for two terms on the mural project projected for 2012 completion, made their final presentation. They put together a deliverables packet to pass on all of their research to KNA. Among the information accumulated is:

- A statistical crime report from 2006-2010 that can be a recommendation of the best time to get youth off streets and into a focused, supervised painting project.
- Took a survey of Jefferson High School students to find out what they'd like to see as a mural.
- Identified 50 potential community partners who are interested in working with KNA on the project.
- Created a sample job description for the Coordinator of the project.
- Made 3 different types of budgets to use as a framework for grant writing. (\$10-70,000)
- Collected a list of locations for the murals, primarily along MLK and Alberta. Have been in contact with Portland Planning Bureau—all spots have been OK-ed.
- Compiled a list of artists who are muralists who would be appropriate for this project because of their experience with working with youth.
- Identified 18 grants that the project would fall into, and compiled a description and timeline for applying for those grants. Also compiled a timeline for the entire project.

The PSU students talked with Trace Salmon about putting a page on KNA blog just for the mural, which he has done. Potential community partners have been redirected to KNA website. Alan will see that the deliverables packet gets posted online. The students recommended that KNA might consider applying to the community development colloquium program again to get a new batch of students to follow through with the mural project.

### *King Neighborhood Events and Financial Information*

Lyndsey Vaughn-Dieter announced that KNA made \$760 at Clean Up, up \$300 from last year's total. Collection totals: almost 7 tons of mixed waste; a ¼ ton of scrap metal; approximately a ¼ ton of electronics; 10 linear feet of Styrofoam. Neighbors involved on the day-off agreed that the youth volunteers from Multnomah County were incredible and very hardworking. A total of \$83.56 was spent on supplies and to pay for recycling. Metro pays for the dumping fees, and the City of Portland pays for the truck time. There were no other costs outside of what Lyndsey spent. Lyndsey said she would get more information about the details and get back to KNA at the July meeting. A general reminder was made to be sure checks say NECN somewhere on them so they can be easily deposited into the KNA account. Alan motioned to reimburse Lyndsey for expenses related to the Clean Up, Maureen seconded. 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

Lyndsey announced that lots of KNA Garage Sale signs had been delivered, and that so far 23 people signed up for this first annual event. Lyndsey will make more signs would like to print maps.

Printing costs for the KNA brochures exceeded the \$200 budget by \$76.88. Alan said there is \$266 left in the KNA communication budget. Alan motioned to amend the brochure budget to cover the full amount spent. Irek seconded. 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions

David suggested KNA consider producing a newsletter every 3 months and thought the canvassing went well. He also expressed having a great time at the clean up, and said it was a good opportunity to get to know other KNA participants.

The King Neighborhood Graffiti Clean-up will be July 23rd. The city will provide supplies, but KNA needs to put together a team of 20 volunteers. Some volunteers will walk around the neighborhood to scout out locations in advance. On the 23rd volunteers will clean from 9am-noon. The list of sites needs to be compiled two weeks ahead of time. The city will coordinate the list for the day-of.

There are 7 slides to sell as advertising for King's Movie in the Park, which costs \$500 to put on. Trace suggested selling them for \$75 a piece and already had 3 requests to purchase slides based on that cost. Alan motioned to approve \$75 per slide, Nora seconded, 9 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Alan, Maureen, and Jeff will focus on selling the slides.

Irek attended a short meeting about reinstating some sort of event that would be a continuation of Spiffin. The meeting was attended by representatives from NNEBA, Vanport, and NECN. There will be a meeting on June 22nd at 5:30pm at the Planned Parenthood community room for further discussion. Currently, they envision an event based on a certain topic, for instance: health. A map of MLK would be available and show events and relevant locations. They also talked about an "I Have a Dream" essay contest for kids, where winning entries would be displayed along MLK. There were suggestions that it would be a multiple event series, maybe with one of the first events happening as soon as this fall. Nora suggested there is potential to connect it with the mural project. It was also suggested that the fall event might be ready to present by the NNEBA MLK dream run, to piggyback on that effort. Irek said ideas and volunteers are appreciated, and that he is the contact person for the topic.

### **Tabled topics**

Communications efforts, including Constant Contact email system.

Alan asked if there is any sentiment toward endorsing Spencer Burton's request for endorsement of voter-owned elections campaign. Rick said he likes the idea of supporting candidates at the local level and that money really matters at the local level. Due to being short on time, the topic was tabled until July.

**Attendees**

Irek Wielgosz, *KNA At-Large Representative*  
Alan Silver, *KNA Co-Chair*  
Rochelle Saliba, *Friends of Last Thursday*  
Cassie Cohen, *Groundwork Portland*  
Lyndsey Vaughn-Dieter, *KNA At-Large Representative*  
Garner Moody, *Lloyd Development*  
Rick Sills, *King neighbor*  
David Lomax, *Loaves and Fishes*  
Henrich Biorn, *PSU community development colloquium*  
Danielle Lafayette, *PSU community development colloquium*  
Mollie Koett, *PSU community development colloquium*  
Lisa Meersman, *PSU community development colloquium*  
Katrina Calhoun, *PSU community development colloquium*  
James Calkins, *PSU community development colloquium*  
Cyndi Natalello, *PCRI*  
Teri Phillips, *KNA At-Large Representative*  
Van Bogner, *KNA At-Large Representative*  
Janette Kaden, *Urban Farm Collective*  
Nora Diver, *KNA Co-Chair*  
Jeff Scott, *KNA Treasurer*  
Emily Wilson, *Humboldt neighbor*  
Maureen Mimiaga, *KNA At-Large Representative*  
Gloria McMurty, *Reflections Cafe*  
Officer Ryan Bren, *Portland Police Bureau*  
Shoshana Cohen, *NECN*  
Katy Kanfer, *KNA Secretary*