

King Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue
<http://kingneighborhood.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/kingneighborhood>
September 14, 2011 – 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Without a quorum of board members, no votes will be taken. Minutes from the August meeting will be approved in October.

Officer Bren announced that while he has a new assignment as liaison to NE quadrant on the Service Coordination Team, he is still operating out of the North Precinct. Officer Bren followed up on several items from last month: a dumped car, believed to be stolen, was towed; has been trying to address the group on 9th and Alberta, but hasn't detected anything that would give him reason to take police action; will follow up with Irek about crosswalk at MLK and Failing at a later date—hasn't been able to secure a traffic mission yet. Officer Bren will continue to keep his eye on vacant properties and asks neighbors to email him about lots that are problematic. (ryan.bren@portlandoregon.gov) PPB is in the process of identifying a replacement district officer and hope to have that completed in the next month. Officer Bren will come in and introduce new officer once that person is assigned.

Benjamin Adrian, of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, shared NECN news. NECN is now accepting applications for neighborhood small grants, which will be due November 1. Awards will be between \$1000-\$4000, with graffiti abatement awards up to \$2500. They are looking for projects that facilitate community engagement. An orientation session will be held September 21st from 6-8pm at the NECN office; on October 6th a more intensive workshop with peer-reviewing will take place. Paper applications are available at NECN and also online. NECN Land Use and Transportation: Among other topics, the group will discuss the sewer connection program. Safety and Livability Team: Will meet Monday, October 19, to talk about asset mapping and emergency response. The Bureau of Transportation's final Sunday Parkways will take place Sunday, September 25 from 12-5pm in NE. Build it Green self-guided home tour of green construction and housing projects will be Saturday, September 24 from 11am-5pm. In Woodlawn, at NE 18th and NE Dekum, there will be a block party/BBQ on September 16 starting at 5:30pm as a response to neighborhood violence.

Marilyn Mauch, of the non-profit Northeast Portland Backpack Lunch Program, explained that every Friday during the school year NPBLP volunteers put a weekend lunch sack in the backpacks of kids who might not otherwise have enough food. Marilyn said that federally funded school lunch is the main source of nutritional food for many children. NPBLP started in Woodlawn in 2008 and expanded to Harvey Scott—this year with support from the staff and PTA, the program is expanding to King. At this juncture, NPBLP will provide 25 lunches for King, but could provide up to 50 if it is needed. Volunteers donate food, pack lunches, and help with delivery. Food and monetary donations are accepted. NPBLP is looking for volunteers for one 2 hour session on Mondays. Trace Salmon asked if the group's brochure is available in Spanish, and said he might have a lead for translation. Diego Giosseffi also offered to help with translation. Alan said we will discuss in the future how we can collect food donations for the backpack program.

Emily Wilson explained her idea to put a bench in Two Plum Park. The park started out when a neighbor began to clear weeds on the empty lot and was joined by neighbors in planting and maintaining the location. Portland Parks worked with them and made it into an official park in 2001. Emily made a proposal to Parks, and they recommended she go through the commemorative bench program, which installs benches for \$3000. Emily is beginning the process of attaining that amount. The cost includes the bench, pouring concrete, installation, and some on-going maintenance. Emily is looking to have the fund raising effort receive charitable status so that donations are tax deductible and would like to propose that KNA become a fiscal sponsor for the bench. The commemorative bench doesn't necessarily have to have a plaque, and Emily hasn't considered what would be put on the plaque, if one were included.

Alan passed around copies of emails KNA has received from neighbors concerning the Portland Playhouse and then gave the floor to Brian Weaver, Artistic Director for the theater. PP is applying for a conditional use permit from the city to establish a neighborhood arts center and is seeking an endorsement from KNA to support acquisition of the permit. Brian gave background about the PP, which has been putting on plays for 3 years. He addressed the issues neighbors have had with PP and expressed regret over how the situation was handled, calling the theater's inaction a "mistake." PP would like to address the parking problem moving into the future and is asking for KNA to be an intermediary in making a good neighbor agreement. Alan read a letter from Nora Diver, KNA Co-Chair and neighbor of PP in which she supported the creation of a good neighbor agreement, which would be created over the next 3-6 months. Close neighbors of PP expressed distress about the fact that they came to Brian with their problems and were ignored and are irritated that the situation had to come this far to get something done, but were supportive of PP's mission and hopeful for a solution. Brian said there are a number of actions, such as flagging cars, putting in a bike rack, and discounts for bikers and walkers, that could prevent people from parking on NE 6th. Additionally, a more sustainable show schedule would be part of the permitting process and part of the good neighbor agreement. Diego said Brian should also include neighbors around the King School parking lot in the dialogue. Emily suggested having the property owner involved in conversations as well. The owner of the building that houses PP can invite other groups/organizations to use the building for single events; city has no ability to control that. Brian Weaver of PP reports that the Playhouse plans to use the building no more often than a church congregation likely did in the past - that is, 52 large-scale events/gatherings per year.

Katy Asher proposed dancing with signs to announce KNA's October meeting on the afternoon before that meeting, likely at MLK/Alberta. She requested suggestions for songs for an iPod playlist she can listen to during the dancing and sign-waving. Contact her for details on participating. (katy.asher@gmail.com)

Diego Giosseffi, neighbor, presented a plan that he and some neighbors have come up with to remove invasive plant species and plant native plants along the south side of the King School parking lot. That strip of land, which in part borders Diego's home, is covered in ivy and blackberry, has been used as a refuse dump by farmer's market vendors, and is commonly infested with rats, raccoons, and possums, along with the general stench of animal activities. The city has ignored complaints about it. Diego is looking for volunteers to help pull weeds and plant; Oct 28-29 is a provisional date for this. He is working on a grant proposal for \$1500 to pay for the plants to be planted, with the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, a grant proposal that would be easier to obtain if KNA were involved. Diego also requested help getting a dumpster for the clean-up. The NA agreed to table this for consideration at a future meeting, not having quorum to vote to sign off on the proposal.

KNA board members: Teri Phillips, Alan Silver, Van Bogner, Katy Kanfer

NECN staff: Benjamin Adrian, Katy Asher

KNA Communications Chair: Trace Salmon

Portland Playhouse staff & supporters: Victor Mack, Vin Shambry, Andrea White, Mitch Ritter, Gretchen Corbett, Barbara Conable, Brian Weaver, Nikki Miller, Brenda Phillips

King residents: Brooks Howard, Lisa Van Alstine, Sarah Cline, Matt Moule, Rick Sills, Becky Miller, Derrick (last name unknown)

NE Portland Backpack Lunch Program: Marilyn Mauch

PCRI: Cyndi Natalello

Portland Police: Officer Ryan Bren

Humboldt Resident: Emily Wilson