

King Neighborhood Association General Meeting notes for September 12, 2012

King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Alan Silver, KNA Chair

Jeff Scott, KNA Treasurer

Irek Wielgosz

Katy Asher, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

Margo Dobbertin, King neighbor

David Lomax, Loaves and Fishes

Aiyana Cunningham, Portland Playhouse

Calli Dunaway, Portland Playhouse (Aiyana's assistant)

Karen Parks, McCoy Village

Robin Franklin, Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church

Tia Factor

Eileen Kennedy

Russ Eisenberg

Teri Phillips, KNA At-large rep

Emily Wilson, Humboldt neighbor and Two Plum Park bench project coordinator

Irek Wielgosz, KNA At-large rep

Celeste Carey

Introductions were made. Alan announced that the meeting would be a board meeting with elections, with voting limited to board members.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

KNA will support the Portland Playhouse rock the vote event. The location will be either Portland Playhouse or King Park.

Jeff Scott explained there is an issue with the last meeting; bylaws limiting voting were possibly transgressed in last meeting when all attendees were invited to vote. However, the only persons present were board members, and there were not enough to meet quorum. So, the following decisions from the last meeting were reaffirmed by vote:

- Jeff Scott and David Lomax will serve as King representatives to the NECN Board for one year
- KNA will co-sponsor the potluck for Two Plum Park and the Mason Street block party.
- KNA supports writing a letter to Safeway re cleaning up
- Supplement the NE backpack program; donating \$200 to the backpack program
- Donate \$300 to loaves and fishes jambalaya dinner

Katy reviewed voting procedures for the evening and offered two handouts. KNA membership is open to residents, business owners, and those with an interest in the neighborhood. Board terms are 2 years and are generally staggered. Positions open are Chair, Secretary, and Representative At-Large positions 1 through 5. [Correction to handout: Irek is in at-large position # 4.] Descriptions of the open positions: chair is more or less what you see Alan do this evening, Secretary keeps minutes and other tasks (Katy had a handout with a checklist), At-Large Representatives are committed volunteers who attend meetings regularly. The Chair also: stays in touch with members, responds to inquiries, understands city bureaucracy, and sees that the Association operates within its bylaws.

Those interested in the At-Large positions are: Alan (#3), Tia (#1), Teri (#5). Margo is interested in the position of Secretary. Russ is interested in the position of Chair, provided that Alan is still available to consult and is involved in KNA activities. Irek is interested in being Co-Chair.

Alan noted that Van Bogner (sp?) resigned his At-large position earlier this week. Also, Alan asked Maureen whether she wanted her name up for re-election and she did not respond.

The slate of positions as above was affirmed by unanimous vote (none abstaining, 2 attendees were not eligible to vote).

Alan noted that the elections are not in effect until the close of the current meeting. Also, Irek's former At-large position (#4) is now open.

The Board voted unanimously to disband the MLK Livability Committee.

Andrew Clark was voted unanimously as Land Use Chair.

The Board reviewed its affiliations and yearly events.

Celeste came to discuss the area on King and Simpson (near Safeway) that presents ongoing cleanliness concerns. She noted that the store is now open late and sells alcohol. Celeste showed pictures on her computer showing the sidewalk, the vacant lot near the store, the vacant house next to the lot, the Safeway lot, the bottle collection areas, etc. When she visited, the Safeway areas were clean, but she feels that the vacant lot creates problems.

Celeste reviewed the history of the lot, including an unsuccessful attempt to legitimize unofficial businesses that popped up. At one point the lot owner allowed someone to park a trailer on the lot, and there were both prostitution and drug transactions on the lot.

Celeste can write to the owner of the lot (Trinity LLC(?) in PDX) to tell the owner that the vacancy is hurting the block and annoying neighbors. KNA will write letters to business owners, such as Safeway, Quicktrip, and Top & Bottom, asking them to participate in cleaning and beautifying the area. If some do not respond, KNA can pursue a nuisance complaint.

Someone asked about drug activity. (Quicktrip does not sell alcohol but does sell drug paraphernalia.) A neighborhood watch can be organized to observe and record drug activity; complaints can be sent to Celeste via post or email and the record gives the authorities some power to ask the business to concede sales of paraphernalia. Celeste advised that people be discreet and not put themselves in danger. She reminded us of the police non-emergency number (503) 823-3333. The vacant lot is at 446 NE Simpson. Adjacent to the lot is a house that may be vacant, at 432 NE Simpson. Former board member Allison Spencer has been active on this issue, and Katy has her number.

KNA sent a letter to Safeway but no one has responded. Teri and Irene will contact the manager at Safeway to whom the letter was addressed, and Russ will write letters to Quicktrip and Tom & Bottom. Alan suggested KNA see whether the Woodlawn and/or Piedmont Neighborhood Associations is interested in approaching Safeway.

Emily reviewed the potluck for the Two Plum Park bench fundraiser. The block party fundraiser at 10th and Mason raised nearly \$800, half at the event, half later. Currently just over \$3,000 of the \$5,000 goal has been raised. A videographer volunteered to make a video for a kickstarter. There may also be an apple-themed potluck at the park to be part of the video, details pending.

Alan said fundraising for the backpack lunch program in King (weekend lunches) is going well. Whole Foods recently raised \$1,000. Plans are underway to supplement the current program for some children at King.

David gave an update from Loaves and Fishes. The yearly Jambalaya fundraiser went well; they raised \$2,600 at the event and they expect more donations. The NECN Volunteer appreciation party went well.

NECN is accepting grant applications, due November 1st, more information online. There will be a grant writing workshop on Oct 4th, call (503) 388-5004 to RSVP. There is also more info online. NECN is also looking for volunteers to review grant applicants. NECN has new interim Executive Director.

Other meetings include: SALT meets September 17th, and the Land Use and Transportation Committee meets September 26.

Karen announced that McCoy has computer labs that are available for general use.

Four event announcements were circulated, including a home ownership workshop, a WRAP workshop, and a Classic Foods fundraiser.

Alan thanked outgoing members and congratulated new members. New members will get an email account via KNA. Alan could use help fundraising for the backpack program. Agenda items for the next KNA meeting including: King school mural project needs help, Our Portland/Our Schools is running a bond campaign.

Adjourned until next month.