

King Neighborhood Association General Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2013

King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 NE 7th Avenue 6:40 to 8:35 pm

Alan Silver, KNA Chair  
Cameron, NECN Communications Manager  
Diego Gioseffi, KNA Rep-at-Large  
Ellie Russel, King Neighbor  
Rick Sills, King Neighbor  
Brendan O'Mally, Black Cat Owner  
Jamie Partridge, King Neighbor  
Rose ?, PDX Teacher  
Fran ?, NECN Special Projects Coordinator  
Emily Wilson, Sabin Neighbor  
Paul Anthony, Humboldt Chair  
Shoshana Cohen, NECN ED  
Eileen Kennedy, King Neighbor  
Chris Gannon, King Neighbor  
Karen Corbin, King Neighbor  
Debbie Frank, King Neighbor  
Jeff Scott, KNA At-Large Representative  
David Lomax, KNA Rep to NECN  
Michael, PSU Student  
Robin Hughes, United Methodist  
Chris Lopez, NECN Board President  
Ursula ?, works in King  
Judy Danes, works for Aging and Disability Services

Agenda: adding discussion of Black Cat as per request from neighbors, motion to approve agenda: moved, seconded, passed (4-0)

Introductions

Announcements: depave planning to come to start work on the Bioswale October 26th, 10 - 2; Jamie Partridge wants to come from the Forum on Portland Teacher contract proposal (proposal would limit class size, require arts curriculum, etc.); officer Bren will be here next month with information on a new crime prevention initiative.

NECN insurance update (Shoshana): Shoshana lives in King, asks that the conversation remain cordial. NECN is asking KNA to change the governance model it has held for 40? years. Background: In 2012, the District Coalitions invited Cynthia Cumfer to give trainings on Board governance which resulted in the understanding that KNA's current system creates difficulty getting 501(c)3 status, difficulty getting funding, and may open volunteers to personal liability issues. Two issues with membership based governance model: (1) potential that

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members could be held liable for decisions and the insurance does not cover members. This has never happened in the 40 years of the neighborhood association. (2) A membership based voting model is difficult if not impossible to insure because there is no long term accountability for decisions. District coalition directors approached approximately 4 insurance companies and were all told that this model could not be insured. Shoshana listed NAs from other areas of the City that have made this change. The request from NECN is that KNA choose a Board governance model. If KNA does not make this change, NECN will no longer insure KNA. Shoshana passed out a list of services that NECN provides, and a list of ways to encourage participation in the meetings, and reviewed highlights on the contents.

Comments: Membership voting keeps Boards in check, feeling uneasy about joining a national trend of restricting voting and limiting community participation in decision making.

Unfortunate requirement but Board members are invested and deserve coverage.

Qt: The decision is being compelled by an insurance company? Shoshana: numerous insurance companies have refused to insure this model. Qt: Are the refusals in writing? Shoshana: the refusals are verbal, she has nothing in writing.

Comment: no one wants to cut participation but the change is unlikely to make an impact on KNA business.

Alan: The request from NECN is a requirement for continued insurance.

Comments: KNA Board has open positions and needs greater participation; reducing participation will be particularly difficult to absorb. Concern that an insurance company can give an ultimatum regarding our governance, concern that no insurance company will put into writing their demand.

Alan: David, our rep to NECN, voted no as an NECN Board Member to the decision to require KNA to change

Qt re timeline, Shoshana: request first made in January, NECN needs an answer from KNA in the next couple months or NECN may need to alert their insurance agent.

Qt: What can we do to insure continued participation? Shoshana: referred to list, Shoshana can't commit participation but can commit to NECN's participation.

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Comments: Individual wouldn't join board if not insured. KNA doesn't know whether we are insured now. Shoshana: KNA is currently insured.

Motion to adopt, in general principle, to move to a board centric decision making model. Moved, seconded. Call for a straw poll: discussion, abstain, pass. Going around the room, participants are repeating their earlier comments and not giving straw poll responses. Suggestion that we move to a vote.

Vote called, passed, (4-0).

Discussion of Black Cat Safety issues (various neighbors) Comments: Lives on 12th and has a small child, does not feel safe. People are smoking on the sidewalk in front of the bar.

Qt: smoking cigarettes or pot? A: cigarettes in front of the bar and pot in the back area.

Qt: has Black Cat ever been cited? Brendan: never been fined, has maybe spoken with noise complaint officer (?he's not sure who).

Comment: Is concerned for her personal safety as a result of activity at the Black Cat, drug deals emanate from the BC where people will come from the BC and go down 12th to deal; people walk around with open containers; people who do not live in the neighborhood come from the BC and spend hours talking on cell phones in front of a residential houses (one in particular) and greet visitors coming to/from the loiterers and the BC. Recently, there were 10 people on the street and they yelled "don't you be snitching on us" twice at this resident. Resident has been in contact with Ofc. Bren, who came to see the situation, and officer Bren thought the people/loiterers at the house were residents because of the way in which they were so comfortably situated on the front lawn. Pot smoking has been observed in the back yard and in front of the Black Cat. A marijuana dispensary that recently opened put up 4 cameras and has shared footage with the police. Residents have found drug bags with spades and batmans stenciled on them (the bags seem too small to be for pot). Also, cigarette smoking in front of the door and litter on the sidewalk and street. The dispensary has been working on keeping the sidewalk cleared to preserve ADA access to the dispensary. Fights have broken out on the street. Officer Bren recently arrested someone who frequents the Black Cat. Black Cat sells single serves that make attract dealers and buyers; sometimes people are outside and visibly quite intoxicated.

Qt: Is this worse in the summer versus the winter? A: There is heightened activity in the summer, but same core group are present year-round.

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Comment (resident): It's strange/suspicious to see same core group of people hanging out in front of Black Cat then move to the front of this resident's house and greet/entertain a changing group of guests.

Officer Mendoza: Will spend more time at BC. Small bags may be for meth. One resident has spoken to Officer Zoeller.

Question re demographic of Black Cat patrons: 20s, 30s, mixed ethnicities.

Qt of what kind of beer is sold. Brendan: can stop selling swishers, has moved tables, has removed lights, has clients who are not nice people but is restricted in how he can respond to them.

Jeff: Suggest a meeting with Celeste Carey, crime prevention coordinator. KNA can arrange a meeting with Celeste and invite everyone who came to the meeting tonight.

Comment: idea of a door person at BC. Brendan: could maybe replace tables with smaller tables that can be put inside at night.

Green King Bioswale (Diego): Trying to partner with Architects Without Borders to revamp King Park. AWB provided a survey for residents. With a grant from BES, building a Bioswale this fall, depaving a strip in the parking lot on October 26th. Diego has invoices for reimbursement.

Thrill the World (Alan): Thrill the World Portland dance will occur on October 26th at 2pm; it is a benefit for SMYRC.

King Backpack Program (Alan): KNA sponsors a fundraiser to expand the program to include kids at King School. Fundraising goal is \$2,500 - \$3,000 for the year to meet need, based on participation last year. Whole Foods is doing a fundraiser on Nov 7th: sampling of Thanksgiving foods. The program is not a part of the food bank, but it does take food donations.

Shoshana: NECN could maybe have a food drive over the holidays (for specific foods).

Two Plum Park Bench (Emily): The park is the size of two vacant lots; the owners donated the land to be an official City Park. Neighbors raised money for a park bench. The area for the bench installation has been fenced off. Need to excavate and put in forms this week, will pour pad next week, pad cures a week, then the bench will be installed. Parks & Rec also needs to perform other excavation in

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the park the week of the 21st. Emily hopes to have a bench warming party the last week of October.

Alan: Didn't have time to discuss divest program; please read up online.

Open Board positions: Eileen is interested in the open at-large position.

LUTC: PDC is reviewing a development proposal for the empty lot; KNA needs to pursue this with PDC to get more information. Our current LUC representative has been gone from meetings all year. Leigh Rappaport offered to take up the position, more next month.

Comment: Heard that the proposal was for short term care senior housing facility. Concerns from last time include exasperation of existing lack of parking.

There are also have opportunities to work with other NAs: Sabin (sustainable plans joint with King), Vernon (social events), and others.

NECN events: mediation/communication; brownfields redevelopment.

Adjourned 8:35

DRAFT