

King Neighborhood Association November 12, 2014
Draft Meeting Minutes

Introductions

Approve agenda with amendments

UNR (Margaret Davis) regarding resolution which is intended to thwart the demolition of affordable housing and advocate sensible growth. 300 or so demolitions this year not counting another 100 or so demolitions that are categorized as "remodels," in which the house is razed and the impression is used for a new house. Q: is the goal to eliminate demolition? A: No. Not seeing an improvement in the current replacement homes (energy efficiency, density, etc.) and are more expensive. Large builders using economies of scale and create architectural homogeneity. Old homes as a link to the past. Comment that developers are under-regulated.

K1 exemption to mandatory 35-day delay: if a developer brings in a new home permit same time as they bring in a demo permit. The BDS lawyer can't explain the source of the delay. That exemption is likely to go away regardless.

5% of the city budget comes from demo dumping.

Comment that new homes offer advantages that appeal to some homeowners, Q would this support smarter choices in new home design? A: yes

Comment: homes with bigger footprints contribute to runoff

Motion (margo) (second) (Irek) 6-0

TREE INVENTORY PROJECT

Last year, 9 hoods with support from urban forestry. Elizabeth arrived 1 minute in. A tree inventory is a count of street trees in the neighborhood (a street tree is between the curb and the sidewalk). Volunteers attend a training to learn how to assess trees. The data is collected over the summer, given to urban forestry, put into a database and the information is collated and returned in the fall. The inventory gives the hood the type of canopy diversity (or lack thereof) in the neighborhood. Too many maples, cherries, broad leaf deciduous: increases runoff; open to single source tree parasites and diseases.

Comment: participated in the first tree inventory in PDX, in Concordia, and they were able to pull together volunteers successfully, but every year since the list of approved street trees is increasingly small.

Q: what is the benefit: learning how to identify trees, assess them, working with urban forestry to learn how to best

Q: Does this help to increase the number of trees in the city? Tree inventory helps to prioritize areas where more trees should be planted.

Comment that another benefit is to meet neighbors.

Deadline is Jan 15

Q what if we fall short on volunteers? A: urban forestry can help with areas that are more difficult for volunteers and fill those in. Best to secure 3-4 volunteers before applying. (Elizabeth leaves)

Discussion re whether KNA can secure 4 volunteers. Diego can do some outreach/recruitment but not hand-on. Another KNA member volunteered.

Q: do we need the same volunteers every time; no, need the same crew leaders. How many crew leaders?

Concern re whether we can get 40 volunteers. Could recruit online via social media.

Q: can you do half? Probably can't plan to do it, but ok if you can't finish in one year.

Discussion re have the whole summer, allows us to identify heritage trees,

Will try to recruit another 3 crew leaders and vote again in December.

GREEN KING UPDATE

Review of Green King projects so far: grant from city to depave and plant natives around the King School. Will plant on MLK Day from 9-1 or so. Already have about 40 volunteers signed up. Also working on project with PDX Parks and Rec to redesign the park. Big issue with the park is safety: illicit and violent behavior in park, bad driving on round about, poor lighting, tennis courts in disrepair. Looking to see what P&R will allow Green King to do. Working with Architects Without Borders. Going to have a safety assessment with the new crime convention coordinator (rescheduling from tomorrow due to cold weather). Green King volunteer group is growing. Looking for more money, probably a \$200,000 - \$300,000 project. Hope to start fundraising in the spring and apply for a large grant from metro in the fall. May have a nice park in 2016. Note that we will need to secure fiscal sponsorship from NECN. Q: does the City pay any money at all? A: we might get some money from Parks, and they will probably be obligated to perform maintenance in the future.

STREET FEE (doing research online during meeting, discussing lack of involvement, generally displeasure, claims that it is inequitable

Motion to send letter (see notes) (Margo) seconded (Irek) vote: 7-0

LAND USE COMMITTEE (Leigh)

Phillip Brown and ?? were at the most recent meeting and offered some concessions. one building will have 4-7 tenants. Natural grocers will be anchor. Will make an 1,800 sf corner tenant in that building along Alberta with glazing and doors onto Alberta and opening the corner as an entrance. Other entrances on the n and nw sides. No entrance onto Garfield, leaving PDC house among the 4 on the lot. Materials are brick: ebony on the bottom, dark red on the top. More bike parking. Want to make courtyard area between two buildings with culturally significant design. Solid walls will be on west facing wall, portion of Alberta, one third of MLK will be solid and may have signs. The windows will be open and not covered. The parking lot will have substantial plantings. Will not landscape the East side of the houses because that's City property.

Grouped decided that the GNA will be worked out with KNA.

One member of the group was upset about the materials selection and some aspects of the design.

Q: What does "culturally significant" mean? A: have impression that it would be something that expressed the "soul of Portland." Comment: could get historical markers from PDC. Response: question is really design elements.

Q: any commitment regarding how long it will be before they break ground on the second building on that lot? The building is important to the existing tenants (small businesses) on northern lot. Need to pressure Majestic to finish the project and not just leave a grocery store.

Will try to get folks from the CBA working group at the Dec mtg.