

Minutes KNA meeting March 9th 2016

Neighbors in attendance:

Jillian Detweiller

Kim Moreland

John Tyler

Margaret O'Hartigan

James Jardee Borquist

Pat (Bethel)

Board members present:

Nick Larue

Diego Gioseffi

Derwin Cunningham

Leigh Rappaport

Andrew Neerman

Board members absent:

Eileen Kennedy

Blaire Ottobonni

Secretary Blaire is not present so Diego Gioseffi is taking notes.

6:30 Presentations

Approval of the Agenda – Leigh makes a motion to approve the agenda, Derwin seconds – Votes in favor (5) Votes against (0) Abstentions (0) Motion pass

6:35 Grievances Responses: The Grievance committee met today and brought recommendations on the grievances responses. Committee found two of five grievances to be valid and they recommend having a hearing to discuss them with the grievant.

Many of the grievances are about open meeting requirements and timely notices.

Grievance dated on Nov 24th, 2016 about Open meeting requirement. Yes, it was a valid grievance because KNA failed to post this in the blog/fakebook.

Grievance dated on Dec 9th, 2016 about Open meeting violation. We found no harm. Not a valid grievance.

Grievance dated on January 7th, 2016 about Board Member Removal. We found no violation of KNA bylaws. Not a valid grievance.

Grievance dated on January 20th, 2016 about illegitimate meeting. Agenda was posted on time on the blog. Not a valid grievance. However, KNA needs to be more on time to post notices in general

Grievance dated on January 28th about 60 days violation. Yes, it is a valid grievance. We failed to answer on time.

Andrew Neerman Board member arrives.

Matt makes a motion to approve the findings of the committee. Leigh seconds. Votes in favor (5) Votes against (0) Abstentions (1- Andrew) Motion Pass

Leigh makes a motion to have a grievance hearing for the valid grievances, Diego seconds. Votes in favor (5) Votes against (0) Abstentions (1- Andrew) Motion Pass

YWCA speakers did not showed up

6:55 – Bethel Economic Development Corporation:

Bethel EDC wants to create a multiuse building (5828 NE 8th Ave) The community building would be downstairs with a kitchen and space for meetings and youth programs. They will require a variance to create a multiuse building. There are two lots that they want to unify them with the same zoning codes.

7:10 – Diego talks about NECN recommendations and for the need of start rolling the bylaws working group. Many of the NECN recommendations are about amending the bylaws that seem in some cases unclear. Diego says that he hope Margaret O'Hartigan will be part of the working group since she seems to know a lot about bylaws.

7:15 – NE Jessup Property development.

Ed Bruin explained the new building. At 432 NE Jessup Street across from the Wells Fargo Bank. There is no variance asked for. Everything will be following the codes. The building has no parking. ADA accessible. Units will be market rate. There won't be land review because follows all the codes. There will be a total of 13 units, studios and one bedroom units.

Margaret O'Hartigan asked him if this building and its magnitude would damage the lifestyle of the immediate neighbors. Keith explained about the future greater density of the city and that this is the way that the City will accommodate that density.

Margaret O'Hartigan raises concerns about destroying the property values of the neighbors and asked what the KNA can do about this. Andrew responds that there is not much we can do since everything follows the codes and that the property values won't be damaged.

Leigh explains about what NECN Land Use & Transportation Committee (LUTC) tries to create some design standards for the NE neighborhoods. She comments that this might be something good we can do.

Margaret claims that the KNA does not care and does not want to take a stand against this sort of development that damages the neighbors.

Derwin Cunningham speaks: He says that he cares. Explained about the hearing process with BDS and about the importance to have immediate neighbors involvement.

Andrew says he does not have any problem with this project: The building is not too high and is not violating the zoning codes.

Leigh Rappaport says KNA does not have power or authority. We can only give opinions if there is not variance or changing the zoning. Design standards of NECN LUTC are brought up again. That might create more power if we have a Coalition based design standards. She does not know the timeframe on this Design Standards

Margaret O' Hartigan: She says that writing letters is not enough. We could demand zoning to roll back, she says. Everything favors developers and harms neighbors. She refers to the development process of blockbusting. She says that the Board should be more openly opposing this block building development process.

Diego Gioseffi asks Margaret to show examples on how KNA could be more active. Andrew Neerman says that writing letters sometimes work. Derwin Cunningham says more active positions could work. Nick brings the issue of the big building on NE7th, south of Irving Park, and all the vocal opposition that did not go anywhere because the building was following codes.

Diego speaks about how to focus on issues in a doable scale

Margaret O'Hartigan says that we could make City Offices' life hell opposing in big scale. She suggests that the Neighborhood Association contest the zoning changes and that developers do not care of neighbor's livability. She says that we need to preserve the single-family properties.

Nick Larue speaks about urban growth boundaries: There are two sides of this and it is complex issue. The reality is that the population is going up and the new housing to accommodate that population will grow either up or out.

Andrew Neerman says we have to plan as much as possible. He agrees with Margaret about protecting single-family properties. Again he says that KNA don't have much power to stop this citywide development process.

Derwin Cunningham talks about this process of development have been done in gentrified, trendy, centrally located neighbors.

Leigh Rappaport agrees with Margaret as well that she does not want to see this single-family houses being thorn down.

7:55 Vanport discussion

PDC decided to sell the site to Majestic for a one-story building that will include a grocery store as an anchor tenant and smaller businesses. The developers asked for a variance regarding parking. They would allow changing the amount of parking that discharge into the alley from 4 cars (what is allowed in the codes) to 27 cars. PBOT is waiting for traffic study. There is an open building permit. KNA wrote a letter to oppose the zoning variance. BDS is currently reviewing the variance. We are waiting on the result.

Kim Moreland from PDC (project coordinator) talks about the variance. The community group reviewed the design.

There is an open comment right now, Andrew thinks. There will be an appeal opportunity if the variance is approved by BDS.

Diego talks about the lack of actual neighbors involvement in the PDC project group.

John Tyler says that Diego is saying bullshit about the lack of neighbor involvement.

Diego says that the PDC statements in a previous report, (before Trader Joes fiasco) of giving the KNA detailed information on the project might be BS

Margaret is claiming hundreds of hours on neighbors working on this project and accused the KNA of trying to work against the neighbor's needs. Talks about the need of a grocery because it is a food desert. She claims the neighbors been involved for 20 years in this project.

Diego Gioseffi says that in 20 years a lot of things have changed, and that in only few years he lived in the neighborhood he passed from being the new neighbor in the block to be now one of the oldest.

Andrew Neerman says about the need of better urban design, like to add underground parking in the design.

Pat says that the food desert resolved with TJ's or Natural Grocer does not solve the problem of food for the more poor neighbors.

Diego says that the design is very poor and not sustainable and that the amount of parking lot (95 cars) will create traffic problems in an already problematic intersection. The amount of space for cars go against the City plans to make Portland more pedestrian, bike and public transportation oriented.

Margaret O'Hartigan supports the parking saying it won't create problems.

Diego Gioseffi says that the King Neighborhood Association never opposed to this project, that only has been trying to make the design better.

John Tyler says that what Diego Gioseffi said is not true. He says that in the past, previous KNA president Alan Silver spoke to the media opposing to the Trader Joes project.

Diego Gioseffi responded that Alan Silver only spoke of his personal opinion and that the KNA never had an official position on Vanport, and that it was the media who generated that information.

Leigh discussed about the house that is in the middle of the property. Margaret says that we could address this issue in 5 years.

Jillian Detweiler, Mayor's Office -City person says there might not be reasons to tear down that house and make more parking spaces in the future.

Announcements:

Treasurer Report: This month there was no money in and no money out.

Safety and Livability: We received a letter of a Liquor License application from Tom Vangard, 1433 NE Alberta

Communications Committee:

- Egg Hunt stuffing event. Contact Blaire if you are interested. Need volunteers on March 27th at 9:45

- Movies in the Park: Leigh makes a motion to pursue Movies in the Park. Derwin seconds. Votes in favor (6) Votes against (0) Abstentions (0) Andrew suggests having a band and having a band, rock climbing. Diego says this is a big fundraising opportunity that we shouldn't miss.

Land Use Committee: Leigh resigns as Chair of the Land Use. Leigh makes a motion to vote Andrew as the new Chair. Derwin Seconds. All members voted in favor (6 votes)

Andrew says we need more training: How to run committee meetings, procedures, responsibilities and other things. Matt says it is good idea and that we should ask NECN for help.

About the NE7th Greenway being removed from the list of projects by the City: There are neighbors from different neighborhoods (King, Irvington and Boise) that will meet with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) and PBOT to discuss possible actions to keep the project standing. Meeting will be at Knot and NE 7th on March 14th at 6:30 pm

Bylaws working group: The working group will meet at one point soon. We are looking at Concordia by laws.

Green King Committee: The futsal courts project in the King School Park is moving forward, but we need to wait the approval of PP&R. There is a design team that is starting to draft a plan for green and playground areas, and a running team to fundraise for a new running track for the park.

8:50 Adjourn