

**KNA Budget Meeting:** St Andrew Church: July 26, 2017, 6:30pm

Board Members present: David Kennedy, Emily Leuning, Christen Cannon, Andrew Neerman, Diego Gioseffi

Neighbors present: Alan Silver, Margaret O'Hartigan (arrived 6:55)

6:37: Meeting called to order: group check ins – how's everyone doing? David got new rollerblades, Diego is going on vacation, Andrew just signed a new artist, Alan quit his job, Emily is also going on vacation, Christen is taking off for Canada for a bit (will be absent from August meeting).

6:40pm - Appointing a new chair:

\*\*\*\*\* Diego motions we elect David Kennedy as the new chair

Andrew seconds

All board members vote in favor: Andrew, Christen, Diego, Emily, David

6:41 Brainstorming new members:

No neighbors are here to express interest, David says he would like to get our policies and procedures figured out before going out to recruit new members to be part of the board. Christen says clear boundaries and repercussions need to be outlined and adhered to – conflict escalates everything. Board should be very clear about conduct expectations, investment, facts, etc. and keep accountable. We need to get our house in order before inviting folks in. Can we properly address the issue – when behavior crosses the line, xyz happens. Andrew wants all of us to be on the same page. David says there is a new director at ONI, may be willing to help with productive solutions such as handling grievances. David will engage them to find out more. Diego says they have offered to help in the past – good news from ONI. Says someone in the past suggested conflict resolution but doesn't know if that is the best path forward.

6:51pm Reviewing 2017-18 budget (Christen):

Christen says budget should reflect purpose or impact of the organization: when we think about budget, spending, etc. how is it impacting our purpose? We **should act as a conduit for connecting and empowering** neighbors to information and access to city/developers/etc concerning neighborhood affairs. Impact statement

Recap: Past budget is listed online – we had four major buckets. In 2016-2017 we said we'd raise \$3500, spend \$3500 and get \$5100 of in kind donations. We actually raised \$2315, spent \$2301, and in kind \$2600. The Green King program also recently received a \$20,000 grant and has the support of an AmeriCorps member – if you include those two items, the in kind was greatly more. Safe to say that Green King was a high impact in the neighborhood in comparison to some of our regular meetings. Year

over year, total money in/out has been between \$8,000 to \$9,000 every year over the last few years. Pretty stable. Looked through past notes to see how many people are attending meetings, involved in initiatives – numbers are dwindling. Christen reached out to past meeting attendees – folks said KNA is being held hostage, meetings are dysfunctional, toxic environment, hopeless that situation will improve. Overall, we are financially steady but are we accomplishing **our core mission of serving King Residents in engagement and information sharing**. What are our lessons? A couple of people do everything, some people get overwhelmed – came on board thinking that she could devote a couple of hours a week but has been inundated with things that needed fixing and other demands on time. Will be high turnover and burnout if we don't fix issues. The missing piece is engagement: we are missing out if folks don't want to attend meetings. Two items for new fiscal year: 1) what is the baseline – what do we absolutely have to do – keep it simple so we're not going in too many directions. 2) What does putting the fire out look like? What do we need to do to re-engage people?

SWOT analysis: look at slide in powerpoint

Opp: Neighborhood identify their own solutions

Threats: Continuous conflict: grievance after grievance

What are we doing and is that what King needs?

Triage urgent needs, plant seeds, pull weeds: baseline budget. We know for sure we will get \$1,000 from NECN. Keep budget clear and simple, can always update as we go. This is not the end all, be all – what does our current situation look like?

How did this fire get started? Reached out to DS Consulting to see about conflict **assessment**.

Second step: as we are balancing – we have standardized, stable funds, but we don't have a **streamlined, coherent** method of tracking.

Step three: let's get a diverse group of voices to have a say what the neighborhood wants.

Christen wants to hear from board/members on their thoughts.

Margaret said that Alan had started the process of removing her membership. If the board is seriously considering spending \$1500 on mediation, why don't they go ahead with that process as it would be cheaper?

David says he doesn't feel comfortable taking Margaret's suggestions since every time we go forward, Margaret has a grievance or complaint about it. Christen says it doesn't get to the heart of why things have had to get to this point. Says she read past meeting notes and read Margaret's comments and says it is going to be hard for her to put her guard down and be fully objective due to what appears to be a pattern of attacks of board members– having an outside party do analysis could be an opportunity for a third party to objectively look at what is going on. David says he had met with Margaret, reads from an email "sorry you feel so much animosity with KNA... open to meeting to learn about you and your background". David says he tried to offer an olive branch and Margaret characterized it as an attack on her – this is why he has difficulty trusting Margaret right now. Diego says he thinks it is a good idea to do a conflict assessment, only a couple of members have historical perspective. Diego remembers NECN offering free services – contract with Resolutions NW which we could work with. Christen says we can

look into it – is it free? Diego says yes, we have used it in the past – Trader Joe’s, Green King. Christen says she will definitely pursue that. Andrew thinks it is a fantastic idea – to have a baseline starting point.

Christen asks do we have any concerns with baseline budget? Diego asks is \$400 for neighborhood cleanup – doesn’t think we have the capacity to do this event, doesn’t think we should continue to do this event. Alan says Mark and Margo have done it for the last couple of years. Diego think we need more staff/volunteers if it is going to be successful. Christen says budget committed does not include the neighborhood clean up. Diego says money comes from BPS – if we want to do it, the money is there. Christen says we can decide that later. Alan points out that Backpack program is closing down – will not need a budget item any longer.

\*\*\*\*\* David motions that we approve the baseline proposed budget

Andrew seconds

All board members vote in favor: David, Diego, Andrew, Emily, Christen

### **7:30 NECN Fiscal Sponsorship:**

Has been around for two years – last year was a renewal and asking for another renewal this year. Christen says Margaret reached out with concerns about sponsorship and not being represented legally. Christen contacted NECN and ONI and said this is normal – we have very little liability.

Christen says she doesn’t think a NA always needs fiscal sponsorship – where we sit right now we do not have the person power to do the monitoring, tracking, accounting all on their own. Doesn’t think the Treasurer and Chair should be the only two responsible – would like the support and accountability and Quickbooks that NECN offers. Christen thinks that this should be the current solution, not necessarily forever.

Margaret says she has a concern - page 8 – both parties have a right to sue for any reason. Can’t find a similar clause that says the NA can sue if the fiscal sponsor doesn’t fulfill their duties. Alan says any party in a legal contract has a right to sue. Diego agrees. Christen says we are not in a position right now to get our own 501(c)3 status – not saying we won’t ever get there, but right now we are not healthy enough. Margaret says she would like to see wording that says both parties have the right to sue.

David says from his conversations with Paul, he doesn’t see any reason not to go ahead.

\*\*\*\*\* David motions to renew the fiscal sponsorship agreement for the next fiscal year

Andrew seconds

All vote in favor: David, Diego, Andrew, Christen, Emily

7:40 David says he wants to address website and email issues – suggests we can all create a google email (like dkennedykna@gmail) in order to collaborate in docs. Andrew agrees. Diego says he doesn’t agree

at all with that idea – he has had the KNA email for years and lots of people use it. David floats the idea of forming a website redesign committee.

Margaret asks what the status of Derwin's board position is – David said Derwin's intention was to resign, so we will rescind the motion to remove him.

Alan says that illegitimate votes do still need to be rescinded by a formal motion and vote.

\*\*\*\*\* David motions that we rescind the motion to remove Derwin from the board.

Diego seconds

All vote in favor: David, Diego, Andrew, Emily, Christen