

King Neighborhood Association Meeting

6/14/2017 6:30pm

Board Members in Attendance: Alan Silver, Emily Leuning, Diego Gioseffi, Christen Cannon-Nugent, Andrew Neerman, David Kennedy

Neighbors in Attendance: Sharon Bolden, Margaret O'Hartigan, Stephanie Sanchez (Green King), Marilyn Mauch, Robin Franklin (Hughes Memorial)

6:30 pm – Introductions, agenda, previous meeting minutes

Stephanie invites anyone to the Good in the Hood prep party from 3-5 pm on Thursday the 22nd at NECN office

Margaret would like to add a discussion of the reimbursement process to the agenda – Christen says she will cover that during the finance update

April minutes: no concerns, minutes approved (Alan, Diego, Andrew, Emily, David, Christen)

May minutes: Margaret has a point of order: is the entire membership eligible to vote on meeting minutes since it was a membership meeting?

Christen points out that we have rules of order as well as code of conduct – coming together to get work done.

Margaret says that we could post the May minutes online marked as draft – wouldn't have to approve by board.

Alan says we'd have to include something on the website saying that the draft minutes haven't been approved and won't be approved by the board.

Diego says that he doesn't like the idea of leaving them as draft –

Alan asks if anyone has objections to anything in the minutes. No one has objections. Consensus that the minutes are accurate.

6:40 – Backpack Books donations: Project of the backpack lunch program. She spent \$46 of the \$75 we approved for the Easter Egg Hunt and collected \$61 in donations for the books program. Alan asks for permission to ask NECN for the \$61

***** Diego motions that we donate the \$61

Andrew seconds

Alan, Emily, Diego, Andrew, David vote yes.

Christen abstains

Alan says we previously approved \$50 in donations to go to the food backpack program on honor of Marilyn's retirement – Alan would like to switch the money to the book program instead.

Christen asks where in the budget the money comes from – general operating expenses.

Alan asks for objections. Diego asks why we're switching. Alan says food part of the program is well funded and the books program is new and less well funded.

***** Diego motions that we switch the donation from the food program to the books program.

Alan seconds

Alan, Emily, Diego, Andrew, David vote yes.

Christen abstains

6:50 – Talking about bigotry and safety in our neighborhood: Alan passes out the NECN statement on Good in the Hood

David says that there is a clubhouse of sorts in the neighborhood for a white supremacist organization and would like to address this issue. Could involve talking to the landlord to ask them not to rent to them, other ideas?

Christen asks whether we know if any members of this club are residents of our neighborhood? No one knows. Christen says she thinks that this is important information to know. This will inform our approach and how we go forward with the issue. Wants to understand are these residents of our community or coming from outside the neighborhood.

Alan says they own the house nearby on Garfield - he stopped in front of a house and they started yelling at him.

Diego says several of the members have been arrested, imprisoned, have been accused of serious crimes.

Margaret says she would like specifics presented to the board – encourages the board to liaison with the police department before going forward with anything. Doesn't think this association or the board are competent or capable of dealing with this group.

David says yes, this is not a fleshed-out plan, the police are part of this and we will see where it goes. This is a beginning of a discussion re: what we can do about it.

Alan says in the past King and Boise have considered switching the neighborhood boundaries, and this issue has come up in those discussions.

Andrew says coordinating with Boise would be a good idea too.

Margaret says she encourages the board to not just focus on a specific political position that the board may be against. Extremist politics pose a threat to society regardless of where they are on the spectrum, for instance she found a flyer showing violence against Trump in the neighborhood.

David says racism is not a political issue, Christen says yes political, not partisan. David says, yes, it is a human rights issue.

Margaret says she would like the board to keep an even hand, not just go after one spectrum of the political spectrum.

David says the threats to Good in the Hood were more serious than a flyer.

7:04 – Honoring Marilyn Mauch, founder of the Northeast Backpack Lunch Program

Interfaith Alliance on Poverty – Marilyn is on the advocacy group of this org. In Cully, there is a big Catholic and a big Lutheran church – graffiti of all kinds is covering the Lutheran church – they're organizing a multi-ethnic potluck in July.

Marilyn started and ran the backpack lunch program and the KNA and NECN, especially KNA, has really helped the program. Started at King School in 2010 – already at Woodlawn and Harvey Scott (in Cully). We are an all volunteer program – provided weekend lunch sacks to kids who need them. Just retired in January after 8.5 years. KNA is really a tremendous force for improving the well-being of the families and the kids here. It makes a difference. Marilyn met with Alan and a PTA rep and they were enthusiastic and set up program for summer/fall 2010. Rely entirely on donations and grants, she calculated they could serve 25 students, PTA said, no we need 50. Each weekend lunch sack has enough for 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches. Numbers served at King has ranged from 50 – 70 kids per weekend. Thousands and thousands of weekend

meals have gone to the kids. Marilyn says she is a product of childhood poverty – people in the neighborhood would invite her to lunch. School personnel encouraged her and said she had to attend university, later earned her phd. Has read studies about how nutrition impacts education. Kids in the program have said they feel that people in the neighborhood care about them – thank you all for all that you have done.

Alan tells Marilyn that we raised \$61 at the egg hunt and KNA will also be donating \$50 to the book program.

Marilyn says that's great – the more books you have in the home, the better the chance you'll be a good reader and do well in school. Got an initial grant from NECN to give books on the last day of school – every kid in the backpack program will get two books on the last day of school.

Diego asks how the book program works. Marilyn says there are new and used books, could maybe work something out with a book bank. To start, we got a grant – they got the reading lists for different classes at the school and chose books from the lists. Just heard about the grant through her Alliance for Poverty meetings and applied. Not sure where exactly the program will go under the new director, but we will see. The reading specialist developed a reading list geared specifically toward the kids in the backpack program. A couple of volunteers in the program who wish to remain anonymous got the Woodlawn reading list and bought a book for every kid there. Just started at Rigler School – apartment building close by had rent doubled and tenants had one month to move out. Got money from the SUN program so that the kids could stay through the end of the school year.

7:18pm - Robin from Hughes Memorial church invites everyone to Good in the Hood on June 24 and enjoy the festivities afterward.

July – Community Unity event on Saturday July 15 from 11am to 4pm– hot dogs, ice cream, clothes giveaway, potentially school supplies, household supplies. Has been partnering with Black Lives Matter and Don't Shoot Portland

7:20 – KNA finances. Christen says she has just come on as treasurer and is reconciling 2016 budget. July is when we have to submit a new budget – when we “re-up” with NECN. Need to have past history synced – needs anything that is outstanding by the end of next week. Christen says the budget is a catalyst for impact – what are our goals and intent? What do we represent, what do we bring to the community, what are our priorities? Created a starting point – narrative around what are our impact points? Where do we need to strengthen KNA? How does our budget align to that? Will have reconciled our 2016 lookback by the end of next week. Movies in the Park popped up just as she came on and has taken up a lot of her time – has identified a couple of local sponsors who could table: Natural Grocers, PCC Continuing Ed, Ethos Music. They would get a table and a slide before the movie.

Andrew asks how important is it that the orgs are within the neighborhood boundary?

Christen says let's start within the neighborhood and then pursue others. Also putting together a packet for ME Fitness, Arrow coffee, Alan suggests Portland Playhouse. We will have a table for KNA – says Stephanie has some ideas for how to make it interactive and encourage folks to come over.

Stephanie says the Co-op has donated to Green King in the past.

Andrew suggests Horn of Africa, Promise Land Cafe.

Margaret says she invited him to the member meeting and says he appreciated the invite – could follow up with him.

David says he agrees with inviting co-op – support local businesses instead of a chain.

Christen – working on making budget easier to access. Wants to have documentation of policies and procedures in writing. We can't go back in time and change anything in the past, but we can clarify procedures for going forward. Started a draft doc for financial policies and procedures – wants to have this done by end of next week. General budget info, reimbursement policy, payment/check request policy, check deposit process, any new initiatives or fiscal sponsorship, donations and financial reports. Would like expertise on common questions – everyone's input.

Margaret says she is concerned about whether this runs afoul of ONI instructions on open and public meetings. Says she is not very computer literate but hopes that it is compliant with the bylaws requirement that documents are stored within NECN.

Christen says official documents would not be stored in the google drive. This would be used for drafting docs that would eventually get approved by the board at a meeting.

Diego says that it does not break ONI rules.

Christen says the google doc is useful and can be used after individual board members move on – it won't be lost in one person's email.

Christen says we will need to clarify that when request for reimbursements are submitted they are accompanied by a receipt. If no receipt, there is a lost receipt form. Need to make transparent where expenditures and income are coming and going.

Margaret says current fiscal sponsorship with NECN doesn't square with bylaws.

Alan says there was no agreement in place in the past, they just handled the money.

Margaret encourages legal review of the contract before it is renewed.

Christen says renewal is July 1st if she is remembering correctly. Diego says he doesn't think that is the case. Margaret says the 2015 one began July 1st and ended June 30th the next year.

Christen says the termination is July 1st. Will send Emily the current fiscal sponsorship to post online. Diego will show David how to create new users for email/website.

7:45: Alan asks for \$82.03 reimbursement for the city – they printed the newsletter for us which was delivered throughout the neighborhood.

***** Emily motions that we approve \$82.03 to reimburse the city for printing costs

Alan seconds

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

7:47 Neighborhood cleanup: How much do we have budgeted? Income \$400, expenditure of \$500

Diego says the money we spend for dumpsters gets paid and we are reimbursed. Or can invoice NECN directly. The process has changed through the years, not consistent from year to year. Christen says we have deposited the raised funds already. Diego asks who paid this year? Alan says NECN agreed to pay for dumpsters up front. Alan says the haulers also changed

Reimbursement request from Mark Buchweitz – did most of work at the clean up as he usually does. He got a U-Haul for \$77.16 to take away the leftovers.

Reimbursement request from Heiberg (haulers) for \$74.20.

Alan says his understanding is that NECN should pay for the hauling costs.

***** Alan motions we reimburse Mark Buchweitz \$77.16 for Neighborhood clean up costs

David seconds

All vote in favor

Alan, Emily, Andrew, Christen, Diego, David

Alan asks for \$236 reimbursement for Vanport Square Studio for the three Oregon Humanities conversations- (had originally planned four conversations but Sabin is doing

the same one around the same time). One conversation happened, two more to come (dates TBA).

Christen asks how much of our events/conferences budget we've already spent. Diego says \$165 has been spent.

***** Emily motions that we reimburse Vanport Square Studio \$236 for the Oregon Humanities Conversations.

Andrew seconds

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

Christen reminds everyone that the deadline for any other outstanding expenditures is the end of next week.

7:59pm - Next steps in a communications plan for KNA: work on redesigning website, create a new face for KNA. David says he's interested in taking this on, Christen is also interested.

8:01: Alan notes that as of May 8th: notifications of land use proposals are required to be sent to renters (not just homeowners)

Alan asses out info on HB 2007. Addresses missing middle housing and many other issues. Alan says Lew Fredrick is unsure how to vote – would welcome input from folks.

8:02pm – Vernon canceled picnic last Saturday because of weather. Have one in Humboldt on July 15th at Mallory Meadows. David says he knows folks who live around there- he/they could possibly help get the word out.

8:04pm: Andrew land use updates: architect/developer behind 13th and Alberta project is presenting next Tuesday, June 20th between 7:00 and 8:30 pm at 1722 NE Alberta Street. Presentation to Alberta Main Street Association. Will welcome six additional people since their meeting space is small, please RSVP. Land use committee received the invitation to the meeting. Alan says KNA and Alberta Main Street have talked about collaborating in the past but haven't had many projects that overlap. We advertise for some of their events. Alan will find out about last Thursday happenings.

Christen departs.

Andrew says Land Use Committee meeting day might change: Tuesdays don't work well for him or David who is interested in coming on board. Every 4th Thursday of the month is proposed as the new meeting date, starting in July. June meeting will still be 4th Tuesday which is June 27th, at St Andrew's church.

8:15pm - Alan wants people to think about historic districts – says they are elitist, classist, racist. Any time a neighborhood closes itself off to development, other neighborhoods have to absorb more of it and more quickly. Irvington is our closest historic district.

Margaret says she would like to hear some kind of substantiation for how they are racist, etc.

Alan says when you create a historic district, it becomes very expensive to live there, expensive to add/change your house. Apartments can't be built because you can't remove anything to add an apartment. Tends to impact folks with limited means and people of color disproportionately.

Margaret says she doesn't think people should be able to live wherever they want without regard for whether or not they can afford it. Why single out a historic district when city just passes other requirements like the 2500 sq foot max?

Alan says the 2500 sq ft rule applies to everyone, the historic district carves off a special piece of the city.

8:20: Alan says KNA hired an independent contractor (Anjala Ellebe) to advise on revising the KNA bylaws. Working group met to discuss changes. Anjala is also being paid by NECN to do a board training.

Emily gave updates on bylaws changes.

Margaret says if board members don't show up, they have other places they'd rather be. Not good board etiquette.

Margaret says she thinks the revised bylaws should include means for members to call a membership meeting.

David says benefits to members are provided when KNA does good things in the neighborhood.

Margaret says she is talking about ORS statutes

David says being a member of an org doesn't give you the power of a board member

Margaret says KNA is a membership organization

Andrew asks for clarification – could any one member call a membership meeting?

Margaret says there are very clear guidelines as to how an emergency meeting can be called – should be a bylaw stating that a majority of members present can call a membership meeting. Because the board is able to call special meetings, the membership should be able to as well. Could set up a mechanism “if x number of members call for a meeting...” Margaret says members need to have more voice.

Andrew says it’s an interesting thing to explore – could consider it if it’s designed well to prevent abuse by any party.

Alan thinks we should have a board member who focuses on the rules and that’s their thing. Someone can study them and keep track of them.

8:42pm: Green King: Monday we had about 20 people come to a discussion on park redesign. Architects without Borders is coming up with a plan. How can we advertise KNA and what we do at Movies in the Park? Stephanie is wondering if we can spend some money on volunteer appreciation – also recognize volunteers during announcements.

Margaret asks board members to check in with those who have had repeated absences.

Alan says he will.

Alan says next month will be his last as chair. Will see the Oregon Humanities conversations through, King backpack fund is also winding down (probably out by September), will wind that down.

Will post notice that chair post will be vacant soon.

Note: We are all invited to march with NECN at the Good in the Hood parade.

8:47 - We adjourn!