

King Neighborhood Association Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Virtual Meeting

KNA Board Members Present

John Rooney (Chair)
Laverne Martin (Co-Chair)
Libby Deal (Treasurer, Land Use Chair)
John Kim (Secretary)
Paxton Rothwell (At-large representative #3)
Eryca Morris (At-large representative #4)
Martina Steinkusz (At-large representative #7)

Community Members Present

April Rubin
Cecca Wrobel (Alberta Co-op Board)
Daniel Dieckhaus (DART)
Darcell Dance
Nicholas Wong
Sharon Maxwell

John Rooney called the meeting to order.

Old Business

Still did not have a quorum, as insufficient community members were present. Elections would need to be postponed.

Vote on slate: John R proposed; Nat Kim seconded; Unanimous.

Vote on approving June meeting minutes: John R proposed; Laverne seconded; Unanimous.

New Business

Shootings

More than 80 shots fired in Northeast Portland, striking 4 apartments
<https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2021/07/more-than-80-shots-fired-in-northeast-portland-striking-4-apartments.html>

Shootings in the neighborhood continued to be a point of concern and discussion, around how can the KNA be a contributor towards a solution?

There needs to be an emphasis on Portland's youth and finding alternatives to being in gangs.

The Highland Christian Center Mentorship Program and the Blazer's Boys and Girls Club were two examples of organizations trying to work with youth and provide alternatives. Key aspects needed are teaching pertinent life skills, such as how to establish credit and build life and work experience via mentorship programs that work directly with youth and which not only seek to give them skills, but also just a friendly sympathetic face to help with any of life's challenges.

Shared resources from meeting participants:

Blazers Club

<https://bgcportland.org/blazers/>

Highland Christian Center Mentorship Program (Currently looking for 12 volunteer mentors)

<https://highlandchristian.com/>

Holla Mentors

<https://www.hollamentors.org/>

Multnomah County District Attorney Office's Crime Prevention and Outreach

<https://www.mcda.us/index.php/protecting-victims-families/crime-prevention-and-outreach/>

NAYA Family Center

<https://nayapdx.org/services/youth-and-education/gang-prevention-program/>

POIC (Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center)

<https://www.portlandoic.org/family-outreach>

Portland YouthBuilders

<https://pybpdx.org/>

STRYVE

<https://www.multco.us/health/community-health/youth-violence-prevention>

From a law enforcement perspective, there was discussion about the Gun Violence Response task force currently being organized in the PPB, and how it was meeting with resistance, due to police officers perceived reluctance to have a civilian oversight committee reviewing their work. Hardly any police officers had volunteered to take part. So even though the organization exists on paper, effectively it does not exist presently and

that there doesn't seem to be current police effort. Gangs are well-organized and well-funded; they are in essence organized crime, which makes them difficult to combat. It was mentioned the FBI had a task force in Portland to help with gun violence, but there was no information of the scope of their efforts, nor if they had been able to make any impact to date.

Gun Violence Prevention Effort Brings Together Coalition

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/news/read.cfm?id=311709&ec=1>

Portland community groups differ on ideas to address gun violence spike

<https://katu.com/news/local/portland-naacp-icap-at-odds-over-proposal-to-address-gun-violence>

Portland Police Bureau begins process to fill patrol team for gun violence

<https://katu.com/news/on-your-side/portland-police-begins-process-to-fill-patrol-team-for-gun-violence>

Focused Intervention Team (FIT) Community Oversight Group (COG)

<https://www.portland.gov/wheeler/focused-intervention-team-community-oversight-group>

There was an acknowledgement that the KNA had limited ability to impact gun violence other than to be a platform for organizations to come talk, to be a support for community members affected, and a platform to point to resources.

Not much KNA can do

Message Board

Discussion about a place where the KNA could post community messages as a form of outreach.

Possibility: Maybe parks will give us some space

Action item: no one undertook this as an action item

Hybrid Meetings

NECN offices not open yet for in-person meetings

Open someone's backyard for meeting?

Maybe half in-person, half online

Libby pointed out that we have no funds right now for any off-site meetings.

Two Plum Park was proposed as a possible outdoor safe meeting site.

<https://www.portland.gov/parks/two-plum-park>

Eviction Resources

Paxton put up some resources to share:

PEER (Portland Emergency Eviction Response)

<https://artistsforrentcontrol.org/peer/>

Portland Tenants United

<https://www.pdxtu.org/>

Portland Defender

<https://portlanddefender.com/covid-19/>

Adopt A block

Adopt One Block

<https://www.adoptoneblock.org/>

SOLVE

<https://www.solveoregon.org/>

Paxton had sent out a flyer

Paxton suggested partnering with businesses, put flyers in window, staple flyers to telephone polls

Libby suggested bolding on the flyer to emphasize that SOLVE will donate supplies

Libby suggested maybe a cleanup every quarter

Maybe ask NECN to print some flyers to save on budget and printing costs

Darcell asked about the schedule

Paxton answered: pickups often as you want; suggested 2x a month

First times out, there tends to be lots of trash, but gets better over time, unless the cleanup is on a major route. MLK, for example, never seems to get better no matter how much effort is put into it

Use events like this to get people involved in community interest

Entire families can participate

Libby moved to approve; John K seconded; Vote to approve of flyer motion passed unanimously

Libby proposed KNA do adopt a block once per month; Eryca seconded; Unanimous

King Neighborhood Park

KNA with Solve, Cleanup took about 30-40 minutes
About 8 people showed up
Went to Peninsula Park but it was already clean

John R had to leave; Libby took over running meeting

King's Farmer's Market Outreach

No updates

Committee and Chair Updates

Business to reach out for support: money + putting flyers in window
Safeway on MLK -- maybe just donate dumpster space
Hankins Hardware for their dumpster
Maybe Natural Grocers

Portland Clean Energy

Martina to head: more funds, more visibility, more members
Stand at Farmers' market? Swag at market?

Martina will pursue getting Community Grants

Mini Grants. Big Impact. Announcing New PCEF Funding Opportunity!

<https://www.portland.gov/bps/cleanenergy/news/2021/6/16/mini-grants-big-impact-announcing-new-pcef-funding-opportunity>

KNA should do work around clean energy:

Martina suggested an application for mini-grant for October

If community members participate, grant likely to succeed

Host educational events once per month

Maybe have Solar Oregon talk about solar energy

<http://solaroregon.org/>

Possible event topic could include:

Transportation electrification

Heat Pumps, etc

Perhaps Solar Oregon could bring in two or three experts

Investigate: getting tent at local Farmer's Market and for what the cost would be for a tent, printing materials

Action item: Martina and Libby

Noise issue at King Elementary Park

Neighbor - noise only getting worse

Recommendation: keep filing complaints to establish paper trail, even if the City continues to do nothing

Update: Talked to head of Parks Department. Additional rangers still only at proposal stage for new budget. Nothing being done currently or likely to be done from Parks in near future.

Responder was supposed to have been given contact info for the head of the Park Rangers (permission was already given to give responder this information.) At last meeting, this had not yet been done.

Action: get head of Park Rangers contact info to affected neighbor(s) for direction dialogue.

Action item: Eryca

Open Forum

Darcell Dance: Inquired about construction on 9th

Crosswalk at 9th and Webster

Concerned that PBOT is taking stop signs away

Comment: People don't stop at stop signs anyway, so putting an apparatus on road might work better.

Libby: All these changes on 9th took parking spots away, people won't be able to park in front of house

Darcell Dance: City/PBOT unlikely to do anything to address situation

Paxton: roadways built for cars

City of Portland putting greenway on 9th; this is a step in right direction in his opinion.

Anti-traffic blocks an idea as speedbumps on 7th not working

Meeting was adjourned.

