

Notes from 7.22.14 KAN meeting, held at Metropolitan Market

Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell, Co-Chair

Everest – Anna Rising, KAN Rep & Chair (and interim KAN Co-Chair)

Highlands – Karen Story, KAN Rep

Juanita – Karen Lightfeldt

Market – Joie Goodwin, KAN Rep; Michelle Sailor, Chair; Mark Nelson, Resident

Moss Bay – Bea Nahon, KAN Rep (and interim KAN Co-Chair)

Norkirk – Karen Edgerton, KAN Rep; Janet Pruitt, Chair

North Rose Hill – Karen Tennyson, KAN Rep & Vice Chair

City of Kirkland – Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Food Drive – We were looking for co-chairs and for volunteers from each neighborhood. The dates will be Sept. 20 & 21 or Sept. 27 & 28. Kari is checking to see if there are conflicts on either weekend with any other organizations. Kari said that per PCC, that the weekend of the 27th & 28th is the best. The Food Drive generated 5,000 pounds of food last year (and 10,000) a few years ago. The event is a lot of work but Kari has a notebook of all the steps and details. Michelle Sailor suggested that neighborhoods pick a store and a day or the whole weekend and people thought this was a good idea. Karen Edgerton volunteered to coordinate this project through August. Karen will be gone for the month of September so someone else would need to take over from that point. Kari and Karen will attend upcoming meetings with Hopelink about the event. The goal is to have the online sign-up ready (to sign up volunteers) in mid-August. Lisa McConnell wondered if they could sign people up during their Neighborhood Picnic.

501(c)(4) and Funding. The idea of KAN becoming a 501(c)(4) organization was discussed. One of the reasons to consider it would be so that KAN could have a budget and possibly get grants. The group was not in favor of changing the status due to adding additional burden and because even with our current structure KAN could have a budget request considered by the City. Examples of items that would benefit KAN and its stakeholders and be responsive to our mission and that of the City's, could include ads in the Kirkland Reporter to increase awareness throughout the City of the Neighborhood Associations, and improving Neighborhood functionality on the City's website (such as a function where someone could enter their address and instantly learn which Neighborhood they are in, when and where the NA meets, link to the NA's website, sign up for its mailing list, etc.). The amount KAN wants to request as a City budget allocation needs to be determined by mid-August. Anna and Bea will work on developing a budget to discuss at our next meeting

Contacting Residents. A discussion took place about ways to connect with residents to increase NA meeting attendance and increase neighborhood email lists. It was asked if people who are already signed up for city listservs could be sent an email letting them know what neighborhood they lived in and introducing them to their Neighborhood Association. The idea of having a drop down box for people to opt into a Neighborhood's listserv when people sign up for a City listserv was discussed. The current KAN listserv is administered by Kari.

Meetings. In discussing what we liked or wanted to see changed, the consensus was that some speakers at KAN meetings in the past took up too much time in a KAN agenda and would have been best if those presentations went directly to the NAs. People wanted more relevant speakers and topics for KAN. Suggestions were made that KAN members be able to bring up issues affecting their neighborhood (in case the issue could affect other neighborhoods). A format was suggested to have one half of the KAN meeting be a discussion of neighborhood issues and the other half be focused on City issues – so, split between a neighborhood focus and a city focus, and the City can bring time-sensitive issues to our attention. It was mentioned that there are a lot of issues around transportation, planning and traffic and it was suggested that these issues be what we focus on.

A discussion took place about the important issues in the City and many things that many of find out about at the last minute or too late. Other comments were that we be looked at like a commission, and that we have a better understanding of the structure of boards and commissions. It was agreed that KAN should start meeting monthly because there were so many issues going on. To the extent known, the meeting agendas should be sent out in advance and let people know the topics that are “hot” for discussion.

There was agreement that having meeting notes would be very beneficial as a record of the meeting and especially for those who missed the meeting. Those could be distributed to the KAN list after each meeting. We will need a volunteer to either take notes on a regular basis or to commit to a few meetings.

Agreed that we should allow time for “items from the audience.”

KAN mailing list. It was thought that the e-mail list for KAN messages had become oversized, including people who had perhaps been to a meeting as a fill-in. It was thought that the people on the KAN e-mail list should be limited to the KAN rep (and an alternate if an NA has one) and the NA Chair (and Co-chair, if applicable).

It was mentioned that KAN was turning into an advisory council and should be structured that way and then it was mentioned that maybe we need to look into staff

support regarding the proper way to prepare memos and other documents if we were actually an advisory council

Policies. There was a discussion of policies and who can sit at the table at KAN and who should speak if it was a situation where we were voting or deciding something important. The consensus seemed to be KAN Rep and/or Chair at the table and one vote per neighborhood. There will be a survey sent out on this topic.

We also discussed having standing committees, however the group felt that this would add too much burden for many of the KAN Reps and potentially detract from willingness to serve. The group felt that any committees should be ad hoc instead and people who have expertise or passion on a topic would readily serve.

Marijuana Issue. There was a discussion about this issue and how the Council and Kurt wanted us to weigh in on it. Market and Norkirk talked about the issue and about having people in their neighborhoods who have become experts on this issue. It was suggested that we consider having people come and talk to us pro and con on the issues and then we can bring the information back to the neighborhoods and/or provide input to the Planning Commission and/or City Council. Although currently this issue is a concern to some but not all neighborhoods, the group consensus was that KAN should consider the issue because it will affect multiple neighborhoods now and into the future.

Improving Communications. An idea was brought up to have a designated spokesperson or presenter to speak to Council and Commissions about various issues that affect the neighborhoods. Discussed putting an ad in the Reporter to inform residents about their Neighborhood Association (see above regarding budget request). Also, the possibility of mailing a postcard for all the residents and setting up a link on the city's website where people can type in their address and see what neighborhood they are in and directing them to their Association

We set the date of August 13th for the next KAN meeting and Kari confirmed (after the meeting) that Heritage Hall is available.