

MINUTES
Kingfield Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting
June 12, 2013 7 PM-- MLK Park

Present: Jess Alexander, Nate Blumenshine, Hetal Dalal, David Fenley, Henry Jimenez, Jim Kumon, Jenny Lock, Jason Montgomery, Scott Mueller, Ben Rasmussen, Lisa Skzeczkoski-Bzdusek, Dan Swenson-Klatt, Mark Waller.

Absent: None

Call to Order: Hetal Dalal, KFNA President, 7:03 PM

Presentation & Q&A: Minneapolis Energy Options. Speakers: Councilperson Glidden and Timothy Demmer from MEO.

Councilperson Glidden spoke about the current utility franchise agreements with Xcel and Centerpoint.

- For electricity, Xcel is your only option and for gas, there is either Xcel, Centerpoint.
- Minneapolis Energy Options is an advocacy group looking at options during the upcoming negotiations which will occur ahead of the current franchise agreements running out in 2014.
- A franchise agreement is a framework set forth by state law for utilities providing energy.
- Minneapolis does not have the ability to negotiate the makeup of the electrical energy mix provided.
- Large commercial or institutional solar energy installations have been sometimes difficult to bring online
- 50% of the energy in the state is provided by municipal/coop providers. No new municipal providers have started since the early 1970s since laws were changed about the reimbursement to utilities if municipalities take over the transmission equipment.
- It is being examined if a ballot measure should be put on the November 2013 city election to see if residents would support a municipal utility. City would additional bonding authorization at a future point to actually allocate resources to start the municipal utility, so the ballot measure would be the first step of support for the concept.
- If there is no franchise agreement in place, there is no way for the city to receive payments from the utilities for use of city right of ways.
- St. Paul is five years into another 20 year agreement.

Timothy Demmer spoke about Minneapolis Energy Options current grassroots advocacy work:

- Two major reasons to start a municipal utility would be to have better control over environmental impacts and have better reliability in the future.
- Looking for an authorization from citizens to get accurate costs of starting utility and give the city leverage during upcoming negotiations on the franchise agreement. May look to have short term extension of current franchise instead of entirely new agreement.
- Asking for the endorsement of KFNA and to host a educational workshop for residents.
- Can learn more at MinneapolisEnergyOptions.org

Nate makes a motion to adopt the written resolution submitted and to host a educational workshop in Kingfield prior to the municipal election. Seconded by Henry.

Resolution of Endorsement:

Kingfield Neighborhood Association supports the Minneapolis Energy Options campaign to keep the city's energy options open and believes that Minneapolis should pursue an energy future with cleaner, affordable, reliable and more local energy.

We support a ballot measure that would give the city the authority to establish a municipal utility if it can prove through careful analysis that it would provide cleaner power, affordable energy, as good or better reliability and more local energy production.

To support Minneapolis Energy Options, we will tell our members, neighbors and friends about the city's energy options and what they can and we can do.

Motion passes unanimously.

Community Forum

Sarah Peterson (resident at 35th and Harriet) has obtained a lease at 3758 Nicollet to open Kyatchi - the 11th sustainable sushi restaurant in the country. The restaurant is applying for a Charter Wine/Beer license and will be open from 4 PM-12 AM. Hoping to be open in September.

Board Business

40th and Lyndale Redevelopment Site Update

- Councilperson Glidden, Sarah and Jim updated the board on the recent activities regarding the proposed development project at the 40th and Lyndale site.
- The initial proposal included building a new building that would go up to the corner of the streets. The 13 parking spaces required of this use were proposed on the residentially zoned parcel adjacent to the C-1 zoned main site. In order to complete this zoning designation change, state law mandates that a certain percentage of the land owners within a 300 ft radius of the property sign off on the zoning change.
- The current owners have to date refused to sign the change in zoning petition. The developer has recently submitted a second proposal which would be much further setback from the street, putting the required parking in the front of the building and not utilizing the residential parcel at all. This type of configuration is not at all in line with the public visioning workshops completed for the site in the last five years, but is allowed by right by city ordinances. Both the developer and city are looking at ways to move the project forward to be closer to the original corner building configuration but without rezoning the residential parcel.

- If there is movement with the project that requires action by the board before the next meeting, Jim asked that this be the briefing of the background of the project and would contact board members individually prior to any type of vote.

Meeting Closure

Meeting called to close at 9:00 PM. Remainder of items not covered will be addressed at July meeting where there is no planned speakers or major action items.