

**Kingfield Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting
Jan. 11, 2012 7 PM-- MLK Park**

Present: Marshall Onsrud, Randy Niemiec, Arthur Knowles, Scott Borden, Chris Sur, Rachel Bond, Victoria Pena, Tamara Eirten, Brian Thornton

Absent: John Barber, Mark Brandow, JobyLynn Sasily-James, Brook Lemm-Tabor

Staff: Sarah Linnes-Robinson

Guests: Matthew Perry, Representative of Nicollet East Harriet Business Association; Pat and Donna Mulroy, Mulroys Body Shop; Jeff Mitchell, Hoyt Properties, Julie Mueller.

Scott brought the meeting to order and welcomed our visitors.

I. Community Forum

- A. Matt Perry reported on the holiday marketing campaign and Nicollet Ave. reconstruction:
 - 1. The holiday marketing campaign, which ran from 11/23/11 – 12/21/11, was a great success. More than 5000 brochures were handed out, businesses and customers felt part of the community, membership increased from 130 to 180, and website hits doubled. Thanks to Marshall for his help with the website.
 - 2. There have been assessment meetings for property owners re: the Nicollet Ave. reconstruction. Modern Climate is the vendor for the road reconstruction campaign.

II. Misc. Board business

- B. There is still an open spot on the executive committee to fill the VP slot formerly held by Pamela. No one volunteered for the position. Sarah will consult the bylaws to determine whether we need to have someone serving in that position.
- C. Brooke has a required class meeting for the next four Wednesdays. She is going to stay on as secretary, but the Board needs people to volunteer to take minutes for the next four meetings.

III. Reports

- A. Secretary's report: Re: the minutes from 12/14/11 Board meeting, Scott clarified that Marshall was absent and that the annual meeting is in April, not May. Chris moved to accept the minutes as modified; Tamara second. Arthur and Rachel abstained. Motion passed.

IV. Old Business

- A. Update on Mulroys desired application for a zoning upgrade from R2B to C2.
1. Arthur reminded the Board that Redevelopment is in favor of the upgrade: committee thinks it's logical, and meets requirements of reasonability and business functionality. Various Board members raised concerns: Tamara voiced concerns about the business entrance being on a small street; Randy noted that there are neighborhood concerns about car traffic driving too fast and driving the wrong way on Van Ness and desired landscape enhancements to serve as a buffer between the business and neighbors. General discussion followed about whether or not the situation on Van Ness will improve with a C2. Scott reminded the Board that the question remaining from the last board meeting was whether we can support the zoning upgrade with a condition that trucks use Nicollet for deliveries, and proposed that that question be sent back to Redevelopment for consideration. Marshall and Brian expressed a hope that, because we have a business willing to work with neighbors and Redevelopment has looked at this issue, the Board will not micromanage.
 2. Pat Mulroy addressed some of the concerns raised. Pat explained that delivery truck traffic can be easily solved because trucks can safely exit onto Nicollet; Pat thought that would solve 90% of the traffic concerns. Cars are different, however, because they cannot safely exit onto Nicollet. Pat noted that he is the one who often drives backwards on Van Ness, and that tow trucks enter the lot from Nicollet and exit onto Van Ness. Pat noted that he is working with the daycare and other businesses on remodeling and other issues. In response to a question from Sarah L-R on whether Mulroys was doing a geothermal upgrade in connection with the proposed upgrade, Pat explained that he is aiming to do geothermal and have rain water storage in the parking lot, but it would not be part of the application.
 3. There was general discussion on the required process: whether Mulroys needs to submit their application package before or after KFNA weighs in with its recommendation. Until a plan is submitted to city, the city can't give recommendations to the neighborhood as to requirements or conditions. Sarah L-R's understanding from the city is that KFNA shouldn't take a position until a plan is submitted, and recommends that the Board be aware of the impacts that a C2 would potentially have on the entire property and the neighboring properties before acting.
 4. Jeff Hoyt noted that Redevelopment has vetted this issue, and recommends that the Board look to their recommendation. If there are concerns with how the business is currently run, a new zoning designation would not change that. Sarah L-R disagreed, noting that KFNA has to be alert to increased impacts on neighbors.

5. Scott proposed that Pat go through the procedure with the City and that the Board wait for feedback from the City; there was general consensus on this approach, although Arthur noted that Redevelopment has already examined the issue and strongly feels that there should be a vote on the motion made at the previous meeting. Sarah L-R will find out from the City what Pat's application needs to contain, as far as input from KFNA. She will communicate with the Board as soon as she knows, and depending on the answer, she will draft a letter with Scott's approval to be submitted with Pat's packet. Letter will likely say that KFNA is tabling its input until the City acts on Pat's application.

B. MLK Legacy Council

1. Tamara reported that the MLK Legacy Council has made it a high priority to get a new playground at the park. The Legacy Council has made the following request to KFNA: "The MLK Legacy Council requests that the KFNA Board, as the nonprofit representing the neighborhood surrounding MLK Park, work with community volunteers (from Kingfield and adjoining neighborhoods) to establish and carry out a fundraising campaign for a new playground at MLK Park. The goal is to raise a minimum of \$55,000 by the end of 2012 in cash and commitments to match the \$225,000 the Park Board has committed to the total playground reconstruction. Additional dollars raised would be used by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to further enhance the playground structure and elements as determined by the community in an inclusive design process with implementation of the playground structure occurring in summer-fall 2013." Tamara, Sarah and several others noted that this is a great opportunity and we are pleased that the Council is interested in upgrading the playground equipment. The design process will start in Jan. 2013; once this is approved we would begin talking and fundraising.
2. Discussion followed about the specifics of the request, and there were questions such as whether or not KFNA would be the primary fundraiser, whether there would be consequences to not making the financial target, and how much of Sarah L-R's time the fundraising campaign would occupy. Sarah noted that per the request, our responsibility is to "Carry out a fundraising campaign." Several board members expressed concern with KFNA shouldering the sole responsibility for executing the fundraising campaign, and the consensus was that KFNA should partner with the Council and others, rather than be the exclusive fundraiser. Sarah L-R thought that KFNA should take the lead; Scott supported improvements to the park by preferred that the Park Board take the lead in this project.
3. Sarah proposes answering the Council's request with a statement as follows: KFNA Board accepts the MLK Legacy Council request and to develop a fundraising campaign for the playground reconstruction at Dr.

Martin Luther King Park and agrees to carry it out in partnership with the MLK Legacy Council and other community partners. KFNA approved kicking off the campaign with a \$1000 donation to the fundraising effort.

4. Chris moves to accept request. Randy seconds. All present (Arthur no longer present) voted aye.

B. Blaisdell Community Garden Land Bank:

1. Chris talked to the City. The City does not have agreements on encroachments (buildings or parking lots); City advised Chris that we should find out zoning issues with parking lot and it would not approve a parking lot with residential zoning that's currently in place.
2. At this time the Board went into Executive session.

V. Reports

- A. Redevelopment: Sarah noted that the public meeting for Nicollet Ave. assessments was last night. The public hearing is next week. Rates are .77 residential, 2.11 for commercial, square footage in influence zone. There was pretty low attendance.
- B. Dog park task force: Brooke will provide an update later on the task force, now that park is going to establish.
- C. Green: nothing to update.
- D. Graffiti grant: the project will be beginning again in April; re-issue of Valspar grant. Painting will happen in summer and a final festival in the fall.
- E. Newsletter: newsletter is coming out in early Feb.
- F. Y&S: didn't meet since last time.
- G. CPAS: meeting will be next week. Marshall noted that the thought is to do something with safety, perhaps bring in the fire department. The block contact list has 120 people. CPAs has map and can see where there are missing spots.
- H. Event: met last week, is planning for Empty Bowls, Feb 9th, Chef Jeff is making the soup, and we're working on getting more potters to donate bowls. Will have call for volunteers in the next week, after MLK day will poster
- I. 40th & Lyndale: probably can end this committee.
- J. Transportation projects: there are a couple of grant opportunities re: BRT / 46th, we may want to look at for that area.
- K. There was discussion re: details on annual meeting. The Board will meet before then, so we should start thinking about what annual meeting should look like.

Marshall moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Chris seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Rachel Bond

Executive session minutes:

Legal recommendation from Chris:

We were looking at whether we can let neighbors keep parking but without assuming liability. But that is not going to work: we can't enter into a lease to let them do something illegal. There was a question whether we could see if the neighbors could give us variance for that use? We could talk to Destin. The only way we could buy property without liability for the parking lot is to tell neighbors that they can't park there anymore. The City wants neighbors to be able to park there.

Chris recommends discussion with Destin that we could get a variance to let them use part of residentially zoned lot for parking lot.