

**Kingfield Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2012 7 PM-- MLK Park**

**Present: Marshall Onsrud, Randy Niemiec, Arthur Knowles, Scott Bordon, Victoria Pena, Tamara Eirten, Bryan Thornton, John Barber, JobyLynn Sassily-James**

**Absent: Chris Sur, Rachel Bond, Brook Lemm-Tabor, Mark Brandow**

**Staff: Sarah Linnes-Robinson**

**Guests: Elizabeth Glidden, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward; Collin Ares, Open Streets; Jess Alexander, Destin Nygard, Tom Parent, Dan Swenson-Klatt, AJ for PCNF, Matthew Perry, Representative of Nicollet East Harriet Business Association; Julie Mueller.**

The meeting was called to order by Bordon.

I. Community forum

**Elizabeth Glidden** recognized KFNA and Sarah Linnes-Robinson for the vision and piloting the process of creating the utility box wrapping project. Glidden stated that due to the success of the project in preventing graffiti as well as creating neighborhood identity the city creating two programs to spread this city wide based on this innovative project. One will be patterned after Kingfield's unique 1 of a kind images. The other program will create a pallet of pre-approved images which neighborhoods can select images from if they want to move through the process faster.

Glidden also spoke to two community processes that are going to be starting this year, indicating that citizens with interest in either of these should be on the lookout for further information. The first community process is related to the favorable feasibility report for Street Cars, including on Nicollet Avenue. The second community process is related to the reopening of Nicollet Avenue, looking at site contrail and financing related to the Kmart site.

Lastly Glidden discussed the Redistricting proposal as of this date, noting that the lines for some wards are radically different due to lobbying by various minority groups, hoping to gain greater representation in how boundaries are drawn. She said the 8<sup>th</sup> ward itself could be extremely different than it has been in the past, but all indications show that all of Kingfield will be in the 8<sup>th</sup> ward entirely. She stated that traditionally the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward has been the power base of the black community.

**Collin Ares** spoke about Open Street which is planning on closing Lyndale Avenue to cars on Sunday June 10 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The event was felt to be hugely successful last year and the organizers are looking at a slightly longer stretch of road, as well as slightly longer hours. Business feedback on the day was supportive saying business was even or higher than on previous years with the roadway open to cars.

**Matt Perry** announced the Nicollet Road construction was starting and the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association is setting up a website called NicolletConstruction.com. NEHBA was also just awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Great Streets Grant of \$50,000 which will be spent throughout their entire service area. Perry also noted that the marketing campaign brought in 50 new members.

### **Butter Bakery Café Considers Move to 3700 Nicollet/Space Requires Variances**

AJ and Dan Swenson-Klatt introduced themselves and Dan spoke to his intent to move his current business, Butter Bakery Café, to 3700 Nicollet to occupy the corner space and serve as an employment partner to youth living at Nicollet Square. Dan has 20 years experience as a teacher before opening Butter, mostly teaching with junior and senior high students at an alternative school. He feels moving his business to this location provides him a great melding of his interests.

Summarizing the variance needs:

The building owner will be applying for variances and would like the support of the neighborhood association. The variances are for the number of seats indoor and having seating available outdoor (both limited because of the O2 zoning the site has.) O2 allows for 30 seats inside and they believe they can fit 57. Sidewalk seating is conceptualized on the Nicollet side of the restaurant. Parking is adequate and requires no variances.

Members of Redevelopment had unanimously supported the variances and requested that KFNA support their vote.

Knowles moved that KFNA approve the stated variances for seating both inside and out. Sassily-James seconded. Ayes by all 9 board members present.

## **II. Reports**

1. Secretary: Thorton notes that he was documented as voting twice on a motion. He reiterated that he had voted no on the change of the mission statement for the Youth and Schools Committee. The minutes will be corrected as stated. Knowles moved to accept the amended minutes, Niemiec seconded. Ayes by 6 members and Onsrud abstained.
2. Treasurer: No questions raised.

### **Empty Bowls Report—**

The Executive Director presented a report regarding the goals and outcomes of the event. This report is included at the end of these minutes. Planning for 2013 Empty Bowls will begin in fall 2012, both Kingfield individuals and various partners from the event are interested in expanding on the event and being more deeply involved in the next event.

Pena expressed that this was really an amazing event and she was happy to be in attendance and thanked those that worked on it. Barber said it was a really fun event to work at and he enjoyed serving soup alongside the youth from Nicollet Square. Sassily-James wondered if the event could be expanded next year to include the art show. Bordon said he had to miss the event but appreciated the report but would have preferred to have a budget before the event occurred.

Linnes-Robinson stated that although a budget beforehand might be considered helpful it is often quite difficult to know the costs, or donations, that will come in for a new event. This event was designed so that costs came out of the income so it was fairly assured to not lose money for the organization; in fact the event brought almost \$4000 directly to Nicollet Square as well as serving many other goals.

### **Soundwall Mural /Gateway Entrance**

The artists, McLain and Ibanez, re-presented the concept design for murals on both sides of the pedestrian bridge as well as the timeline for the community painting workshops.

Linnes-Robinson presented the budget revisions she recommends the board adopt due to the artist's further scrutiny of the supply budget and savings they have itemized in the budget. Linnes-Robinson recommends that \$2000 from the City grant be provided to the Legacy Council to close the gap and encourage them to complete Phase II of the mural (the King Park section) this spring, alongside Phase I.

Pena moved that the board allocate \$2000 from the grant to Legacy Council. Knowles seconded. Ayes from all. No nays or abstentions.

### **Proposed Budget for 2012/13**

Linnes-Robinson presented the proposal for the 2012/13 budget which she had prepared and discussed with Bordon and Lemm-Tabor, Executive Committee representatives, the week before. Linnes-Robinson walked through how the budget was prepared, based upon past year's expenses as well as this year's expenditures at the half-way point. Her budget recommendation is for maintaining the current level of service via staffing support to the community for the coming year. This would be achieved by re-employing Sarah Gleason for specific tasks from now through fall, and additionally using her time to further define a specific list of duties a year-round organizer could take over in the fall. The rationale for this method is rehiring Sarah Gleason provides KFNA with consistent and knowledgeable service through its busiest time (now through September), utilizing Sarah Gleason's experience in the position break down the job into a defined list of duties is the most efficient, and moving to a year-round organizer will provide consistent service to KFNA plus provide a more even balance of duties between the Executive Director and Organizer throughout the entire year.

Bordon stated that this is not the way he would like a budget prepared, based upon past expenses, but would prefer to see the details of committees plans and budgets as part of the organizational budget. He feels that this would better reflect what the community feels is important. Bordon also stated that he would like many of the tasks that staff is currently performing or supervising turned over to community members including the KFNA Newsletter, the scheduling and any staff of the Farmers' Market, and the Community Garden. He would also like to pay other groups to hold events that serve KFNA interests.

Linnes-Robinson stated that paying a neighborhood volunteer to oversee a project does not relinquish KFNA's responsibility in the how, or when, a project is completed. It also sets up a system of inequity where some at the table are being paid to recruit their friends to participate in various projects. Staff argued against this model and stated that generally she felt that a small stipend would not be what would engage neighbors to participate as most had more issues of finding adequate time, rather than money. Additionally from her many years experience in organizing in Kingfield she felt that leaders want to share their talents and skills in visible ways, not in the often invisible ways that are needed to organize and lead an entire project. Again she requested the KFNA Board support the proposed budget which provides a foundation of organizational and staff support to all KFNA committees, volunteers, and projects so that staff can continue to provide the support needed to keep the many projects happening in a timely manner.

Onsrud agreed with the idea that committees should set annual budgets and this would help them have greater control over their projects. Onsrud moves to postpone a vote on the budget until after the annual meeting. Niemiec seconded.

Ayes: Eirten, Sassily-James, Bordon

Nays: Knowles, Barber, Thorton

Abstain: Pena

Discussion followed as to having the community provide comments on the budget at the annual meeting, as well as questions as to if the decision on the budget could be delayed until after the board meeting, essentially passing the decision onto the next Board of Directors. Bordon asked staff to check Bylaws and Policies regarding this matter.

### **Blaisdell Community Garden Land Bank**

KFNA has received a price for the Blaisdell lot of approximately \$11,000 including land, acquisition costs, and property management costs. KFNA has questions related onto the passing of the property management costs onto the organization but asks the board to approve an expenditure of up to \$11,00 for the land in case these fees cannot be waived. Onsrud approves up to \$11,000 for the purchase of the land. A second was provided by \_\_\_\_\_.

The vote was unanimous.

The rest of the agenda was tabled due to lack of time including:

- Annual Meeting Planning
- Committees, Task Force and Project Reports

Scott Bordon announced that Chris Sur resigned. The meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes provided by Linnes-Robinson.*

## **Empty Bowls Report**

### **2011 Event goals:**

#### **1) Community Building –**

- Brought neighbors to come together in the middle of winter and share a meal for a good cause.
- Affiliation with partners brought in their populations including Plymouth Church, Westminster Church, and Washburn High School.
- Families and singles gathered together around communal dining tables.
- Set-up allowed for shifting of chairs and fluid and changing groups.
- Brought people into Nicollet Square where they met some of the residents and staff.

#### **2) Teaching Healthful Cooking and Eating –**

- Six residents of Nicollet Square spent time the day of the event preparing soup for the event with Jeff Riley (aka “Chef Jeff”). Residents were provided a stipend for CUB foods for their time.
- A new Kingfield-based nonprofit, Culinary Communities, also supported the cooking and is looking for additional ways to spread the message and share the tools of healthful cooking to the youth of our community.

#### **3) Highlighting the talents of artists in our community—**

- Local artisans donated nearly 300 pottery bowls for the event.
- Students support from Washburn High School and St. Paul Academy was strong and led by their staff.

#### **4) Sharing the talents of our many local restaurants --**

- Outreach to local businesses assured them our intent was not to draw away from their business the day of the event and they understood and supported the event with additional food donations.
- Businesses were recognized in printed materials at the event in communication with the community after the event.

### **An unintended goal was also met, that of:**

#### **5) Showcasing job opportunities to residents of Nicollet Square—**

- Chef Jeff runs his catering business out of the kitchen of Plymouth Church and currently employs one Nicollet Square resident. He felt that working with more youth was a great chance to show them the opportunities available to them in the food service industry. One youth has already asked to continue working with him.
- Residents at the event took pride in what they had cooked.

### **Numbers**

Attendance 202

Total Income: \$4466.75

Expenses: \$903.62 (included gift card stipends)

Money to Nicollet Square just short of \$4000/ \$3563 in cash + \$300 in stipends to youth

### **KFNA Staffing**

- Pre-Event: 50
- Day of: 11.5
- Post Event: 9

**Volunteers:**

- Planning Team grew from 2 to 8 people
- Volunteers day of were 34+ in-kind staff from other org

**Approx Volunteer Hours—**

- Pre-event: 60/promo, flyering, meetings, pottery, shopping, outreach
- Day of: 104

**Other Donors:**

Litin Eco

CONTEMPL8 T-SHIRTS

Anodyne

The Lowbrow

Grand Café

Butter Bakery Café

Sun Street Breads

Kings Wine Bar

Patisserie 46

Blackbird

Victors

Chef Jeff

Culinary Communities

Color Wheel

**In-kind Support:** PCNF, Common Bond, Washburn High School