



Kingfield Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
1/11/23, 7-9pm
Judson Church 4101 Harriet

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85874774208?pwd=bW1kNEFtZmFiMjBnTVVYWmNmUC9RUT09>

Board Packet Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YzX0pYpEdRD5JRQOTukVIRCFm73j5RX7>

Members in attendance: *Katie Blanchard, Regina Burstein, Becky Dankowski, Alice Johnson, Josh Martin, Travis Norvell, Dave Robbins, Dave Searl, Todd Shipman, BJ Titus, and Sarah Tschida*

Members absent: *Scott Mueller*

Others in attendance: *Sarah Linnes-Robinson*

Meeting Chair: *Katie Blanchard*

Meeting Secretary: *Josh Martin*

Confirmed quorum: *Quorum was met at 7:00 PM*

Community Forum

No community members were present.

Consent Agenda

Dave R moved to approve the consent agenda

BJ seconded the motion

All approved

Staff Update

Executive Director Sarah Linnes-Robinson provided a staff update regarding various items. SLR shared a report of volunteer hours from 2022, which will be reported to the city. KFNA had over 1,400 volunteer hours in 2022. Board members also discussed events which were new and/or particularly successful at outreach to residents. Board members noted the doorknocking, pancake breakfast, and polling parties.

SLR recently met with Park Board staff regarding Park Board dedication fees. Kingfield currently has over \$300,000 in funds. These funds can be used for improvements at MLK Park. KFNA would need to conduct an engagement process with residents and submit a recommendation to the Park Board for approval. It would be easier to support a feature included in the existing master plan for MLK Park. We could prioritize certain aspects of the plan, since the total cost of the items in the master plan (over \$9 million) vastly exceeds the available funds. If KFNA or other residents do not get involved, the Park Board determines on its own how to spend the funds.

Several board members expressed support for KFNA taking on this project. Some members expressed particular interest in an amphitheater. SLR noted that there is a possibility that KFNA could request Chris DesRoches as the planner for this project. Board members discussed interest in having a Park Board employee speak at an upcoming meeting to answer questions. Board members agreed by unanimous consent to pursue this project.

Fundraising Update

SLR provided a fundraising update. KFNA raised over \$7,000 in the past 90 days. Over double what we raised last year.

Merger

Secretary Josh Martin provided an update regarding the merger, including an [overview](#) of what a merged organization would look like and the timeline for next steps if all three organizations agree to merge. SLR noted that Lyndale met earlier this week. Tangletown meets next week. Board members agreed to proceed with the discussion without knowing how Lyndale had voted, in order to gain insight into the board's appetite for merger generally.

Board members raised questions about Lyndale's ESL program and grants from Otto Bremer Trust. SLR noted that Lyndale's new budget had generally addressed those concerns. SLR was uncertain whether the Otto Bremer grant could be carried forward to a merged organization. Board members noted that the goal of the merger was to help close the financial gap of the organization. Board members expressed that there was a need to do something significant to change the financial picture of the organization. The merger would be one way to do that.

Some board members raised questions about whether these were the right partners for a merger or whether the board should find other potential partners. Board members noted there was logic in the regional approach of the three organizations and noted that the views of particular board members may not be representative of the full organization and neighborhood. Board members noted that there were benefits to the diverse populations of the neighborhoods.

Some board members expressed a need for a shared set of events and meetings in order to build community between the neighborhoods. Some board members noted that there would be a new board for the new organization. While the process leading up to the merger will be boring, those tasks can be completed by a few board members. There will be a lot of energy behind the new organization. Some board members expressed concerns about the reaction in the community and the special character of the Kingfield neighborhood.

Board members noted that the messaging would be about gaining more resources to support the work of the neighborhood. Board members again raised questions about potential other partners for a merger.

Director David Robbins moved to approve the following resolution

Secretary Josh Martin seconded the motion

Whereas, The three nonprofit neighborhood organizations of Tangletown, Kingfield, and Lyndale have formed a task force to review and discuss options for structural changes because of reduced City Funding; and

Whereas, After reviewing the options and the perceived benefits and challenges with each, the Task Force determined that for financial reasons, the most beneficial arrangement would be a full merger of the three organizations, while still fully recognizing that even a combined budget will not fully support the robust outreach required by the city and a full staff of employees; and

Whereas, At this point, acknowledging that there are still questions that need to be answered, the Task Force feels that there isn't anything more to be gained by talking more in hypotheticals and requests that each Board of Directors make a decision on whether they want to pursue a merger with the other two organizations at this time; and

Whereas, It is emphasized that the organizations should only move forward with next steps if all three organizations are fully in support of pursuing this option as their preferred path forward;

Resolved, The Kingfield Neighborhood Association Board of Directors votes to move forward in good faith and with adequate time and energy towards the discussion with an intent to merge with Lyndale Neighborhood Association

and Tangletown Neighborhood Association to form a single organization with a unified Board of Directors and merged finances, staff, programs and services.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 10-1.

Yes: Katie, BJ, Sarah, Dave R, Regina, Travis, Todd, Alice, Dave S, Josh

No: Becky

Absent: Scott

SLR reported that the Lyndale board voted unanimously against the merger resolution. Board members discussed next steps. Lyndale said they still want to be friends. Board members will think about other options moving forward and other potential partners.

Empty Bowls/Sap Tap

The board discussed the upcoming Empty Bowls event, which will be held on February 12. There are many restaurant partners. Volunteers are needed for the event itself and for preparation work. SLR also provided an update regarding the Sap Tap.

Meeting Close

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.