



Kingfield Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
7/12/23, 7-9 pm
MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet

Board Packet Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ve7eZCcgLSpfRQwmq4VI8JbmjIKwfs> f

Members in attendance: *Katie Blanchard, Becky Dankowski, Josh Martin, Scott Mueller, Robert Roedl, Dave Searl, BJ Titus, Sarah Tschida (on Zoom), and Emma Wolf*

Members absent: *Travis Norvell*

Others in attendance: *None*

Meeting Chair: *BJ Titus*

Meeting Secretary: *Josh Martin*

Confirmed quorum (6): *Quorum was met at 7:00 PM*

Community Forum

No community members spoke during community forum.

Consent Agenda

Robert moved to approve the consent agenda

Dave seconded the motion

All approved

Hiring Community Coordinator

Vice President Katie Blanchard gave an update on the hiring of a new Community Coordinator, who will serve as the new primary staff person for the organization.

The board entered executive session in order to discuss the new hire. The board entered executive session at 7:03 PM and resumed open session at 7:14 PM.

Josh moved, on behalf of the Hiring Committee, to hire Ceugant Scolaidhe as Community Coordinator.

Emma seconded

All approved

Katie will extend an offer to Ceugant, and he may start as early as next week.

Board Vacancies

Secretary Josh Martin gave an update on vacant positions. The board currently has three vacancies. Two positions were not filled at the annual meeting. Those terms end in 2025. Additionally, Director Regina Burstein has resigned due to moving out of the neighborhood. That term ends in 2024.

Our bylaws require a minimum of five board members and we currently have ten, so we have the option of leaving these seats vacant until the next regular election or for the board to fill the vacancies. If we want to fill the vacancies, our bylaws require a published call for applications prior to filling the vacancies. A majority vote of the board is required to appoint a person to fill the vacancy, and the people appointed will serve for the remainder of the term.

Josh noted that it may be beneficial to fill the vacancies since it is early in the term, and suggested potentially sending out a call for potential board members in September (since people may not be paying as much attention in the summer) and then voting on applicants at the October meeting. Board members discussed that it would be beneficial to start sending out the call in the next newsletter and continue posting it in several newsletters prior to filling the vacancy.

The board discussed methods of additional outreach to the neighborhood, such as flyers, doorknocking, talking to people at existing events, and scheduling Board Meet and Greets for people interested in the board meetings and hoping to learn more about the board. BJ will send Josh the application to include in the eNews.

Board Updates

Dave provided a brief update regarding Park Dedication Fees. A survey was held to get feedback on top choices for a new amenity in MLK Park to be paid for with the Park Dedication Fees. Dave and Josh will be meeting soon to review the survey results. The amphitheater was leading the last time we checked the results. We will have an eVote on this since we don't have a board meeting in August and we want to make sure this gets to the Park Board in time.

Scott provided an update regarding PorchFest. The event went very well. There were 39 sites scheduled, only two of which canceled due to air quality issues. The Orange Bungalow closed down the street for their block and became "PorchFest Central." Many sites, particularly "PorchFest Central," reported having record attendance. KFNA raised about \$200 in Venmo donations and \$579 in merchandise sales. The board discussed how to provide more information to hosts and volunteers in order to improve fundraising. The board will also set up a tent at "PorchFest Central." The board agreed to start planning earlier next year and find a board member to co-lead the event with Ceugant.

BJ provided an update regarding the Garden Tour. The Garden Tour is Thursday, July 13 starting at 5:30, with an "Afterglow" event at 7:30 PM at Butter Bakery. There are 15 gardens on the tour this year, which is more than there have been for the past several years. There is a \$5 requested donation.

Scott provided an update regarding Get Out the Vote and the Ward 8 Candidate Forum. The "We Are Kingfield, We Vote" signs have been decalated with the new date and cleaned. The request is for board members to try to volunteer for two hours at the polling party. There will be three elections in 2024 – Presidential Primary in March, State Primary in August, and General Election in November. Scott suggested to promote all three elections via utility pole posters.

Scott discussed the possible Ward 8 candidate forum to be cohosted with League of Women Voters. Scott noted that KFNA could keep costs down by partnering with Lyndale and having an event with outreach to the Somali community in the award, which would enable KFNA, LNA, and League of Women Voters to use grant funding for the event. If grant funding is not available for the event, there may be a cost of up to \$200.

Katie moved to authorize up to \$200 in spending for co-hosting a Ward 8 candidate forum.

Dave seconded

All approved

Scott requested board approval for a GiveMN campaign for the polling parties, primarily to raise funds for buying a lighted stop sign to use for polling parties. Dave suggested that the Park Board may be willing to support the purchase of the sign.

Katie provided an update regarding National Night Out, which will be held on August 1. The board needs volunteers to bring ice cream from Sebastian Joe's to the various block parties in the neighborhood. The board also discussed the possibility of alternative solutions, due to concerns about available bike trailers, volunteers, and the desire for board members to attend their own block parties. In 2021, the board provided boxes of cookies to block parties instead of ice cream. Scott noted that the board was not at full capacity, and the board has struggled in the past even with the board at full capacity.

Katie moved not to provide ice cream to block parties at National Night Out
Becky seconded

Yes: Becky, Josh, Katie, Rob, Sarah, Scott

No: BJ

Abstain: Dave, Emma

BJ noted that the next board meeting will be Wednesday, September 13. Sarah Linnes-Robinson will be at the September board meeting to discuss the 990 and an upcoming audit of Kingfield. We also will have Ceugant work on developing a social media plan. BJ provided an update on the plan modification to provide funding for the Kingfield Farmers Market and Raices Sagrades. There have been some delays at the city.

Guest Speakers

The board discussed the idea of having guest speakers at future board meetings. The Lyndale Neighborhood Association frequently has guest speakers. This is a draw for community members to attend the meetings. Board members were asked whether they were generally supportive of this idea and to consider possible guest speakers, and a more formal schedule can be developed at the next board meeting. Board members were generally supportive of the idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Addendum – E-Vote on Park Dedication Fees

The board considered the following motion by e-vote, with the voting period closing on August 25 at 5 PM: "The Board moves to submit [these recommendations](#) for the use of Parkland Dedication Fees and the KFNA's NRP funds currently earmarked for this project. The Board also will hold a vote to release additional funds if they will allow the Park Board to complete two projects."

Searl made the motion, on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Titus seconded the motion

The motion was adopted by a vote of 9-1.

Yes: Katie Blanchard, Josh Martin, Scott Mueller, Travis Norvell, Dave Searl, BJ Titus, Sarah Tschida, and Emma Wolf

No: Robert Roedl

Abstain:

No Response: Becky Dankowski