

CRESTON-KENILWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2004

Attending: Benjamin Hazelton, Chair; Stephanie Reynolds, Board Member; Jean Senechal Biggs, Board Member; Pete Zoltanski, SEUL Representative; Officer Phil Maynard, Portland Police Bureau; Steve Hoyt, Southeast Uplift District Coalition staff liaison; Bob McNeilan; Carol Rasmussen; Wes Evans; Harmony Brown; Marnie McPhee; Joni Felter; Barbara Kern; Esther Riley; D'Arcy Owen; Dennis Colby; Jim Land

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were not available.

Reports and Updates

Benjamin Hazelton, Chair, explained that the board decided to cancel our scheduled presentation with State Representative Diane Rosenbaum so that more time could be spent discussing a number of new and important issues regarding safety, crime and noise that need attention.

Public Safety Update

1. Safari Club

Stephanie Reynolds explained that the Safari Show Club is a new business in the former location of Doc's at 30th and Powell. Doc's was a business that caused neighborhood problems for a long time. Safari is currently operating under a 90-day temporary liquor license. Stephanie brought additional information to this meeting to follow up on discussion from the last meeting about concerns about this adult business.

Stephanie explained that the deadline for the neighborhood association and individuals to send comments to the City on the OLCC application is tomorrow (May 12). Stephanie prepared a letter of opposition for neighborhood to review and vote on to send to Kimberly Mark-Villela, the Liquor Licensing Program Specialist at City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement (Phone: 503-823-3092. E-mail: kmarkvillela@ci.portland.or.us) Kimberly delivers comment to the Portland Police Bureau, the Police Bureau reviews the comments, then sends the City's comments to the OLCC.

Stephanie explained that any letter we send will go into Safari's permanent file. If problems crop up later – crimes on the premises or liquor license violations – the neighborhood association will be on record with concerns about the business. Stephanie said it is likely that they will still get their license but it is important to voice our concerns at this time.

Stephanie explained that she talked with area residents and police officers and she found an unacceptable level of crime associated with Doc's site. She explained that although Safari is operated under a new owner, OLCC considers past issues with similar type businesses even with different owners. The owner of Safari is Randy Kaiser who also owns the Stars Cabaret strip clubs. Stephanie said she does not want to see a type of business that has attracted criminal activity in the past to be allowed a license.

Stephanie read the letter and discussion followed. Benjamin clarified that neighborhood association is not anti-liquor license. Pete Zoltanski commented that the business does not contribute to good neighborhood livability.

Officer Maynard said that in reviewing the calls for service for the location, it does not appear excessive for a business of its kind. He said the Police Bureau had 15 – 30 calls per year at this location. He commented that those calls take up police resources and time that Police could use to work on other issues in neighborhood. He explained that he has a say in the decision about the liquor license but that it is not his decision. He noted that there are other locations in the neighborhood that aren't associated with liquor sales or the sex industry that have higher number of calls. He said it is important to have neighborhood communicate their concerns.

Motion:

A motion to approve letter as written passed with all present voting in favor.

2. Robberies around 29th & Gladstone

Officer Maynard explained that in recent months there were two pedestrian robberies and one commercial robbery in the vicinity of lower Gladstone.

Penny Saver Market at 26th and Gladstone: Two individuals entered the store armed with guns. An officer happened to be right around the corner at the time of the robbery, however due to the time delay of the call into 911 and dispatch, police officers did not find suspects. Officer Maynard explained that when responding to robbery calls, officers will saturate the area rather than go directly to the place where it occurred in order to track down the suspects.

Pedestrian holdups outside Ship Ahoy: Two pedestrian robberies took place on separate occasions outside the Ship Ahoy. Portland Police do not believe we're dealing with a group undertaking a series of robberies and the suspects do not appear to be connected. The suspects have not been found.

One took place on April 29. The victim was inside playing video poker and was approached by the suspect for drugs. The suspect approached some others in the bar for drugs and then left with a woman. The victim left the tavern around 1:00/1:30 a.m. and was approached again by the suspect on the sidewalk. The suspect punched the victim in the face and stole the victim's coat with his wallet inside and \$250 in cash. The suspect is described as a white male, in his late 20s/early 30s with short brown hair and a floral design tattoo on his neck. Officer Maynard asked that if anyone sees a person who matches this description, to please call 911.

Stephanie added that Roseanne Lee, our neighborhood's crime prevention specialist, distributed a packet of info on the recent robberies and crime prevention tips to businesses along Gladstone.

Someone asked about a group of young adults that have been seen hanging out in area around 29th and Gladstone. Jim Land, co-owner of C-Bar, said they were a group of students and they are generally harmless. He said the Gladstone Market had issues with them that have been dealt with.

3. Meth Labs Update

Officer Maynard said that 4510 Holgate Blvd was the site of a methamphetamine lab. He said the property has been condemned and the property owner needs to undertake a hazardous materials clean up of the site before it can be suitable for use.

Officer Maynard says there may be a list of condemned properties on the internet. He will let us know at the next meeting if this resource is available.

4. Noise from businesses at 29th and Gladstone

Benjamin Hazelton said that he was approached about concerns about noise coming from the businesses around 29th and Gladstone. He explained that this meeting would be an opportunity for residents to express their concerns and he invited the business owners involved to attend the meeting to be part of the discussion.

Stephanie passed out a flyer on the City's noise control regulations and complaint process. The City's Noise Control Officer handles complaints about excessive noise. There are specific City Ordinances based on the time of day and the zoning that determine specific decibel levels. Stephanie explained that noise levels are in effect at all hours and that there are different levels for day and night. To respond to a complaint, the Noise Control Officer measures the sound with a decibel meter at the time the noise is taking place. If it is in excess, he will notify the noisemaker in a letter and offer suggestions for ways to reduce the noise. If after the initial letter there is no compliance, then the City has options for fining the noisemaker.

Stephanie explained that the neighborhood association is fairly limited in what we can do: we can mediate conflicts and refer people to the Noise Control Officer and the free neighborhood mediation program.

The manager of the Ship Ahoy said the owner did not initially know that they were getting phone calls about the sound. The bartenders on duty would respond by turning down the base. She said the owner now logs all calls and has had the jukebox adjusted. The Ship Ahoy called the complainant and asked them to stop calling because they felt they were being harassed. The Ship Ahoy hasn't had a call back from the Noise Control Officer to find the results of the noise investigation.

Jim Land from C-Bar said he is taking active measures to reduce the noise. He said they close the overhead door on Gladstone Street at 8:00 when live music begins. He said that most of the bars adjacent neighbors have his direct cell phone number to call him to work to resolve issues immediately. Jim said that a difficulty is with DJs. Jim said they are trying to put in a house system so they can better control music levels and base. He said he relies on music to bring people to C-Bar and hosts 15 – 20 acts per month.

Jim said he wants his business to be a positive asset to the neighborhood and that he is trying to do what he can to prevent any further noise complaints. Jim added that he heard loud music coming from pottery studio late at night just recently and talked with artist about turning down the music because of the ongoing complaints about noise.

Harmony commented that that she knows of a situation at a bar in NW Portland that acquired a decibel meter to take charge of their noise situation. There was interest expressed in finding out more about how this works.

We will schedule time on the June meeting agenda to hear an update on the noise complaint investigation.

Traffic and Transportation Update

1. Powell Blvd Pedestrian Crossings

Benjamin reported on a meeting held by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on April 29. The proposed pedestrian crossing island at SE 36th/Lafayette Court has been removed from Powell Blvd Pavement Project. The proposed island was being investigated by the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) and ODOT to provide a safer crossing on Powell at this location. Improved pedestrian crossings were supported by both the Creston-Kenilworth Neighborhood Association and the Richmond Neighborhood Association. However, a large and loud contingent of residents who live on SE Franklin Street in the Richmond Neighborhood attended the meeting to oppose the crossing. Benjamin said PDOT staff will continue to work on a crossing solution for this location that could be implemented at a later date.

2. 39th Avenue

Benjamin said he has asked PDOT to investigate if 39th can be reduced to two lanes with center left-turn lane and allow pedestrian crossing improvements to be built. He said he expects to hear back from PDOT by June on a preliminary feasibility of whether those changes would be possible.

3. 42nd Avenue Pedestrian Fatality

There was some discussion about whether there would be any actions by the neighborhood following the death of a child who was crossing 42nd Avenue. Benjamin said he would like to follow up with residents along 42nd to find out what steps they would like to take. He said no one has contacted CKNA about the crash.

4. Traffic Committee

Benjamin said he would like to do a more comprehensive look of the neighborhood's traffic issues and transportation network. He said he would like to set up a traffic committee to work on those issues.

Land Use Update

A developer is proposing to purchase the property owned by Terry Emmert located behind the Safari Club (formerly Doc's) on Powell Blvd. The developer has plans to build 100 units of market rate apartments and have 150 below-ground parking spaces. The preapplication process has begun.

Benjamin commented that neighborhood has expressed concerns to Bureau of Development Services staff about where traffic goes to and from the site and about the scale of building. Benjamin said the developer offered to come to next meeting to explain their vision. He said the developer sees the potential for Powell to be an improved environment.

Southeast Uplift (SEUL) Update

Pete Zoltanski attended the SEUL retreat last month. One of the major ideas that came out of the retreat is that the neighborhoods want staff people to consult with neighborhoods on their work plans. Steve Hoyt, CKNA staff liaison to SEUL, said that the major theme that came out of the retreat is to build capacity of SEUL to provide more resources to neighborhoods. Staff will consult on work plans annually with neighborhood associations and have SEUL support.

Other news:

- Portland Parks and Recreation is developing skate parks in Portland and will be developing two sites in 2005.

- This year is the 30th Anniversary of Portland's neighborhood associations. Residents are encouraged to participate in setting the World's Record for block parties on May 30.
- The Homelessness Working Group is holding a fundraiser on June 19. Volunteers will be available to do odd jobs for donations to the Homelessness Working Group's fund. Contact SEUL at 503-232-0010 for more information.
- The last of the Community Budget Hearings is scheduled for tomorrow night in St. John's. SEUL is involved with several budget proposals including one to support the acquisition and construction of a community center at the old Washington High School and one to provide additional resources to neighborhood associations to increase diversity and participation in neighborhood activities.

Newsletter

Jean Senechal Biggs said the April issue of the newsletter arrived in mailboxes last week. The next issue is scheduled for publication on August 1. We are looking for additional advertisers.

Projects:

1. Pedestrian Parkway

The next meeting of the Parkway Committee is scheduled for May 27 at 7:00 at C Bar.

2. Clean up:

Benjamin reported that the Clean Up raised \$945 this year and that he is happy with results of our fundraising. Thanks to our volunteers!

Announcements

- Gladstone Street Pub (3737 SE Gladstone): Stephanie said the owner is moving ahead with project. She is not sure of the scheduled opening date. Roseanne Lee and CKNA are still working on the Good Neighbor Agreement.
- A new Korean restaurant is opening at 49th and Powell.
- New pizza place has opened on Powell, east of Creston Park.
- Benjamin reported on a new street lighting program for areas that do not have adequate lighting. Contact the Portland Office of Transportation at 503-823-SAFE to ask for evaluation of lighting on street by PDOT and ONI Crime Prevention staff. If approved, the block incurs a cost of \$359 for installation and then the city takes over management of light.
- A card lock gas station that provides Biodiesel is at 17th and Holgate.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Grout School Library

***** Elections *****

CKNA residents are encouraged to run for the board and/or attend next meeting to vote.