CRESTON-KENILWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes November 9, 2004

Attendance

CKNA Board:

Present: Jean Senechal Biggs, Sarah Gilbert, Benjamin Hazelton, Thomas Koestler, Stephanie Reynolds

Absent: Jill Fuglister

CKNA Residents:

Pete Zoltanski (SEUL delegate), Joel Eledge, Michele Houch, John Colgrove, Jen Fulwyler, Sola Whitehead, Megan Oldfield, Chris Lowry, Tricia Harkness, Wes Evans, Bruce Kehe, Eryn Deeming, James O'Neill, Allen Field

Guests:

Steve Hoyt, Southeast Uplift District Coalition

1. Welcome and Agenda Additions

Benjamin Hazelton welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October meeting were presented.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

a. Public Safety

- Officer Maynard brought leaflets on Motorized Scooters and the Law
- Property crime statistics for the month of October were distributed and reviewed. They are in a new style this month; neighbors are asked to give feedback on the presentation.

• 5628 SE Holgate – meth house

Officer Maynard and Roseanne Lee reported on the meth house at 5628 SE Holgate. The Portland Police served a drug-related search warrant on the house; the SWAT team had pulled out a meth lab several months prior, but the owner was able to convince the fire marshal that the basement was a separate residence

When the SWAT team stormed the house at 6 a.m., there were 17 people in the house, the meth lab was found and seized. There was a hole in the kitchen floor leading to the basement. It was a flop house – people could come, hang out and do dope. The team found red phosphorus, bottles of heat, and chemicals used to prepare meth. 16 people were charged with possession and frequenting a drug house; the owner was charge with child neglect, manufacturing and frequenting.

The team boarded up the house, re-secured the windows, and towed the motor home that contained the meth lab and chemicals. The owner is required by law to hire a contractor to gut the house, but probably will not do it before the house is foreclosed upon or condemned by the city.

Someone asked what effect the presence of a meth house has on the neighbors. Of course, property crime goes up in the adjacent neighborhoods, as the meth users are stealing to support their habit. The health risk is minimal to neighbors; while the chemicals are very dangerous, unless you are inside the house during manufacture, the physical effects (even for next-door neighbors) would be minimal. The city is hoping the house will be sold or foreclosed upon soon, and working together to hasten the process, piling liens on the house as fast as possible. The owner is still being held in jail.

This has been a learning process for the city, as the various departments learn to work together to most effectively deal with the meth problem. A work group consisting of Commander Seizer (sp?), crime prevention, housing, and Commissioner Leonard's office has been formed and is working 24 hours a day on the problem. For instance, two different contractors work for the city's different departments on boarding up homes.

Chris Ramras (sp?) is the DA assigned to the case.

Roseanne also reported that she is moving her office to the Woodstock Community Center.

Neighbors present thanked the police department for their work and asked how they could help prevent something like this in the future. They are working to organize a neighborhood watch, and wonder how they could have acted as a group. Officer Maynard said that last year, 54 meth labs were dismantled; this year, the number is already over 100. There is a drug activity log sheet that neighbors can fill out – if there is enough suspicion, they can instigate a "community-driven search warrant." The log sheet contains customers' license plate numbers, and descriptions of what you are seeing.

Benjamin asked if there would be a follow-up meeting between the Woodstock and Creston-Kenilworth neighborhood associations; Roseanne and Stephanie reported that we have nothing planned, but that both neighborhoods want one. There will be a citywide meth workshop and panel soon.

• This is Officer Phil Maynard's last meeting; Todd Teats will be our neighborhood officer from now on. He has worked in this neighborhood for several years, and been a police officer for 10 ½ years. His number is 503.823.1273. Stephanie thanked Officer Maynard on behalf of the neighborhood for being competent and responsive, and welcomed Officer Teats.

b. Traffic and Transportation

- Greg from the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) presented on the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Partnership. He brought the first draft of some very detailed pedestrian/automobile accident maps they've been developing (we're the first neighborhood to see these).
- The Neighborhood Traffic Safety Partnership is a new program they've been developing to increase community school safety. With increased traffic fine revenue from the school zone fines doubling, they plan to fund education, engineering and enforcement for the following goals:
 - Safe routes to schools
 - o Reducing driver error
 - o Bicycle and pedestrian safety
- The department is deploying additional photo radar vans, increasing efforts to limit red light running and speeding.
- The Community School Safety program is in the process of selecting eight neighborhood schools. For these schools they will review:
 - o How kids get to school
 - o Parking and traffic flows

- Identify safe walking and biking routes
- o Fix whatever problems can be solved with limited engineering
- Part of the reason that there is a need for this program is that, in the 70s, two-thirds of children walked and biked to school. Today, only 10% walk or bike to their schools.
- The program will provide 60% subsidized funding for speed bumps; the program plans to add 20-30 speed bumps each year (throughout the city), which have been effectively demonstrated to reduce driver speed. At 30 MPH, in an automobile-pedestrian collision, the pedestrian has a 60% chance of surviving, whereas at 20MPH, a pedestrian would have a 90-95% chance of survival.
- The pedestrian island at 36th and Powell has been approved and is going forward.
- The map was presented; it analyzed 10 years of DMV data about collisions in Portland. Creston-Kenilworth is the pilot. The data shows a high number of pedestrian injuries for those 15 and under, as their peripheral vision is 30% less than an adult's, plus young children have a hard time judging the speed of an object without a constant shape.
- Any pedestrian traffic safety problems should be addressed with Courtney Duke, pedestrian coordinator. (Her number can be found through 503.823.SAFE) Other contacts include:
 - O Dakota Ivysowan (sp?) safe routes to schools, 503.823.5552
 - o Mike Coleman regarding the Powell project, 503.823.6838
- 39th Ave: PDOT has all the data to make 39th into two lanes with a center turn lane between Powell and Holgate, they just need to do the modeling.
- A neighbor asked if there could be a left turn signal added to 26th and Powell on 26th.

c. Pedestrian Parkway and Friends of Trees Planting

• Work continues to plan the Friends of Trees Planting scheduled for Saturday, January 29. We will be planting 38 trees, a healthy number for our neighborhood. Those with additional questions should contact Jean Senechal Biggs at 503-704-1672.

d. Southeast Uplift Update

- The Neighborhood Needs priorities were selected, and the neighborhood members present voted on how to word the priorities in each of three areas:
 - o Traffic Management
 - Land Use & Infill
 - o Diversity & Outreach
- Steve Hoyt reviewed the history and purpose of the goals, explained the choices, and asked for us to vote.

4. Announcements and Additional Items

- The Portland Parks Department is accepting public comment on the offleash area trial.
- Rake It and Bag It Day at Creston Park is scheduled for Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 1:00. Volunteers are needed to rake leaves in the park. Rakes and refreshments are provided. Call Cheryl Fairfax at Portland Parks and Recreation to sign up at 503-823-2332.

*** Next meeting ***

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2004 at 7:00 PM at Grout School.

To contact the CKNA Board, send an e-mail to cknaboard@hotmail.com
or call Benjamin Hazelton at 503-234-6784
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