

Kern Place Association, Board Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2016

The KPA Board meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM.

Board members present were John Byrd, Barbara Christopher, Andrew Dand, Ted Escobedo, Charles Intebi, David Nemir, John Newfang, and Keith Pannell. Also present was member Carlos Gallinar.

Minutes

To save time, Barbara Christopher emailed the minutes of the previous meeting to Board members. Ted Escobedo moved to accept those minutes and David Nemir seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Dand said we have \$50 in our general fund than we had at the last meeting. Andrew said he checks the KPA post office box once a week.

Newsletter

Ted Escobedo said he will work on the logo and format for the biannual newsletter and give us a template to discuss at the next meeting. Jamey Rupley will print the newsletter for free 😊 and we will hand deliver it.

There will be an envelope insert for dues. Members will be paid up through January of 2018 if they pay in August of 2016. In the future, our dues appeal will always be in January.

It was agreed the logo should coordinate with the Kern Plaza archway sign that will be going up over Cincinnati. Possibly there will be a contest between three logos with the votes marked on the dues envelope. Since the sign will not be ready by August, the newsletter will use a temporary banner for now.

Possible newsletter content:

- calendar of events in the park
- crime report
- update on Robinson St. reconstruction, street car construction and the Heritage Corridor construction
- a recipe
- a message from Peter Svartzbein
- an article on the Park Olympics at Mission Hills Park on August 20 at 3 pm

- an article on Little Free Library
- advertisements from local businesses
- a request for news, announcements, or ads for next newsletter
- a request for volunteers for events

Madeline Park

John Newfang reported that Joel McKnight, the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, said the new walking trail in Madeline Park will start the week of July 4. It will be a natural screenings/DG surface trail that is 8 ft. wide (about 4-5 inches thick and compacted) along the perimeter of the park. The project should take about 2 weeks. It will not have a header curb on the side touching the grass, so KPA may want to provide this by applying for an NIP grant. Trail benches donated by residents are another possibility.

Kern Place-University Pedestrian Improvements Workshop

Carlos Gallinar, City Director for City Development/Planning, joined us and led a discussion about the workshop to be held on July 9 at 10:00 in the ballroom behind First Presbyterian Church and concerns about the Cincinnati business area.

The workshop will start with a presentation by Carlos Gallinar, Peter Svarzbein, TXDOT, Streetcar project planners and city staff members. Then participants will gather around tables to engage in hands-on exercises and dialog about how Cincinnati should be renovated from Stanton through to Oregon.

Topics suggested for workshop discussion were:

- Control parking near residences
- How can the UTEP parking garage be used
- Safety concerns on Cincinnati from Oregon through to Stanton
- Signage should be attractive and appropriate in scale
- Business and street lighting must not intrude on residences
- Sound should be controlled by decibels and time of the day
- Businesses must pay to use enlarged sidewalks

There may be another public meeting about this pedestrian project, but public outreach should finish by the end of August and construction should start in the spring of 2017.

Celebrations in the Cincinnati Business Area

It was suggested that the next time there is a sound problem from celebrations in the Cincinnati area that we call police and work with current policy. If this is not satisfactory, we will post an item on the City Council meeting agenda. Another suggestion is that we have a meet and

greet for Kern Place area landowners and tenants. At such an event we can discuss sound and other concerns.

Rental Issues

In response to questions from the Board, Carlos Gallinar reported that the renting of property in the Kern Place residential area is controlled by the El Paso City Municipal Code. This states that for the purposes of renting to a "family" there can be no more than five unrelated people living in the house. The Board discussed rental properties in general and noted that there are many rental houses in the area and that upkeep is sometimes a problem.

Coming Events

Claudia Rupley sent word that there will be a movie shown in Madeline Park on July 9. It will be *A League of Their Own* and George Cisneros will be in charge of showing it.

The Park Olympics for children and adults will be held at Mission Hills Park on August 20 at 3 pm. Associations participating are from Kern Place, Mission Hills, Rim Road, Newman Park and Sunset Heights.

El Paso Neighborhood Coalition Meeting

Barbara Christopher and Charlie Intebi attended the meeting on June 20 at the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center. Barbara reported that it was very well run with a city handout listing answers to questions asked at the last meeting. Peter Svartzbein talked about issues affecting the whole city. He mentioned that he has set up is a text alert system for traffic on the west side. To access it, type in the tel. number 781-728-9542 and text "westside traffic".

Bank account cosigner

Barbara Christopher is now a cosigner on our KPA bank account at WestStar Bank along with Charlie Intebi.

Neighborhood Association Annual Report

Barbara reported that the yearly report needed for our participation as an El Paso neighborhood Association was mailed in June, 2016.

Facebook Site

John Boyd said guidelines for Facebook postings will be determined and board members can volunteer to become admins. A Join button will be added.

Updating Membership List

Barbara Christopher volunteered to keep a master membership list with names, street addresses, email addresses, dues payments. The list

would also show when each piece of information was last updated. John Boyd offered to put Barbara in contact with a resident who works with databases and Excel.

P.O. Mailbox

Jamey is making arrangements for a new mailbox at the Downtown Post Office for \$60 a year. It was suggested that this be a large mailbox. Andy Dand will check the mailbox weekly.

Electrical Outlet in the Park

George Cisneros is asking for an electrical box on the Baltimore side of the park. This will be more convenient for movies. If KPA can pay for the pole and the box, then Peter Svarzbein might pay for the electricity out of his discretionary funds.

Recycling Bins in the Park

It was decided to ask Peter for recycling bins in the park.

Note: On July 9 Charlie Intebi asked Joel McKnight about recycling bins at the resident meeting about the walking path. Joel said that recycling bins will be installed and staked into the ground. This means they can be moved if they are in the way of an event.

Demolition at 904 Park

Charlie Intebi said that indeed, there is a permit for a demolition of that house. Zoning restrictions say that it can only be replaced by another house, but there are no restrictions on the type of house it must be.

Date for next meeting

The next meeting will be July 27 at the El Paso Tennis Club on Virginia St.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM