

Eastgate Community Association

Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2019

Next Meeting – Wednesday August 14, 2019 at the Newcastle Library, 12901 Newcastle Way, Newcastle <https://kcls.org/locations/1564/> **Unless we find a closer location**

Attendees: Karol Brown, Leslie Geller, Farida Hakim, Julia Tai, Lisa Leitner, Heather Huey, Michelle Wannamaker, Barbara Garcia

Action Items: Lisa, Leslie, Julia, Tzachi, Colin, Karol and Farida have specific action items. Names highlighted in **red**. There are also **two items that everyone in ECA can provide ideas**, also noted in red.

OLD BUSINESS

NextDoor Neighborhoods in Eastgate Neighborhood

Leslie said that when posting on NextDoor to residents and businesses in the City's official Eastgate neighborhood, here are the NextDoor Neighborhoods to include:
Eastgate, Sunset, Spiritridge, Upper Spiritridge, Horizon Village, Cougar Hills

Eastgate Neighborhood Walk

Leslie has emailed with Mark Heilman from the City about providing chairs along the route, since there is no place to sit along the route, save a lone bench towards the end of the route. **Leslie** will put out 8 folding chairs at two locations mid-walk. Leslie put out well over 50 flyers and emailed the ECA email list about the Walk. Lisa posted the West Lake Sammamish (July 17) and Eastgate (July 18) Walks to the broader NextDoor neighborhoods. We think the Eastgate Neighborhood Walk will be well attended.

ECA Structure Update

Karol, Leslie, Julia, Lisa, and Tzachi have met and drafted bylaws. We need to review the current second draft and finalize it before presenting to the larger group for review and comments. We will present the bylaws at our August meeting. Karol noted that she will help us register with the Washington Secretary of State as a Washington non-profit entity after the bylaws are finalized. This registration gives us advantages of being nonprofit without dealing with the IRS.

The bylaws sub-group proposes that the ECA Board of Directors have four officers (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) and three at-large members, all elected for one-year terms. We were targeting having elections take place in October, with Board terms running on the calendar year.

Candidate Forum Update

Michelle spoke with Steve Kasner of the Lake Hills Neighborhood organization. He said that they have this event well organized; they host a candidate forum each year. So they don't need our help with their forum on September 19, but they *are* interested in any questions we have for candidates that are specific to Eastgate. Barbara offered to reach out to West Lake Sammamish to see if they have a candidate forum, and if they are interested in our participation. Lisa commented that last month meeting we agreed to not actually organize or co-organize a forum; it's too soon for the ECA since we're still a nascent group. ECA's realistic goals for this year's local elections should be to reach out to our Eastgate neighbors and businesses, notify them of the various candidate forums, encourage them to meet the candidates, read their voter pamphlets, and vote. There was general agreement with this stance. **Lisa and Karol** will speak to Pam Johnson from Bridle Trails neighborhood group who's compiling a list of where and when the Bellevue candidate forums are. Barbara thinks it behooves us as an organization to speak with a single voice for what our issues are for Eastgate. We did not discuss how we would come up with and agree to those.

ECA Web Presence

Karol created a bare-bones NeighborhoodLink draft webpage for the ECA.

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Eastgate-Bellevue> Thanks to Lisa for telling us about this free platform to create community websites. There are pros and cons to using this free platform. Several of us are not so keen on it because it's rather limited from a design standpoint and has a lot of advertising. There is a paid option on the NeighborhoodLink platform for \$199/year. Alternatively, there are also pros and cons with hosting and managing our own website, where we purchase and own the site domain, and create and maintain the site. At June's ECA meeting, Tzachi took ownership of working with Colin Jenkel to come up with options for our web presence. Tzachi created a Facebook Group for the ECA at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/196892527872059/> and a [Facebook Community Page](#). None of us at the July ECA meeting understand why there are two presences on Facebook. We decided that we will not do any promotion of any of these three online presences, as we have not yet settled on our best option.

Other ECA-Sponsored Activities

The idea of a potluck was raised again, after discussion at the June meeting. At the June ECA meeting, we agreed as a group to not organize any other events for the time being. Farida, Barbara and Karol think having a potluck is easy and a good idea. Karol thinks it's a good idea to periodically add the potluck topic to ECA meeting agendas.

Similarly, Karol re-raised National Night Out, which is August 6 this year. At June's ECA meeting, we all agreed that it's just too soon for ECA to host a National Night Out event. However, we can consider doing a National Night Out event for one of next year's activities.

NEW BUSINESS

Managing the ECA Gmail Account

A couple months ago, Tzachi set up a Gmail account for the ECA. The address was printed on the June 8th event flyer. Leslie sent the recap of the June 8th event from the ECA address to those who signed up, and also a notice of the CoB's Eastgate Neighborhood Walk. Leslie and Tzachi are occasionally checking the Inbox. We haven't had any new emails since before the June 8 event. We ran out of time to discuss this, so it will be a topic for the August meeting.

Parks Levy & its implications for Eastgate

Michelle brought this to our attention. There is a new King County Parks Levy on the August 6 ballot. Read about it [here](#). When the levy was mentioned at a recent Bellevue Council meeting, the City Councilmembers, especially Lynne Robinson, were keen on utilizing any new parks money to complete Meydenbauer Bay park, assuming the levy passes. Michelle strongly suggests that we as the ECA seriously consider reaching out to the Council to lobby for a new park in Eastgate. We discussed possible land parcels that might be available and a good location for a new Eastgate park. There may be a large parcel near the backside of Newport Way library, on 142nd Ave SE. Karol suggests the possibility of expanding Eastgate Park. We ended the discussion with the action item that **all of us in the ECA** think about whether there are other properties appropriate for citing a park. We did not talk about how we would approach the Council with our citing suggestions.

From the email that Michelle sent to all of us on July 6 on this topic: "At the City Council meeting before last (6/17), King County gave a presentation on the parks levy and talked about how it included money to purchase property and develop new parks. Lynne Robinson immediately chimed in, saying that the money should be used to complete Meydenbauer Bay Park. I know that several of us have lamented the lack of a true park in Eastgate, some place where we could hold a picnic or the kids could go play on the Jungle Jim. I heard several such comments at the brunch, too. This is a great opportunity to finally get such a park in Eastgate, but the only way it will happen is if we lobby for it. It would be nice if the Council actually spent the money in the neighborhoods,

for once. Even though this levy hasn't yet been approved by the voters, with Lynne already trying to spend the money on the tourists, we should probably start lobbying for Eastgate, now. So we might want to put the question of lobbying for this, on Wed's agenda. In the meantime, please be thinking about where in the single-family neighborhood S. of I-90 you think a park should go or a specific property(s) you think should be purchased for it. If you can't attend, feel free to email your suggestions to the rest of the group."

Emergency Preparedness Training Event

Farida took the initiative to contact Sophia Vackimes from CoB Emergency Preparedness about doing an educational event for ECA. (Sophia attended the June 8th event.) Farida organized an event on behalf of the ECA, co-sponsored with the City and KCLS. She scheduled the event for Friday August 16th from 4-6pm at Newport Way Library, in coordination with Bellevue Office of Emergency Management. The date apparently is based on Sophia's availability, as well as when the library meeting room was available. The Newport Way Library will coordinate with Sophia, and has made a promotional flyer. KCLS and Emergency Management will market the event. Other than Karol, the rest of us were unaware of this event prior to Farida telling us about it at the meeting. We queried how, since the ECA is a co-sponsor, we would get the word out to our constituency. There was discussion but no resolution about how to specifically promote the event to Eastgate residents and businesses. Several of us have a concern about this event being scheduled on a Friday, in the afternoon, and during the summer when many people are on vacation. We also reiterated that the ECA is a collaborative group, and we communicate with each other and obtain buyoff prior to acting, making decisions, or speaking on behalf of ECA. **Farida** is checking with KCLS to see if it's possible to remove the ECA name from the event flyer.

Next Steps for getting broader Eastgate Community involved

Leslie raised the questions that Carol Ross had emailed the group in the morning, since she would be unable to attend our meeting. Copy/pasted here:

- Next Steps for the Community Association
 - Bylaws/charter, officer descriptions
 - When is best to elect officers?
 - Engaging Parent-Teachers Association(s)?
 - Timeline for planning the larger Eastgate meeting?
- Postcard mailing
 - When is the best time to schedule this meeting?
 - Secure space at SBCC (Carol with group)
 - What is the meeting? Agenda
 - Is there room for having someone share... inspiration for bringing the community together? Community Building and Advocacy – "Why"
 - Maybe it is 2 stories, a long-time resident and a newer arrival sharing about Eastgate

As a refresher from June's minutes: "Carol said that once we have a firmer structure and draft bylaws, the City can do a mailing to all Eastgate residents in advance of a larger ECA monthly meeting. Kind of a second kickoff, we say we're organizing and looking for more community members to participate." We touched on this topic again tonight near the end of the meeting. Thinking about timing, we realized that having elections of officers in October would be too soon. We need to put ourselves out to our community, so that we have more people to run, as well as vote, for officers. Lisa proposed that we need to have a larger general meeting prior to the elections meeting. We discussed having the ECA "re-kickoff" meeting in October. The second Wednesday is October 9th. Hopefully we can use South Bellevue Community Center (SBCC) for the large October meeting. **Lisa** will reply back to Carol's email and copy those of us attending tonight's ECA monthly meeting plus Tzachi, so several of us are in the loop. We want to understand what Carol needs from us for the postcards. October is only three months away. We will need much more discussion to prepare for the October re-kickoff.

We are now thinking of having the Board elections meeting early in 2020. We realize the downside to waiting to vote in Board members means that the ECA will not have a formal organization and leadership until then. We will ask Carol if it would be possible to get SBCC also for our elections meeting.

Meeting Location

Tonight's meeting at the Newcastle KCLS location was nice, but very time-consuming to get to due to traffic. We discussed alternate locations. It is challenging to find no-charge locations. The Newcastle library is reserved for our August and September meetings, but we would really like to find a closer location! **Leslie** will check with Newport Way library to see if we can use the new alcove that Michelle mentioned. We noted that meeting at someone's home is a possibility if someone wants to volunteer to host us every month. If **anyone else** has ideas on where we could meet, please speak up!

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.