

Informal Summary: Open Discussion of Responses to Halloran Survey Questions About the KRA, Friday, February 24, 2023

There was a sense of the meeting about a number of issues:

- There was a sense that the KRA is moving in the direction of providing many opportunities for residents to be heard and to listen to each other: comment and question times at KRA Board meetings, Listening Post, weekly Friday chat sessions in the lounge, values sessions (panel, Story Exchanges, and open session), five listening sessions about the health center revisions, open auditorium listening sessions like this one dealing with particular issues. In fact, there was a sense that the real issues are not, in fact, internal KRA issues.
- There was a reminder of the mission statement in the KRA by-laws: “The purposes for which the Association was formed are (a) to promote and further the interests and welfare of the residents of Kendal;(b) to communicate and cooperate with the KCC Board of Directors and staff at Kendal in promoting a provident, healthful, enjoyable, and useful community life.”
- Ruth expressed a concern that residents think about not making the KRA leadership jobs so time-consuming and complex that no one will want to do them.
- Most of the discussion centered on the relationship between residents and administration. At heart is the wish for residents to know administrators and KCC Board better and to experience transparency and ease of communication.
- There continues to be real hunger to know Lisa better and to have her know residents better. Ruth reminded people that Lisa talked about this in her recent forum. She is planning meetings with all residents in small groups beginning this spring. Ruth also reminded people that Lisa’s email and phone information are published and that residents contact her frequently.
- Ruth described all the ways in which the President and President-Elect communicate with Lisa and other administrators. This was new and helpful information to many attending, and it was requested that this information be shared with all. It will be on the agenda at the March KRA Board meeting as part of Ruth’s report. Ruth also reported that there is no problem discussing controversial issues and even disagreeing with administrators on occasion and being able to talk things through.
- There was interest in establishing communication between the residents and the KCC Board. Ruth assured those attending that there will be some imminent changes and urged those present to attend the open reception for residents and KCC Board at Crosslands on April 11. (Details to be announced.)
- Note: Residents always have access to the KCC Board agenda. It is posted on the web site and will now be available on the Viibrant web site.
- There was a realization that most residents don’t know what the KCC Board and the administrators have to contend with in their work and a wish to understand their work better.
- There was some discussion of the survey comment by a person who felt unrepresented by the KRA and talk about how to reach people who may complain a lot at the dinner table but who make no effort to try to get a problem resolved. There was talk of doing a survey of residents asking what issues and/or questions they would like to see addressed.
- There was a plea for us to see ourselves as citizens of this place. It’s where we live. “This is how I want it to be so I better speak up!”
- We made some agreements:

1. We will designate the 4th Friday of the month for open discussion of a particular issue or open agenda in the auditorium, in place of the smaller lounge chats. The next is scheduled for Friday, March 24, at 1:30.
2. Some people will begin to discuss an informal survey of all residents to discern what they believe needs to be discussed.
3. Ruth and Frank will talk with Lisa about a session to educate residents about the nature of the work of the KCC Board and the administration, including the things that make the work challenging.
4. Ruth and Frank will support all efforts for Lisa and residents to get to know each other better.