

A Host's Guide to Kitchen Table Meetings (KTM)

What's the objective of a KTM?

Like days of yore, a KTM is an opportunity for a small group of neighbours to gather in a home or small informal venue to discuss issues of concern directly with candidates for election to Council.

A Kitchen Table Meeting (KTM) is ...

- A very informal gathering (of friends and neighbours) held during the election campaign period.
- Held at a host's house or backyard
- Not catered. Snacks or beverages are not provided or suggested. Serving tea, coffee, water is entirely optional and guests may choose to supply their own refreshments and bring their own lawn chairs if the host asks.

Who to invite?

This is entirely up to the host. Ideally 15-20 neighbours and friends in attendance is the optimal group size, but it's just a guideline. Like any private gathering, the host exercises judgement on selecting invitees. (See a sample invitation at the end of this Guide).

Since the topic concerns municipal matters, we encourage hosts to extend an invitation to all candidates in their ward. The host may decide, however, to be selective and that's entirely the host's decision.

How long should a KTM last?

There should be a specific timeline specified on the invitation. E.g. "Arrive at 5:00 pm, leave by 7:00 pm."

Should there be a facilitator or moderator?

We think not! The advantage of a KTM is that neighbours and candidates can mingle freely and discuss topics without an agenda. The host may wish to introduce people who are not acquainted and discussions will develop "organically"! A host may, however, decide otherwise.

Can candidates bring flyers to hand out?

At the host's discretion, this may be OK. However, candidates should be asked to ensure that any material brought is not left for the host to recycle.

Does the MMRA have a role?

The MMRA would like to post, in advance, the neighbourhoods and dates of scheduled KTM.

For example,

- Clayton: September 14, evening.
- Appleton: September 18, afternoon.

The MMRA will NOT (repeat, NOT) be publicizing or giving out host names or addresses (unless specifically asked in writing to do so by the host). We would forward any email inquiries we receive to the host alone, and leave it to the host to extend an invitation, or not.

Contact Arnie Francis at webmaster@mmra.ca to inquire about hosting or attending a KTM in Mississippi Mills.

SAMPLE INVITATION

To: *email address of invitee, candidate*

From: *host email address*

Subject: Kitchen Table Meeting in *[give approximate area]* on *[date]* from *[start time]* to *[end time]*

Hello ____

You are invited to attend an informal Kitchen Table Meeting (KTM) at our house to meet our ward and mayoralty candidates for Council. This is an opportunity to get to know the candidates, ask questions and get information on their position on municipal issues.

Please do not forward this email.

RSVP: "Reply" by (date) with the names of people that will be attending.

Refreshments will (not) be served.

Hope to see you at our KTM.

Name:

House Address:

Tel No:

Date/Time:

<end>