

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
January 10, 2018 Peter Kirk room, City Hall

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods Attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	
Market	
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Cindy Randazzo
North Rose Hill	Margaret Carnegie
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials Attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Tim Carpenter, Sergeant, Kirkland Police
- Dave Asher, Councilmember

Guests:

- Corky Trewin, Lake Washington School District
- Leah Kliger, Kirkland Safe (and Norkirk)
- Paula White, Kirkland Safe (and Houghton)

7:00 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- November minutes accepted.

7:10pm Public comments

- Corky Trewin, Lake Washington School District
- Ballot measures at next election (two levies and a bond):
 - Proposition 1: Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy
 - Funding for staff, programs, operations, and courses
 - Replaces the 2014 EP&O Levy, which expires at the end of 2018
 - Proposition 2: Replacement Capital Projects Levy
 - Funding for technology and facilities needs
 - Replaces the 2014 levy, which expires at the end of 2018
 - Proposition 3: Bond to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Learning Environments

- Funding for new schools and classrooms needed to address growing student enrollment
 - We are the #3 largest school district in the state, about to be #2
 - We need more school capacity; portables and interior classrooms are not effective
 - Levies require 50% approval; bond requires 60% -- LWSD wants everyone to vote!
 - Replacing existing levies; will result in less overall taxation rate than the levies currently in place (\$0.23 less per \$1,000 than current valuation)
 - Note that an individual's overall tax bill may still be higher than previous years, due to rising property valuations – but the rate is going down
 - These funds would allow us to add to Lake Washington High School (from 1,400 students to 2,000), rebuild Kamiakan Middle School
 - Currently rebuilding Juanita High School and Peter Kirk Elementary, per Bond #1 (already passed and in effect)
 - Election is Feb 13, 2018
 - Note from Dave Asher: these funds do not replace funding under the state McCleary Act; this is in addition to that
 - Yard signs available at the Lake Washington Education Association
 - Information available at <http://www.lwsd.org/bond-levies>
 - How can KAN help? **ACTION ITEM:** Get 10 people to vote yes!
- Dave Asher, City Council
 - Neighborhood Plan Framework is on the agenda for the City Council Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting
 - 1/18/18, 3pm, in the Norkirk Room
 - Committee will discuss how the Neighborhood Plan process will move forward
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Let Amy Bolen know if you plan to come; may move it to a larger room

7:10pm David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

- Local boy! Lives in the Kirkland Crossing development (at South Kirkland Park & Ride)
- Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator (0.5-time) combined with a Communications position (0.5-time) to make David's position
- Themes for tonight:
 - Communication
 - Interest in a communications toolkit?
 - Best practices for social media, physical media, etc.
 - Templates for postcards, business cards, etc.
 - KAN vocal response: yes
 - Capacity
 - Reaching out to multi-family housing occupants
 - Planning to form a workgroup to investigate and collect ideas
 - Character

- What are some projects that address the diverse characters of each neighborhood?
- Seeking feedback from many angles
- “Community sparks” grants
 - Arising from the “For the Love of Kirkland” event in 2017
 - Small grants, up to \$1K, that promote our “love of place” -- \$5K budgeted, looking to increase (David said \$20K in the meeting; corrected during minutes review)
 - Not mediated through the Neighborhood Associations
 - More info to come
- Contact David if you’d like to get together for coffee, conversation, etc.

7:25pm Kirkland Safe

- Leah Kliger and Paula White, Kirkland Safe
- City Council approved a statement of welcoming for Kirkland
- Kirkland Safe’s mission: create a place of welcome, inclusion, and safety
- “All Are Welcome Here” yard signs and posters have been printed, with KAN logo added (as approved by KAN last year)
- Distribution of signs began with businesses; great reception in the community
- Now want to reach out to neighborhoods. How can KAN and the NAs help with distribution and display of these signs?
 - “What’s the timeframe?” – No limit; perpetual display
 - Don’t want the yard signs posted in medians, or anywhere else proscribed by signage regulations
 - Window clings available for cars or residential windows
 - Interest expressed in a larger window cling for residential use
 - MLK season is a good time to distribute such a thing
 - Have been distributing materials at public events (e.g., Cross Kirkland Block Party)
 - Kirkland staff is working on a “community conversations” program for guidance and tools to hold inclusive conversations at public gatherings (e.g., NA meetings) – info should come from the City soon
 - Kirkland Safe sponsoring a “Kirkland Reads” event to encourage conversations
 - Kirkland Safe would like to come to NA meetings
 - **ACTION ITEM:** To have Kirkland Safe come to an NA meeting, contact Leah at LeahKliger@gmail.com
 - **ACTION ITEM:** If you want a sign, contact Paula White (paulagreschler@yahoo.com), or order them at the website: www.kirklandsafe.org
 - Check out the “Coffee with a Cop” program; going well! Great chance to meet with police when there’s not a crisis going on

7:45pm Kari Page, Neighborhood Safety Program

- Starting 1/23, intermittent closure of Holmes Point Drive for a drainage project

- Federal Highways Administration has put a hold on installation or repair of rapid flashing beacon (RFB) signals, which affects all beacons in Kirkland
 - If you have one in the pipeline but haven't installed it yet, it's stalled
 - We're looking at alternative technologies
 - If the moratorium lifts, we can switch out technology pretty easily
 - Neighborhood Safety Program update
 - 12 projects approved as "Top Priority"
 - 7 alternates
 - Conferences to be held on Feb 6 and 8; Doodle poll coming from Kari to the neighborhood project coordinators
 - Timeline, key dates:
 - 3/13, tour of project sites
 - 3/13, meeting with dinner
 - 3/20, meeting with dinner
 - 3/27, meeting with dinner, select final projects
 - Streetlights
 - \$200K funding available from PSE for some work
 - Need to think through what to do and how to do it
 - Currently, we can put lights on an existing pole for a few hundred dollars; new poles are prohibitively expensive
 - Streetlighting doesn't score well in the Neighborhood Safety Program process, so that's not a good process to address lighting
 - Process proposed by City staff:
 - Do the highest-priority installations, as determined by City staff, with no public input, using criteria that rate safety needs
 - Transportation Division has identified 46 desired lights
 - Primary criteria are safety, pedestrian crossings, lighting arterials and major routes
 - 11 will be done under Lakefront project funding, so 35 left to do
 - Each light costs \$200 to \$14,000, depending on pole and position variations
 - OR, we could work this similarly to the Neighborhood Safety Program, with NAs submitting proposals. Neighborhoods should best understand their own needs. Kari likes this approach, starting the process this year. Wouldn't have to use all \$200K at once.
 - Concern: does an NA-driven process really get the lights to the highest-priority places?
 - Would local residents have an opportunity to resist a light placement, e.g. if it shines right through a bedroom window? Kari: If it's a safety decision, then no, we'll put it in. If it's not safety-driven, then yes, the resident can push back.
 - Can we correlate lighting to crime, which could affect the prioritization? Sergeant Carpenter: we get that input from the neighborhoods themselves.
 - Proposed by Lisa: start this year with high-priority projects with half of the grant money, and consider a second phase with public input.
- Moved and approved** as a recommendation to the City.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Expect in coming months to get a map of proposed streetlight improvements, to share at an NA meeting.

8:20pm Sign Ordinances

- Meeting tomorrow night (1/12/18) with Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council
- Two proposed changes:
 - Allow A-frame signs. Current code doesn't allow them, but there has been no enforcement. There would be placement requirements.
 - Allow temporary signs that are off-site (not on a business or residential property), with all regulations that pertain to political signs. Does this mean that there would be a time limit for taking them down? Would there be a limit on density (how many signs in how much space)?
- Enforcement is expected to step up, but there will be no dedicated enforcement resource

8:15pm City Updates

- David Wolbrecht
- New Animal Services Program has launched!
 - Now in week #2
 - “Love ‘Em, License ‘Em” competition launched on Facebook; submit a photo and short story about your pet
 - Ten pet licenses will be issued (5 dog, 5 cat) to the winners
 - Thor, the Kirkland police dog, will get license #5 (his badge number) ☺
 - Existing King County pet licenses are still valid; but new and renewal licenses will be through Kirkland
 - Kirkland Animal Services will not cover County and State parks (e.g., Big Finn Hill Park or Bridle Trails State Park)
- Update to the Geological Hazard Area maps
 - Very near to online availability, after a year-long project
 - Relevance to citizens:
 - Look up your neighborhood and residence, to see if any risks are identified for that property, to prepare better
 - City staff and first responders will revisit response maps and scenarios for emergency management
 - New hazard data can lead to a zoning code amendment; there will be a March 23 public hearing with the Planning Commission to discuss impacts
 - Can the new data affect property-owners' insurance or property values? David: not known. Lisa pointed out that the stream buffer changes did indeed affect her property values and plans for future property sale
- CIP projects:
 - Marina Park dock being reinforced, retrofitted, straightened. Park will remain open.
 - Edith Moulton Park (Juanita) will be closed for several months, around the end of July, to add a boardwalk, fenced play area, dog trails, etc.

8:45pm Liaison Reports, Hot Topics, Roundtable

- No liaison reports
- Housing Coalition
 - Bill reports good attendance (60) at recent open house. Planning to make a recommendation to the Council in March.
- Neighborhood topics
 - SRH/BT: Excited about the upcoming Neighborhood Plan Update! Some tension around whether to barge forward or wait for the city's guidance. One of Chris' concerns: preserving equestrian nature and lifestyle in Bridle Trails.
 - Juanita: Discussed density and transportation issues at last meeting. Concerned about overbuilding of the local Park & Ride. Not enough infrastructure to support the incoming residents. Cross-Kirkland Corridor: what are future plans? What comes after the temporary gravel trail?
 - Houghton: Working up the Comp Plan. NW University Plan is still on hold, waiting for traffic data to come through. Planning an anniversary celebration of Kirkland incorporation; look for news this summer.
 - Moss Bay: Some development on the horizon, such as a proposed urban village structure at the current Wendy's site. Most attendees at the MBNA meeting seem pleased with this development, while some will miss having Wendy's; some concerns noted about traffic impact at the intersection.
 - Finn Hill: Look for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Garage Sale events. Recent downzoning eliminated some possible development. Big tree-planting effort, MLK day at 10am at Big Finn Hill Park.
 - Highlands: Also concerned about Neighborhood Plan process. Example: tree management, where a developer can cut trees but a resident can't. Citizens feel that the rules are slanted toward developers.
 - Bea echoed Councilmember Asher's encouragement for people to attend the PED meeting on 1/18/18. The City would like to see the Neighborhood Plan Update process simplified and optimized, to make for better, more effective Plans. Still need to allow enough time and process to hear all voices, surface everyone's ideas.
 - Ensuing conversation concluded that there is frustration among citizens when developers get zoning exceptions that residents feel are out of character with the neighborhood. Specific exceptions, such as the Houghton/Everest development or Juanita's 85 townhomes in an industrial zone, are not driven specifically by the City's need to accommodate more residents; we already have enough development in the pipeline for that. Take the Neighborhood Plan process seriously, as the Plans really are guidance for the City Council and staff.
 - The Neighborhood Plan update process was originally proposed as a "template" and is now instead a "framework," recognizing that every neighborhood is different and there is no "one size fits all" process

8:57pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:10pm
- Next meeting: February 14, 2018, Peter Kirk room, City Hall

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items (proposed)
 - Report back on Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting regarding the Neighborhood Plan framework discussion (1/18/18)
 - Disaster preparedness and long-term recovery (after the news vans have gone)
 - Off leash laws being reconsidered
 - Transit implementation planning recommendations
 - Housing Strategy committee recommendations
- Events
 - 2/13/18: Election, with school bond/levies
 - 1/18/18, 3pm: Neighborhood Plan Framework is on the agenda for the City Council Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting (City Hall, Norkirk Room)
 - Feb 6 and 8: Neighborhood Safety Program conferences