

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods

March 14, 2018

Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods Attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Anna Rising
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard
Highlands	Karen Story
Juanita Neighborhoods	
Lakeview	Lane McFadden (new rep!)
Market	Mark B. Nelson
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Heather Hendrix-McAdams, Cindy Randazzo
North Rose Hill	Kevin Coomer
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials Attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kathy Robertson, Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator
- Dave Asher, Councilmember
- Kurt Triplett, City Manager
- Adam Weinstein (pronounced “Wine Stine”), Deputy Director of Planning

Guests:

- Lisa Hodgson, WSDOT Design Engineering Manager, I-405/SR-167 program
- Barrett Hanson, WSDOT Engineering Manager, I-405/SR-167 program
- Karl Westby, WSDOT Traffic Manager, I-405/SR-167 program
- <Other WSDOT I-405 program team members, didn’t sign in>
- Troy Thiel, Norkirk (and Housing Strategy Advisory Group)

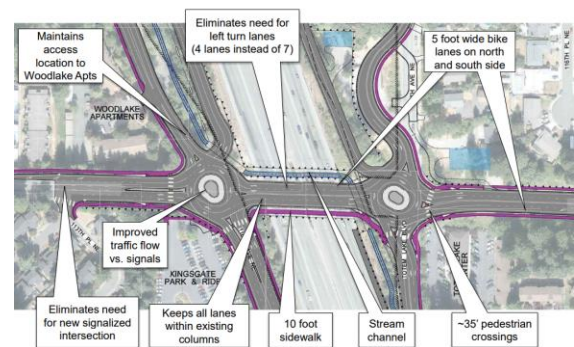
7:00 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Janet Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- Jan 10, 2018 minutes accepted.
 - With a change: “Accepted Nov minutes, not Oct minutes”
- Should KAN have the Mayor address KAN with a “State of the City” presentation? **Send your thoughts to Janet.**

7:08pm Public comments

- <None.>

- Lisa Hodgson, WSDOT, presenting
- Building a new half-interchange to and from the north at NE 132nd St. in Totem Lake area
- Projected completion: 2024
- Slides available (version presented to City Council on 3/20/18):
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/City+Council/Council+Packets/032018/3a_StudySession.pdf
- Totem Lake area is designated as a Puget Sound Regional Council growth center
 - New 600-stall parking lot at Kingsgate P&R (bringing capacity to 900 total)
 - Transit-oriented development (TOD) study in 2018 for Kingsgate P&R
 - New Sound Transit BRT station at the existing Totem Lake Freeway Station
- Existing complicating conditions:
 - Woodlake Apartments driveway on west side of interchange
 - Fish barrier crosses near the intersection, connected to a Juanita Creek tributary
 - Overpass columns at the sides of the existing roadway
- Concepts evaluated:
 - Signalized intersections
 - Would result in 3 signaled intersections, because of apartment access
 - This would cause delay and back-up issues
 - Pedestrian crossing would be ~100', crossing 6 lanes
 - Traffic would be split by existing support columns – see example of this where Richards Rd. crosses under I-90 in Factoria
 - No good solution for the fish barrier
 - Roundabouts at east and west sides
 - Accommodates the apartment access
 - Improved traffic flow vs. signals
 - Eliminates the need for left turn lanes; result is 4 lanes under the overpass, not 7
 - Uses existing space between the support columns; no splitting around the columns
 - Room to add 10' sidewalk (south side only), and maintain 5'-wide bike lanes on north and south sides – build for option of “all-ages, all-abilities” bike riders to ride on the south sidewalk
 - Pedestrian crossings are ~35', with a refuge island midway
 - Stream channel accommodates the fish barrier on the north side
- Roundabout safety benefits



- 4-way, 1-lane intersection creates 32 vehicle conflicts and 24 pedestrian conflicts
- Roundabout creates 8 vehicle conflicts and 8 pedestrian conflicts
- Single-lane roundabout safety summary, from studies:
 - Better traffic flow
 - One-way travel
 - Safety performance
 - 90% less fatality collisions
 - 40% less pedestrian collisions
 - 75% less injury collisions
 - 37% less overall collisions
- There have been zero fatalities in roundabouts in WA
- Similar two-roundabout structures, which have been performing well:
 - NE 145th x Redmond-Woodinville Rd. NE (by Red Hook brewery)
 - SR 522 x W Main St. in Monroe
- Questions
 - Are there sufficient accommodations for less-confident bicyclists? The 10' sidewalk on the south side has to accommodate east-bound pedestrians, west-bound pedestrians, east-bound cyclists, and west-bound cyclists. Answer: we're still considering multi-use options for less-confident users; perhaps we would not have on-street bike lanes on both sides, to buy room for a different solution. And we plan to put flashing beacons at the pedestrian crossings; that should increase safety for everyone using the sidewalk option.
 - Will this new interchange change traffic flow to the 160th and 116th intersections, causing more flow through residential cut-throughs? Answer: we are having that conversation with the City Transportation dept.
 - Are there scenarios that involve excessive lane changes, e.g., going from Kingsgate P&R to northbound 405? Answer: that exact scenario should require only one lane change. We don't see any scenarios with undue burden of lane changes.
- For further information or to **arrange a visit to a Neighborhood Association**, contact:
 - Carryn Vande Griend
 - Public Outreach
 - (425) 456-8663
 - vandecn@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov

7:40pm City Council Retreat Issues

- Kurt Triplett, City Manager
- Council Outreach strategies
 - Neighborhood Block Walks with Council

- Neighborhood Association meeting attendance by individual councilmembers
- Video interviews with councilmembers on current issues
- Councilmember office hours
- Council dinner and mingle with Neighborhood leaders
- Councilmembers in the Neighborhood Plan Process
- Neighborhood Leaders gathering
- City Council meeting with the Neighborhood Associations
- Council booth at community events
- Town Halls – either for “open mic” or specific topics
- Council outreach considerations
 - Each option would require varying amounts of staff resources
 - Strategic usage – neither Council nor staff capacity to do all
 - Considerations for council:
 - What are Council’s goals for direct Council/community engagement?
 - Does the Council feel the current focus on Council meetings in the neighborhoods is effectively meeting these goals?
 - Would any of the other strategies better meet Council’s engagement goals?
- Council Outreach decisions
 - Put the current City Council meeting with the Neighborhood Associations on pause
 - In its place, Council wants to pilot topical Town Halls that are more responsive to the needs and interests of the community and provide more opportunities for direct engagement
- What’s the best way to get feedback to these ideas?
 - Email through KAN
 - Facebook Live?
 - David Wolbrecht will coordinate feedback and methods
- (Troy) Chamber of Commerce has started focused Town Halls; perhaps there could be a joint effort

7:50pm Neighborhood Plan Framework

- Adam Weinstein, Deputy Director of Planning
- New staff member, happy to be here
- Packet available (from City Council 2/16/18 presentation):
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/City+Council/Council+Packets/020618/3a2_StudySession.pdf
- Want to balance/reconcile a deep, broad planning process with a reasonable timeframe
- Goal: Develop a comprehensive template for future neighborhood plans that provides a framework for policies addressing the possible range of issues unique to each neighborhood, recognizing that not all template items will be applicable to all neighborhoods
- Public input themes:

- Robust and meaningful public involvement
- Education
 - Balance time required with depth of involvement
- Concise process/plan
- Establishing expectations
 - How will public input be used?
 - Who has authority?
 - What's the process?
- Don't reinvent the wheel
 - Standard formats
- Relationship to Comprehensive Plan
 - Ensure consistency
 - Not duplicating what's in the Comp Plan
- Framework summary
 - Expectations for process
 - Scope of work: break the process into discrete tasks, define the tasks (certainly can be modified! It's a starting point)
 - Schedule: proposed actions, dates, and responsibilities
 - Plan Outline: default template outline
 - Overview and fact sheet
 - Vision statement
 - Historical context
 - Land use
 - Natural Environment/Parks/Open Space
 - Transportation
 - Other topics (special interest to the neighborhood)
 - Cookbook of policy questions
 - Address overlaps between the Comp Plan and the Neighborhood Plan
 - Identify specific Comp Plan elements that the Neighborhood Plans can address
- Questions/Comments
 - Lisa: Can we clarify Council priorities as distinct from Neighborhood priorities?
 - Anna: We've had some experience of having "input" into planning processes, and the input is disregarded because of City priorities that weren't well communicated in advance
 - Mark: The neighborhoods don't have authority over City staff and will always take a back seat to other priorities. Clarifying this may head off some sour feelings from participants.
 - Bea: How can we measure the success of this process, especially with an eye to improving the process? What are some benchmarks for evaluation?
 - Lisa: Where does education take place? E.g., 5-minute "TED Talk" on zoning. Janet: Perhaps this would happen during the year before your neighborhood undertakes its Plan Update. Adam: we also want to have

education integral in the process, and it's not currently reflected in the schedule.

- Lisa: I like the “cookbook” as an entry point for neighborhood discussions, to start the conversations about the neighborhood’s priorities
- Additional ideas for consideration
 - Less-frequent updates for low-change neighborhoods
 - Sharing the work
 - No Citizen Amendment Requests (CARs)
 - Using consultants
 - Standardized process for public outreach
 - Combining neighborhoods

8:25pm Housing Strategy Advisory Group Report

- Kevin Coomer, North Rose Hill board and Advisory Group member, presenting
- PowerPoint slides summed up the current status; not enough time to go through all slides
- Packet available (from City Council 3/6/18 meeting):
http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/City+Council/Council+Packets/030618/3a_StudySession.pdf
- The Advisory Group has diverse membership and opinions, has made for a rich discussion
- Guiding themes:
 - Housing gaps
 - Bold action
 - Growth
 - Complete neighborhoods
 - Intentionality
- Housing gaps by households:
 - Low/moderate income: seniors, individuals, families
 - Homeless
 - Local employees, especially lower income
 - Entry level ownership: younger, couples/families
- Housing gaps by types of housing:
 - Existing affordable
 - Housing options for seniors
 - ADUs and small units
 - Transit-oriented development
- Address Comp Plan goals:
 - Goal H-1: Maintain and enhance the unique residential character of each neighborhood
 - Goal H-2: ensure that Kirkland has a sufficient quantity and variety of housing to meet projected growth and needs of the community
 - Goal H-3: Promote affordable and special needs housing throughout the city for all economic segments of the population
- Summary of strategies:
 - Neighborhood quality

- Infrastructure to promote walkability, open spaces, social gathering
 - Support services and strategic commercial development in neighborhoods
 - Expanded housing choices
 - Innovative or unconventional housing in lower density areas
 - Mixed density villages near transit, arterials
 - Innovative or unconventional housing in Centers
 - Transit oriented development
 - Building codes to support newer technologies
- Expanded housing choices: strategies and actions
 - Greater household diversity, lower density
 - Cottages, multiplexes, tiny houses
 - Mixed density villages
 - Community education
 - Transit oriented development, Centers
 - Efficiency units, boarding homes, SRO
 - Surplus and underutilized land
 - Incentivize residential
- There's much more in the full report! This has just been a sample.
- Questions/Comments
 - Can the City make it more affordable to pursue innovative solutions, such as building an ADU for seniors aging in place?
 - Norkirk has lots of ADUs! Lots of senior occupancy
 - Janet: the upcoming Neighborhood Plan processes will be a great way to apply this Housing Strategy work
 - Lisa: I see a lot of weight toward rental solutions rather than ownership solutions. Is that right? Discussion: Affordability is a big factor. We had input from many specialists and researchers. We do want to get to richer opportunities for ownership, but it's true that many of the shorter-horizon actions are rental-based. Developers have lower risk and earlier payback with rentals. Anna: We were dismayed to see so much apartment emphasis in our recent planning cycle. Ownership builds community.

8:55pm Liaison Reports, Hot Topics, Roundtable

- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
 - Neighborhood Safety Plan proposals going to Council
 - Kathy Robertson handed out the Neighborhood Street Light Program Proposal, following up from the direction from KAN at the January KAN meeting
 - Specific prioritized locations were handed out and shown on a map.
 - The top 10 projects were highlighted as probable crosswalk locations to receive street lights (based upon a general estimate for new street lights)
 - Staff said they would do as many as they can for the \$100K this year. That may be more or less than the top 10 projects.

- The list showed the prioritization of 46 locations with deficient lighting at crosswalks. Nine others will be funded by the Lake Front Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Project.
 - A two-page detail of the prioritization criteria gives priority to:
 - Arterials and collectors with high speeds and volumes
 - School Walk Routes
 - Crashes/documentated conflicts
 - Frequently requested
 - Other Transportation Master Plan priorities (CKC, Transit, 10-minute neighborhood, etc.)
 - North Carolina system of evaluating risk and facility type
 - At the last KAN meeting, KAN proposed that City staff implement street light improvements based upon the criteria that staff laid out, with half of the PSE rebate money (\$100K of the total \$190K) and possibly consider a public process next year for the other half of the rebate
 - **Proposed and passed by vote:** Approval of the list of locations and application of funding
 - We are in the top 5 in Neighborhood USA's competition of "Best Neighborhood Program" nationwide; Kari going to Birmingham AL in May to present
- Sign codes (Karen)
 - A lot of the existing codes were not being enforced
 - We are now enforcing the temporary sign codes. A broad update of the sign codes is due later this year.
 - The city has recommenced enforcement of the following sign code violations (they remove illegal signs):
 - temporary off-site commercial signs (A-board, H-frame, etc.)
 - real estate signs (open house signs are allowed when a property is open for public viewing, but not more than ¼ mile from the property)
 - Report sign violations at:
 - http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Online_Resources/Code_Enforcement/Complaint_Investigation_Request.htm
- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
 - What is a good process for setting up future Town Hall topics? (and input on the process for Town Halls)
 - Request: send us with some proposed topics (e.g., next one is on School Safety, in partnership with the School District)
 - Town Halls would technically be City Council meetings, with partial or full Council attendance – is it better to have more Town Halls with fewer councilmembers attending, or fewer Town Halls with full Council? (no determination or vote)
 - **David to do a SurveyMonkey for topics;** good way to reach younger residents especially
 - Do we want to have an event for the Mayor to address KAN, with public invited to attend? (no determination or vote)

- Community Sparks Grant proposal goes to Council next week
- Preparing for 2019-20 Budget
 - Want to determine the public’s priorities, to report to Council for their consideration.
 - KAN can distribute this info to the Neighborhoods
 - City will also go to the Neighborhoods directly, as possible
- Neighborhood topics
 - Market: Looking at City modifying codes relative to geologically dangerous areas, worried about language re: the City “taking property”
 - Finn Hill: Bill has a handout to promote involvement and recruitment

9:25pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:25pm
- Next meeting: April 11, 2018.

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
 - Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) 2018 winners
 - NSP possible changes for 2019+
 - Animal Services Program
 - Welcoming Week Projects – plan for September
 - Totem Lake Park / Totem Lake Mall
 - Community Conversations
 - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
 - Parking Survey – Part II
 - Sparks grant
 - Budget input
 - New Neighborhood Resource Officer
 - “For the Love of Kirkland” project status review, follow-up
- Events
 - 4/17/18: City Council decides Neighborhood Safety Projects. Winners announced April 18.
 - 4/18/18: Basic Disaster Prep, 7pm
 - 4/23/18: Preparedness for Pet Owners; info/registration at www.kirklandCERT.com