

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
April 11, 2018 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods Attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story, Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert, Doug Rough
Lakeview	Lane McFadden
Market	Mark B. Nelson
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Heather McAdams, 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 Services Outreach Coordinator
- James Lopez, Assistant City Manager

Guests:

- <None>

7:00 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- March 14, 2018 minutes accepted.

7:08pm Public comments

- <None>

7:05pm Budget

- James Lopez, Assistant City Manager
- Introduced himself; history as Director of Human Resources and Performance Management. Moved to Assistant City Manager 2/12/18. Norkirk resident since 2012.
- Two major initiatives immediately on his work plan:
 - Budget: City wants to get broad public input into budget.
 - What would a good outreach strategy look like, from KAN's perspective?
 - "Safe, inclusive, and welcoming community" initiative

- How are we doing with policing, fire and emergency management, funding sources, proactive policing, etc.?
- Likes to iterate on planning and rolling out initiatives: “the action is in the reaction”
- Question: what do you mean by “proactive policing?” Answer: having police resources that get ahead of reactions: strategizing, forecasting, analyzing, etc.
- Doug: Want police presence at neighborhood and City events; told story of kids wanting their pictures taken with a police officer at the last “Welcoming Juanita” event
 - Note: in the NW Juanita and NE Finn Hill area, it’s a 1-mile walk to reach a park. Need more parks in that area!
- Question: What are the realistic opportunities for influencing the City budget?
 - Transportation is a huge part where we need input
 - As an example of the City’s investment and priority: planning to hire a transportation “think-tank” advisor
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure
 - Need to preserve and expand Kirkland’s parks
 - Good infrastructure attracts good corporate investment
- Lisa: Kirkland used to have a “Neighborhood U” program for education about how local government works, e.g., how budgeting is done
 - Helps to make a connection between the City’s values and its actions
 - Example: who cares if we have an intelligent transportation system (ITS) – until you point out the benefits and how they support the values of livable neighborhood and safe streets, etc.
 - Jim: Should we revive meetings like that? Discussion: Yes, though often the “usual suspects” show up to such things.
 - Perhaps we could push some education/outreach pieces into the Kirkland Reporter or other media channels? Then, hold a Town Hall to collect feedback after the education pieces
- The budget takes shape over the summer, is relatively solid by September. Jim would like to get feedback before that. Discussion:
 - Can the City leverage existing events/opportunities for outreach, such as the farmer’s markets and summer concerts? Go to the places where the people are, rather than asking people to come specifically to a targeted event.
 - How about mailed/emailed surveys? Can be done on a person’s own time. It’s hard to reach out to the voices that aren’t currently heard.
 - Karen: If you can send us a list of the outreach ideas you already have, we could respond with comments and suggestions
 - Bill: Google has hosted some successful public events – for example, the Housing Strategy Advisory Group workshop in December 2017. Part of the draw was getting people to come to a new, interesting place – as well as having interesting content.

- Bea: We need to reach out better to renters; they don't have good representation now. They're Kirkland citizens too! <Stories told of talking to renters who feel excluded or, at least, not invited.> Janet: Doreen Booth had suggested holding a family-friendly event at a major rental complex. Jim: Perhaps we could organize multiple complexes, to increase the impact of each outreach effort.
- Transportation future
 - The city sees a future that includes "self-driving coaches" as well as buses, fixed-rail transit, etc.

7:45pm Mayor's State of the City

- History: Mayor delivers a SotC address to the Kirkland Chamber, and KAN suggested that there be a similar address to KAN
- Mayor Walen is open to such an event
- David Wolbrecht led a brainstorming session
 - What
 - Something less business-oriented, more general interest
 - Could still center around the budget and how the City's priorities drive it
 - When
 - David had a graphic of the Mayor's available calendar
 - Wed May 30th proposed
 - Where
 - Find a more northern location, to accommodate the northern neighborhoods for once
- **David to check the date and locations and report back to KAN.**

7:55pm Neighborhood Safety Program update

- Kari Page presenting
- Goals: increase neighborhood participation, address safety needs, etc.
- \$350K total budget
- "Suggest a Project" program has generated 910 suggestions
- 2018 timeline:
 - Aug: "Suggest a Project" launch
 - Dec: Project ideas due
 - Feb: Project conferences with staff, applications due, technical evaluation
 - Mar: Panel evaluation
 - Apr: Transportation Commission, KAN, Council decision
- 2018 top-priority projects, medium tier, and lowest tier
- Two projects were swapped between top and medium tiers by unanimous vote
 - Staff recommendation: reverse the swap
 - Try to find funding for the medium-tier project
 - Consider changes to the scoring process:
 - Review technical criteria
 - Expand the three meetings from 1.5 to 2 hours
 - Allow for deeper discussion at each stage

- Reconsider switching projects after combined criteria ranking
- Transportation Commission requests:
 - Staff should evaluate crash data to differentiate crashes that happen due to roadway design
 - Connections within parks (and on off-street trails like the CKC) should have equal priority with street projects, because these trails ultimately move pedestrians and bicyclists onto safer, non-motorized facilities
 - Discussion: is this true? It's hard to get pedestrian data, and we have a lack of baseline data.
 - Because the scoring process is robust and approved, we should not debate the scoring nor switch projects after the scoring; recommend not doing this in the future
- KAN discussion
 - How do dissenting opinions surface?
 - Debate should all be done before the panel determines scores; no late second-guessing
 - Perhaps have a “fatal flaw” exception method, where someone can bring up an appropriate objection late in the process
 - Rephrase “Reenergizing neighborhoods” – we’re energized!
- Future considerations
 - Review the project limit (\$50K)
 - There are current exceptions: rapid flashing beacons, etc.
 - We have allowed projects up to \$60K
 - Panel recommendation: maintain current limit
 - Project funding (\$350K)
 - Panel recommendation: raise the annual funding from \$350K to \$400K
 - Kari will submit as a CIP proposal
 - Process cycle: 1- or 2-year cycle?
 - Panel recommendation: stay with a 1-year cycle
 - Keeps the momentum current and the priorities fresh

8:25pm _____ City Updates

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Community Sparks grant program
 - \$1K available per project, on a reimbursement basis (\$3,650 in current pool, and applications are evaluated monthly)
 - Arose from the “For the Love of Kirkland” event and from the “Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming” initiative
 - Goals: build community, and/or enhance Kirkland as a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for all
 - See www.kirklandwa.gov/CommunitySparks for information
 - **If you plan to apply, David recommends talking to him first**
- Matching Grant Projects update
 - Everest, Evergreen Hill, Juanita, Norkirk, NRH, and SRH/BT have projects pending; **check in with David**

- Council community engagement ideas
 - Was on last month's KAN agenda; KAN made recommendations
 - David sent a SurveyMonkey for KAN input after last month's meeting; he got four replies
 - Descriptions of proposed ideas at <https://goo.gl/8PYqR1>
 - David will send another SurveyMonkey invitation; **please respond**. If you'd rather talk to David directly, feel free to do so.
 - Immediate feedback:
 - Having the full Council at a NA meeting draws a good crowd
 - "Council dinner and mingle with neighborhood leaders" concept: one supporting comment, one dissenting
 - "Councilmembers in the Neighborhood Plan process:" not really appropriate. Of course, anyone who lives in a neighborhood can participate, including councilmembers!
- Neighborhood Outreach best practices
 - Can KAN assemble a toolkit, templates, etc. for outreach to residents?
 - Several KAN members have asked David for help and support
 - Proposed: **Chairs put this on a future agenda as "Communication and Outreach Strategies"**
 - Tons of resources on KAN "Resources" webpage
- Training for community conversations
 - Arose from the Safe/Inclusive/Welcoming efforts: "Inclusion Network" group
 - **Sat 4/21, City Hall – see "this week in Kirkland"**

8:55pm Liaison Reports, Hot Topics, Roundtable

- **May 15: Form 990 due**, to keep tax-exempt status
- Planning and Economic Development (Bea)
 - Totem Lake study
 - [http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/Boards+and+Commissions/Boards+and+Commissions+PDFs/Transportation+Commission/2018/February/Totem+Lake+Transportation+Study+\\$!26+Enhancement+Plan.pdf](http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/Boards+and+Commissions/Boards+and+Commissions+PDFs/Transportation+Commission/2018/February/Totem+Lake+Transportation+Study+$!26+Enhancement+Plan.pdf)
 - PED is also discussing the topic of reducing parking requirements as a tool to increase affordable housing
 - **Chairs: add this as a future agenda topic**
- Planning Commission (from Janet)
 - Floor area and lot coverage coming up at 4/12/18 meeting, 7pm in Council chambers
 - **Chairs: add this as a future agenda topic**
- Juanita (Doug): Walkable paths are needed to get people to transit and services, especially in an area with lots of cul-de-sacs

9:00pm Board Elections

- Elections are next month
- Janet and Bill are willing to continue as co-Chairs

- Chris is willing to continue as Secretary
- All are welcome to come forward if you want to run!
- Request at the next meeting: review the KAN website, guidelines, policies

9:00pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:03pm
- Next meeting: May 9, 2018, Peter Kirk Room, Kirkland City Hall

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
 - Communication and Outreach Strategies
 - Review the KAN website, guidelines, policies
 - Neighborhood Planning – Adam Weinstein
 - FAR and lot coverage planning review
 - Parking reduction proposal from Totem Lake study
 - Floor area and lot coverage regulations
 - Attainable Housing update
 - Housing Strategy Advisory Committee recommendations/updates/Council actions
 - CERT/Map Your Neighborhood
 - New police Neighborhood Resource Officer
 - Animal Services Program – Jennifer Matison
 - Parks Director – Lynn Zwaagstra
 - Welcoming Week Projects – plan for September
 - Totem Lake Park / Totem Lake Mall
 - Community Conversations
 - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
 - Parking Survey – Part II
 - Budget input
 - “For the Love of Kirkland” project status review, follow-up
- Events
 - 4/15/18: Latex Paint collection
 - 4/18/18: Basic Disaster Prep, 7pm
 - 4/23/18: Preparedness for Pet Owners; info/registration at www.kirklandCERT.com
 - 4/27/18: Applicants sought for Emergency Preparedness Grants
 - 5/01/18: Gun Safety Resolution being presented to Council - 7:30pm, Council Chambers
 - 5/09/18: KAN Meeting, 7:00pm in the Peter Kirk Room
 - 5/15/18: IRS 990 due date for all neighborhood associations
 - 5/30/18: Mayor's State of the City for Neighborhoods presentation