

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
April 14, 2021 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Anna Aubry
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story, Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert, Doug Rough
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Huan Zou
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- John Olson, Kirkland Municipal Court Judge
- Rosalie Wessels, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Mary Gardocki, Park Planning and Development Manager

Guests:

- Steve Brilling, Moss Bay

7:03pm Introduction

- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order

7:05pm Public comments

- None

7:08pm [Community Court](#)

- Judge John Olson presenting
- New program
 - Origin in New York City, some years ago
 - Address low-level crime in cities
 - Redmond, Issaquah, other cities in the region have been doing this
 - We started ours last month
- Impact
 - Individuals get out of the criminal justice system sooner
 - Less likelihood to re-offend
 - Court personnel are enthusiastic

- Candidates
 - Low-level offences, non-violent crimes
 - Often for people who need other sustaining services (housing, etc.)
 - Candidates are screened/recommended by prosecutors
 - Clerks and judges recommend services and programs
 - Candidates must agree to participate, commit to programs
 - Participants have records cleared after successful completion
- Action so far
 - ~13 participants right now (~60 in Redmond)
 - Participants have been showing up to their committed times, seem happy with programs and progress
- [Virtual resource center](#)
 - Can help any Kirkland resident seek services, not just those in the criminal justice system
 - Service navigator and referrals
- John welcomes email at jolson@kirklandwa.gov
- Q&A
 - [Lisa] Age ranges?
 - Most are under 30 years old
 - The big effort is to catch people early in their interaction with the criminal justice system, so naturally an emphasis on younger people
 - Some courts provide lunches, which helps for participants who are also in need of other supportive services such as meals
 - [Chris] How does this differ from “diversion” that’s been available in the past for juveniles?
 - That’s still a mainstay of the juvenile court system
 - Community service is a component of diversion and of community court
 - [Anna] You said many of the participants are not Kirkland residents?
 - Yes, many of the shoplifting and other minor property crimes are actions by non-residents. We work with them. (Story of a Spokane youth who obtained mental health services.)
 - [Lisa] What can KAN do to support the program? Is it permanent, or will it require new effort to sustain it?
 - By all means, let the Council know if you support it. The Council has been and is very committed already, but it’s good for them to hear it.
 - [Bill] Is it true that Seattle Police Department is not pursuing property crimes?
 - Yes, the policy is to steer people to services rather than to the criminal system.
 - [Karen] How does the cost of this program compare to normal cost of criminal processing?
 - My salary is not affected, but we do pay for extra staff time. It’s not substantial but it does have to be accounted for.

- [Leo] How do you balance rehabilitation, public safety, and punishment?
 - That's the hardest thing: how to correct behavior without inappropriate punishment. I'll try many things before resorting to incarceration. The lawyers in the system, on both sides, truly want to help people who have made poor decisions, so it's a cooperative effort.

7:35pm Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- [Rosalie Wessels](#) presenting
- Intro of Rosalie: Kirkland native! Came up through Parks positions in city government
- Rosalie and Christian Knight both work on [CIP projects](#); she's speaking tonight on both of their projects
 - [Willows Road regional trail connection](#)
 - Connecting CKC to Redmond trail system
 - Underway now, due to be completed soon
 - The main trail is a King County project; our piece is a widened sidewalk for access and a piece that connects to Willows at the end
 - Fire Station 24
 - [Neighborhood Greenways](#)
 - Building now in North and South Rose Hill
 - Holmes Point Drive master plan
 - Creates requirements on development as the area builds out
 - Consultant is submitting work product now
 - Goes next to Transportation Commission
 - Totem Lake Park
 - Underway, expected completion this summer
 - Totem Lake Connector bridge
 - Work underway
 - CKC diverted around the site; contractor mobilizing
 - Mid-July, you'll see more action
 - Fall 2022 completion
 - Rose Hill lift station
 - Waiting for better weather to begin
- Projects starting soon
 - 132nd Square Park
 - [Johanna] Are detailed plans available?
 - [Rosalie] It's under "doing business with Kirkland;" search on "bid"
 - [David Brink Park](#)
 - The City is expanding the park's beaches, repairing and upgrading its landscaping, piers, sidewalks and curb ramps.
 - Completion June 2022
 - Unusual to have two such extensive park projects underway in one year!
 - Right turn lane at southbound 116th Ave. NE, north of Fred Meyer

- [Leo] How will pedestrian crossing be managed, when the new right turn lane displaces the sidewalk?
 - It'll be done in accordance with all standards and requirements.
 - The project will also close one of the driveways that goes to the old Burger King site just north of there, reducing incursion onto the street
 - Street preservation
 - Overlay, slurry seal, other projects
 - Right turn lanes on both sides of NE 132nd Street, near Juanita High School
 - 2021 Neighborhood Safety Program Projects
 - Q&A
 - [Doug] (Described his desired project, which he's been pursuing for years)
 - Rosalie will forward comments to Parks
 - David: may be addressed as part of the Active Transportation Plan work as well
 - [Bill] (Described his desired project, a sidewalk along 72nd Ave. NE)
 - Mary pointed out that some projects might be reflected on the [Citywide Connections](#) map
 - Karen suggested using the [Suggest a Project](#) online resource

8:02pm Park improvements

- Mary Gardocki will be on May KAN agenda to discuss park initiatives over the next 12 months

8:04pm KAN position: NE 85th St. Station Area Plan

- Bill Blanchard presenting
- KAN committee has been meeting to discuss and make recommendations related to the 85th St. area plan
 - Three proposed courses of action
 - No action
 - Moderate build
 - Heavy build
 - The committee needs to bring the deliberations to KAN before representing its actions on the behalf of KAN
- One key is Google's ownership of the Lee Johnson property (SE corner), where Google would likely prefer a 20-story building, requiring the "heavy build" option
- [Anna] Important to hold the city to the vision and content of the Neighborhood Plans
 - If we open the door to exceptions here, it devalues all of that Plan work
- [Bea] Agreed. The Plan Update process engages stakeholders from Council down to residents and everyone in between; need to honor that
 - Councilmember questions at the recent plan review indicated preference toward the first two options

- Strongly recommend that there be two public hearings; that has been a successful way to bring forward public opinion
- [Mark] Recommend making the KAN referendum even stronger
 - Reinforce that leadership on the part of the city means implementing the public vision
 - Re: public comment effects: Cautious about the weight of public input, after living through the Houghton/Everest experience where Council heard all that input and then didn't act on it
- [Leo] Public input (and KAN) doesn't always represent all the residents of Kirkland
 - Many people are not able to show up at things like Council meetings
 - We tend to hold a romantic notion of Kirkland as a small town
 - Putting growth near a big transit hub really does make sense
 - The Lee Johnson site is not that amazing a site, not worth protecting
- [Anna] Long Kirkland history of raising kids and working and still got involved in community and government
- [Chris] Support for Leo's point of view
 - I support transit oriented development and well-planned density, just want it to be strategic
- [Debbie] We should indeed hear from people from everywhere, such as the woman who spoke up at the recent Council meeting
- [Leo] The City needs ways to find out about problems without residents having to speak up at public meetings
 - People who show up at meetings and write letters are surely valuable to the City
 - ... but there need to be other ways to hear the residents
- Call for votes in favor of the KAN proposed referendum letter
 - [Bea] Propose deleting the reference to option #1; add language that the process needs to honor the Neighborhood Plans. Language edited to:
 - The Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods believes in honoring the integrity of the neighborhood plans and plan process, and that those plans will be recognized and remain in place. Accordingly, the 85th St Station Plan should be considered in the context of the existing neighborhood plans.
 - Vote by hand: Passed
 - Vote by hand for advancing the document: Passed
- [David] Jim Lopez would like to know what KAN would like as next steps
 - Focus groups? Further discussion?
 - David and Bill to coordinate

8:33pm Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) update

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Background
 - 2013-14 City Council Work Program kicked off the NSP
 - David inherited the program from Kari Page
 - Goals (summary slide)

- Process
 - Impacted by COVID, but generally on same timeline as prior years
 - Collected project suggestions through the CIP Suggest a Project map
 - Neighborhood Associations narrow the choices
 - Project ideas complete 12/21/20
 - Scoring
 - City Engineers technical score + Average of Neighborhood Panel scores = Final score
 - Technical criteria and neighborhood criteria are posted online; super detailed
 - City Council decisions anticipated: 4/20/21
 - Projects announced: late April
 - Projects complete by June 2022
- Projects

2021 Project Recommendations				General Cost Estimate	
Points	NSP #	Project Name	SFTS*	Low	High
Top Priority					
122	21NSP01	JN-1 Crosswalks at 108th Ave NE and NE 137th Pl	JN 23	\$35,000	\$50,000
115	21NSP02	EH_1 Rapid Flashing Beacon on 132nd Ave NE at NE 129th St	-		+\$50,000
115	21NSP03	NRH_1 Rapid Flashing Beacon and crosswalk across 124th Ave NE at NE 104th St	NRH 05		+\$50,000
Moderate Priorities					
104	21NSP04	MB_1 Rapid Flashing Beacon at State St and 2nd Ave S	MB 04		+\$50,000
103	21NSP05	HL_1 Crosswalk across 116th Ave NE on the north side of NE 95th St	-	\$15,000	\$35,000
101	21NSP06	EV_1 Radar Speed Sign on NE 68th Street west of I-405	-		+\$50,000
98	21NSP07	FH_1 Rapid Flashing Beacon across 84th Ave NE near NE 141st St	FH 25		+\$50,000
Lower Priorities					
95	21NSP08	NK_1 Crosswalks on two legs of 3rd St and 4th Ave	-	\$1,000	\$15,000
93	21NSP09	MK_1 Crosswalk across Waverly Way at 2nd St W	-	\$15,000	\$35,000
83	21NSP10	CH_1 Crosswalks at 106th Ave NE and NE 55th St	-	\$15,000	\$35,000

*SRTS: Safer Routes to School Action Plans.

- Left column = final score
- Note: four projects are over the \$50K recommended cap; all are Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFBs) or radar speed signs, which are expensive items
- Project costs are rising year-to-year
- Four of the projects are Safer Routes to School (SRTS) action plan elements
- Project details; walked through each project with pics and descriptions
- Q&A
 - [Bea] Some projects which are Safer Routes to School action plans did not score as many points as they might have otherwise, because of technical scoring from City staff. David noted that the Committee discussed this and that the process would be tweaked next year.
 - [Chris] Reflecting feedback of Jim Hoff, filtered through the SRH/BT board: This process has strayed from the original intention of funding smaller projects across the city. Larger, more expensive projects now dominate the process. Perhaps there could be separate buckets for scale?
 - [Johanna] Larger projects on busier streets really do have higher priority sometimes [Chris: absolutely true!]

- [David] City staff will continue to collaborate with KAN and the Neighborhood Panel on how to improve the program for next year.

9:02pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:02pm
- Next meeting: May 12, 2021