

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
January 12, 2022 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	
Everest	Anna Aubrey
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert, Rob Scarber
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	Liz Hunt, Ken MacKenzie
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt, Jane Ainbinder
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager
- Toby Nixon, Councilmember

Guests:

- Chris Carlson, Lake Washington School District Board Member and Houghton resident
- Barbara Posthumus, LWSD Associate Superintendent for Business and Support Services
- Jon Holmen, LWSD Superintendent
- Nicolle Osborn, Recreational Services Program Coordinator for Kirkland parks
- Maryke Burgess, Recreation Supervisor for Kirkland
- Terri Cleveland, North Rose Hill
- Mark Nelson, Market

7:02pm Introduction

- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order

7:02pm Public comments

- None
- Round-the-horn introductions

- LWSD Board Member Chris Carlson, presenting
- LWSD mission and numbers
  - 30,500+ students – only larger district is Seattle
  - 57 schools
  - 94% on-time graduation
  - 10,000+ approved volunteers
- Pandemic response
  - 2019-20 shift to remote learning
  - 2020-21 Microsoft Teams rollout and providing 1:1 computers for all students; first district to provide in-person learning for all students in spring 2021
  - 2021-22 Majority of students learning in-person, with online option; significant effort to manage public health requirements and staff shortages
- Financial stewardship
  - Meritorious Budget Award in five straight years: sound fiscal management, transparent communication and strategic planning
  - Consistent clean audits
  - Saved taxpayers \$43M over the last six years by refinancing outstanding bonds (just as homeowners can refinance a mortgage)
- Local education [levies](#) to support excellence for every student
  - Educational programs and operations (EP&O)
    - Replace 4-year levy, last implemented in 2018
    - Staff to support student programs and services
      - Nurses, counselors, substitutes, health room staff, mental health professionals, and campus safety staff
    - 7-period high school day to support graduation requirements, summer learning, music and arts programs, extracurricular activities and athletics
    - Early learning programs: Inclusive Early Learning, Head Start
    - Fills the gap between what the state funds and our students and schools need
      - Large percentages of the funding for these programs
  - School technology and capital projects (ST&CP)
    - Replace the 4-year levy
    - Technology for students, staff, and classrooms
      - Laptops and tablets
      - Classroom technology
      - Training and professional development
    - Technology systems for support
      - Instructional software and support
      - Tech infrastructure, wired and wireless networks, servers, storage
    - Building updates
      - Replacing aging building systems (roofs, hot water systems, lighting, flooring)

- Campus improvements
    - Health and safety improvements, including student drop-off/pick-up traffic flow
  - Building excellence (BE)
    - Capital levy, replaces expiring bonds and adds funding for critical construction projects
    - Provides funding for classroom space at all levels and allocates funding for the acquisition of property
    - District is growing quickly
      - 7,300 students added since 2008
      - 3,500 more projected by 2030
      - 83% of schools will be over capacity by 2030, without action
    - Add critical space, though not fully accommodating the gap
      - New elementary school in Redmond area, up to 24 classrooms
      - Additions at Finn Hill, Kirkland, and Redmond Middle Schools for 600 more students
      - Additional high school capacity for ~1,200 more high school students
      - Acquisition of property for future schools – difficult in Kirkland but not impossible
- Cost of levies
  - Tax rates per \$1K of assessed value
    - EP&O: \$1.03
    - ST: \$0.49
  - On a \$1M home: currently paying \$2,570, will pay \$2,840
  - Our tax rate is lower than many of our neighboring districts
- Q&A
  - How many people are attending town halls?
    - Jon: 15-30 people, typically
  - How effective is it to have you attend our neighborhood meetings?
    - Jon: It's worth it if we can speak to even one person
    - January is our best time for public contact
    - By law, we're limited to one mailer related to the ballot, and we send it out in late January for highest effectiveness before the February vote
    - See the [website](#) for more opportunities to engage, including town halls
  - What's happening in the schools, related to the pandemic?
    - We are directed by State gov't to deliver in-person schooling
    - Much higher percentage of staff out with COVID these days
      - 30 classroom teachers out at LW High School
      - The Resource Center looks like a ghost town
      - Shifting high schools to online temporarily as needed

- WA State funds schools per student seat. Is that number modified per school district, or is it the same number across the state?
  - Complicated answer: Yes, there are regionalization factors, such as a cost-of-living modifier. There's a formula driven by enrollment, staffing, salaries (determined by the state), etc. There are also differential funding for things like low income and technical training programs.
- What else can we do at the neighborhood community level to help? Volunteering, etc?
  - Encourage people who want to enter the workforce to consider the school district. We have many openings, including jobs for contact tracing and testing (which require hiring on, not volunteering). There are also places where we can use volunteers.
  - Individuals with a bachelor's degree can receive an emergency certification to substitute teach in classrooms. We saw mental health decline drastically during remote learning.
- Janet: How about someone who used to be a teacher?
  - We'd love to see you subbing again! There's an [employment link](#) on our website. Substitutes are critical right now.

7:52pm      Roundtable

- Houghton (Lisa)
- Market (Liz and Ken)
  - Last mtg was in November, and had speakers for the LWSD levies, Kim Scrivner for the Active Transportation Plan, crime prevention, traffic speeding, board elections
  - Skipped our usual decorating contest and other holiday activities
  - Want to get an update on the tree code at our next NA mtg
- Everest (Anna)
  - Neighborhood Plan Update process complete
    - Being the smallest neighborhood with finite boundaries, few changes
    - Possibility of the Sierra Building going up more stories
  - Holiday Donation Drive was very successful
- Lakeview (Mark)
  - Letter and phone campaign to voice concerns with sunseting the Houghton Community Council
- Highlands (Debbie)
  - Active Transportation Plan conversation at last meeting
    - Concern over high-speed electric bikes on the CKC
    - Possible new Neighborhood Greenway passing through Highlands
  - Concern over the Lee Johnson development site
    - People seem concerned over building height but not a lot else
  - Pretty much an all-new board now
- Moss Bay (Bea)
  - Lots of construction going on

- Neighborhood Plan Update process complete; ratified by Council in December
  - Please with community participation
  - Staff, Planning Commission, and City Council had visionary input
  - Planning to circle back to KAN on some elements of vision
- SRH/BT (Chris)
  - We've been focused lately on the 85<sup>th</sup> Station Area Plan, meeting with Google and Lee Johnson (with other KAN members) and collecting community feedback
  - Tech City Bowl site application is moving forward steadily; hadn't noticed that ROIC (who owns the larger part of the Bridle Trails Shopping Center block) is now showing up more in the planning discussions
- Norkirk (Jane)
  - Meeting in November
    - Strong Towns presentation by Rodney Rutherford. Ping Jane if you want a contact to get Rodney at your NA mtg
    - New Greenway would also go through Norkirk
  - How do you get people to come to NA meetings? Send Jane ideas
  - Sending out a survey on how to improve for the February meeting
- Evergreen (Johanna)
  - Low attendance at recent meetings. Controversy brings people out, and it's quite in Evergreen these days
  - Question about a retaining structure at 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park
    - Will contact Rosalie for details
- Juanita (Rob and Leo)
  - 132<sup>nd</sup> St. on/offramp project
    - Increased traffic from Totem Lake Village growth
    - Double roundabout structure
  - 85<sup>th</sup> St. Station Area Plan: WSDOT and Google conversations re: the footprint, transportation, and safety impacts
  - \$100 grant to one student per month at Juanita High, recommended by staff
    - This month's student will paint a mural on the east wall of Spud Fish and Chips, celebrating salmon run
  - Beginning Neighborhood Plan Update process

8:08pm      Neighborhood activities

- Nicolle Osborn, Recreational Services Program Coordinator, presenting
- Options for neighborhood association outdoor picnics, events
  - 13 picnic locations and park open spaces
  - Al Locke Pavilion at Marina Park
  - Athletic locations and field
  - Additional resources at the [website](#):
    - [Picnic Location Comparison Matrix](#)
    - Rental site information matrix
- Park facility resources and updates

- 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park construction underway
  - Two new picnic shelters
  - Additional parking
  - Artificial-surface playfield
- Juanita Beach Park: two new picnic shelters
- Rotary Central Station picnic shelter (along the CKC, near Everest Park)
- Permit options
  - Public event
    - General public invited to attend
    - Advertised by flyers, poster, social media, other media
    - Welcomed onsite on the day of
  - Private
    - Specific guest list
    - No advertising, including on social media
  - Permit types
    - Facility use permit
      - Private, specific facility or area of park
      - Wedding, birthday, company picnic, funeral, **Neighborhood Association summer picnics**, egg hunts, Halloween gatherings
      - No alcohol or sales
    - Special event permit
      - Public, major events
      - Require closure or limited use of streets, sidewalks, parking, etc.
      - Can have alcohol and sales
- Special event resources and deadlines
  - [Calendar, guide, special event FAQs](#)
  - Contact Sudie Ekayssi, special project coordinator
  - **Submit requests 6mos to 1yr in advance (recommended 7mos minimum)**
- Process: Facility use permitted neighborhood association facility even resources, deadlines and limitations
  - Save the date request: email [nosborn@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:nosborn@kirklandwa.gov)
    - Priorities of use apply
    - 7 months in advance minimum is recommended
  - NA picnic event application materials due by minimum of 45 days prior
    - NA Picnic Event Application Form
    - Detailed list of all activities
      - Include everything you can think of!
      - Easy to take things off later, but **you cannot add anything later**
    - Rough site plan
    - COVID-19 safety plan
    - Additional insurance and requirements, if needed
      - Example: inflatables
    - Designate one person as main contact

- Formal review and approval by staff
- Facility use permit issued
- Requirements, restrictions
  - KirklandParks.net (where private residents make arrangements) is NOT an option for an NA event
  - Follow facility guidelines and Kirkland Municipal Code
  - Need to limit access to neighborhood residents, not open to public
  - Other areas of park must stay open to the public
  - Music/Band are possible, with some guidelines
  - No sales of food or services
  - Food service may require a [public health permit](#)
    - There is a “vendors in the park” service; ask when submitting for the list of catering vendors
  - Inflatables and tents
  - Alcohol not allowed
  - Other high-risk activities may be restricted or additional requirements may apply
- Additional considerations
  - Banner permit
  - Waste/Garbage services, connect to Waste Management
  - Invitation to city officials, fire, police, etc. – reach out directly and in advance
  - Park services (e.g., prepping a baseball field) may require extra arrangement and fees
  - Porta-potties may be necessary, depending on season and facility capacity
- Q&A
  - Is there anything new in the process, that I should pass along to the folks who usually do this for our neighborhood?
    - No, nothing new
  - Is today’s PowerPoint presentation available?
    - Yes, **Nicci will send it to David and he will forward it**
  - What COVID safety standards do you have to adhere to? State, county, city, ...?
    - COVID-19 is a moving target
    - We ask for conformance to social distancing
    - Sanitizing requirements
    - If the crowd size meets a cap limit (currently 500), you have to require vaccination and control multiple entrance/exit points
    - Need to address all of these elements in a COVID-19 safety plan at time of application
    - Shifting guidelines may change requirements after application
    - Enforcement/monitoring: City staff are constantly visiting the facilities and we may require you to make a correction, but our goal is to make everything go smoothly
  - Bill’s takeaway: Plan ahead, and we hope that this summer will allow such activities!

8:48pm      85<sup>th</sup> St. Station Area Plan

- Tabled this month for time
- A KAN group meets every Monday at 3pm
  - Contact Bill if you want to join in

8:54pm      Neighborhood Services update

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- What's happening with staffing and COVID?
  - Good news: We still have our dedicated staff of public servants
  - We have been hit by folks making big life changes, including resignations and retirements
    - The majority of folks leaving Kirkland staff are making big changes, not simply moving to a similar job in the area
  - Work capacity: Many areas are spread thin, covering vacant positions, working on hiring
  - We ask for some understanding of how we need to focus on fundamentals, may not have bandwidth for "nice to have" topics
  - Example: Haven't been able to hire a replacement for David's empty Neighborhood Services job; four open spots in a 16-person department
- Neighborhood Safety Projects postponed
  - Minimum 3-month delay
  - No staff member available to run it right now
- Are applications rolling in for the open reqs?
  - I don't have official scope on that, but to my personal understanding, there are not a lot of applicants coming in for open positions in general (internationally, nationally, regionally, locally)
  - New Human Resources Director came on board in early December
    - Was chief executive for a vector control district in southern CA (vector, as in communicable diseases)
    - Frees up Jim Lopez, who was filling in as interim HR head

9:00pm      Closing

- Adjourned at 9:00pm
- Next meeting: Feb 9, 2022