

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
November 11, 2022 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Anna Aubrey
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair)
Highlands	
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	Aaron Jacobson
Market	Ken MacKenzie, Liz Hunt
Moss Bay	Jeanne Large
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Communications Program Manager
- Michael Olson, Director of Finance and Administration
- Lt. Zablan Lapaki, Kirkland Police

Guests:

- John Tymczyszyn, Planning Commission
- Bria Heiser, Planning Commission
- Mark Nelson, Market

7:05pm Introduction

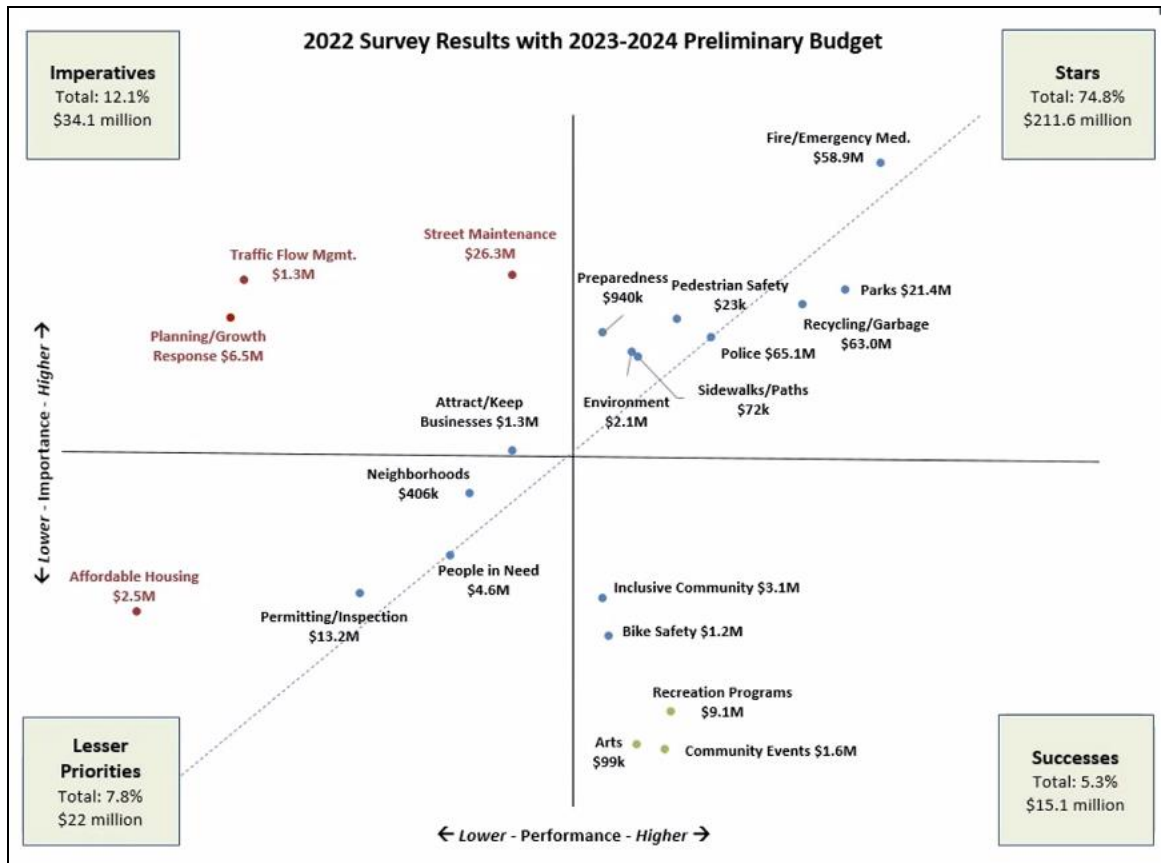
- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order
- Round-the-horn introductions

7:08pm Public comments

- None

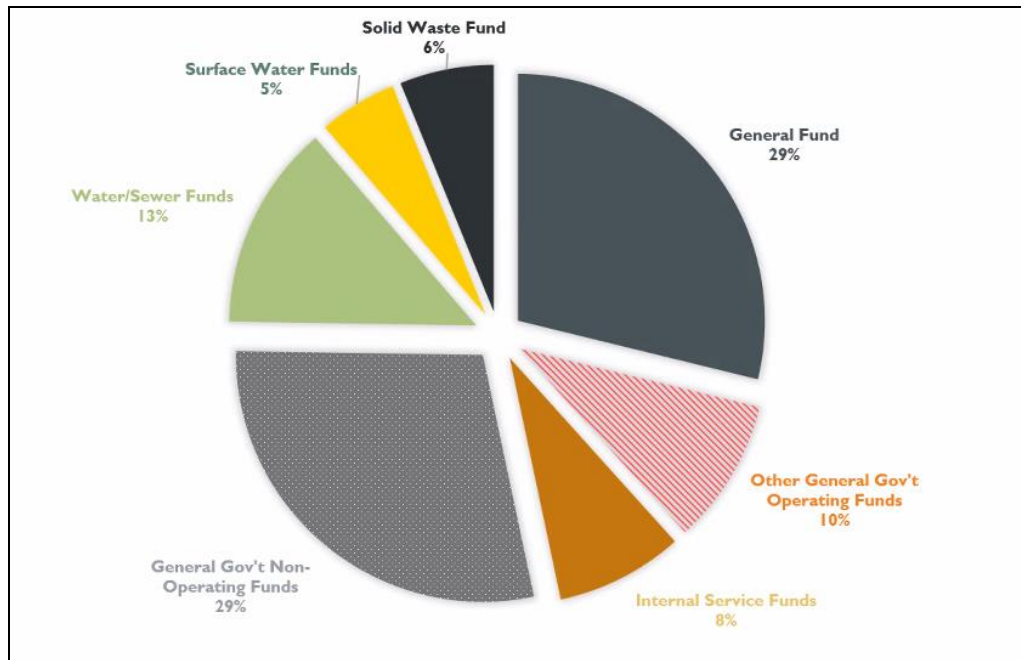
7:09pm 2023-24 budget

- [Michael Olson](#), presenting
- See budget information online: <http://kirklandwa.gov/budgetDoc>
- Budget goals: balanced, affordable, prioritized to community needs
- Survey of performance:



- Factors impacting the 2023-24 budget
 - Inflation: historically high
 - Increased ongoing positions: converted 48 positions into full-time employment (FTE), for total of 701
 - High utility tax revenues (higher rates, COVID recovery)
 - Development services fee update (fees applied directly to development costs)
 - Reduced gas tax revenue
 - 45% increase in liability insurance rates
 - No recession included in forecasts and projections
- Total budget, just over \$1B for two years (biennial budget)

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- (Ken) I find it hard to find actual spending information in the City's reports.
 - Yes, it's more consolidated in the individual spending reports per department. We can produce some reports for you.
- (Doug) The Ukraine war has generated projections that the United States needs to produce more military hardware, leading to ramp-up in hardware and software hiring and revenues, which should lift local economies.
- (Bill) Why has liability insurance jumped up?
 - We're analyzing that right now. Is it specifically about Kirkland's rates, or more general? We participate in a shared pool with other cities.
- Key themes for the budget:
 - Sustaining services
 - A belonging community
 - See the first few pages of the budget document for descriptions of these and other themes
- Council will review and approve the budget on December 13
- (Bill) How do property tax increases affect Kirkland's revenues?
 - Kirkland can only get (up to) 1% more per year from property tax revenues. While residential properties are going up, some commercial properties are going down.

7:33pm 85th St. Station Area Plan, phase 2

- John Tymczyszyn and Bria Heiser, presenting
- Phase 1
 - Planning Commission (PC) recommended 150' height for the Lee Johnson site
 - Council approved 250' for Google
- Phase 2

- Now working on form-based code for the remainder of the station area, outside of the “Commercial Mixed Use” zone (Google and Costco, essentially)
- PC has its third study session tomorrow night, to make recommendations to City Council
- PC has previously recommended against 85’ in the east-west 85th St. corridor
- Current plans eliminate most street curbside parking (e.g., Residential Street Type 1 has no parking but bike lanes on both sides. Residential Street Type 2 has parking but no bike lanes.)
- Nov 15 is the next Council meeting
 - Begins with a study session on the Station Area Plan with no public input
 - Later, includes a public hearing on the Station Area Plan, but only on the Planned Action Ordinance, not the form-based code
- Dec 8 PC meeting – please do come and participate. Meeting will be in person (Council chambers) and online
- Dec 13: Council special meeting with Station Area Plan on the agenda
- [Liz] We’ve had lots of meetings and action about the Station Area Plan, though activity dropped off after June, when Phase 1 was approved. A major topic (5 of the 6 who attended the October open house) has been transitions between building heights. Noise has been brought up before, and the agenda for tomorrow includes a response from staff that noise will not be an issue and doesn’t need to be addressed.
 - [Bria] I’m advocating for green walls to diffuse sound. Attendance has been light at PC meetings
 - [Liz] People have rallied, spoken, shown up at meetings, ... and are feeling that they’re not getting anywhere
- [Lisa] Seconding the feeling of frustration, essentially being ignored. As for incentives for higher building elevations: need to be incentivizing more transportation improvements, such as sidewalk enhancements, bike lanes, transit access. We need to mitigate the transportation impact.
 - [Bill] Yes. Our KAN group tracked the progress of this project. How can we influence staff and Council at this point?
 - [John] Major PC recommendations, such as lower building heights and school accommodations, were not addressed by Council and staff. So we’re frustrated, too. One new concern is massing around the Cross-Kirkland Corridor. For the zone on 85th St. from 120th to 128th Ave., where the PC recommended 4-story height, it’s now zoned for 85’. The new plan really splits North Rose Hill from South Rose Hill. Lake Washington School District recommended that new schools be added in the plan, and the city hasn’t done that. The power of the PC comes from the people watching the recommendations, and not very many people are getting involved right now. It’s easy for the Council to ignore the recommendations. We’re trying to rebuild attendance after COVID.

- [Bill] So we should get more people in person at the PC meetings, second Thursday of every month.
- Yes. The December 8 meeting will be the first in-person public hearing on Phase 2.
- [Chris] I share the frustration with the city staff response to PC concerns in their memo for tomorrow's PC meeting. Example: Bicycle infrastructure is waved aside with two sentences about how the street types allow for bike facilities—when in truth, some street types have allowances, but some do not, and most are not protected bike lanes (which we really need if this is going to be a multimodal transportation hub).

8:02pm Police report

- Lt. Lapaki, presenting
- [Bill] Are police planning for service to areas of higher density, such as the 85th Station Area?
 - We're early in our planning for this
 - It will require a staffing study. We know it will require increased resources
- Current priority is on body-worn cameras in December; that's been our focus lately
 - Cameras will not be activated at all times; not needed for social interaction
 - Grants have paid for the cameras for all 111 uniformed officers
 - Full-time staff support required to manage the camera data
 - First testing begins Dec 1 with traffic control officers
 - [Lisa] Do the grants cover the data management costs?
 - No, the grants covered the hardware acquisition. The city will bear the ongoing operational costs.
 - [Bill] Have you been able to learn from nearby communities in their own programs?
 - Redmond and some south county cities have programs.
 - Goal: Maintain transparency in police interactions
 - [Bill] Kirkland doesn't have as much homeless population as Seattle; my friends are envious
 - We strive for resources outside the criminal justice system. Homelessness is often a symptom of non-criminal issues and the treatment should be appropriate. How can we help this person?
 - [Michael Olson] You can find information about body-worn camera funding and costs on the city website. Check out the [May 17 City Council briefing packet](#).
- [Liz] We tend to see an uptick of property crime at this time of year. What can community members do? There used to be a set of tips available online, with things like outdoor lighting, awareness of packages being delivered, and so on. When should I be reporting suspicious behavior? Example: odd driving behavior turned out to be a parent teaching a child to drive.

- You in your neighborhood know what looks right or wrong to you! Give us a call if something looks out of place. A “welfare check,” where we show up and look it over, is better than not getting a call at all.
- [Doug] I did a ride-along recently and the professional responses of the officers were excellent.
- The holiday season brings crimes of opportunity. Arrange for timed deliveries when you know you’ll be home, or use the locked dropboxes. Watch for a car following a delivery van and running up to steal the package after the drop. Whole Foods has a delivery counter. We sometimes see people stealing car license tab stickers; one trick is to use a razor knife to cut a diagonal slit through the tab so that it doesn’t peel off cleanly.

8:23pm Juanita Public Pathway (JPP) proposal

- Doug Rough, presenting
- Two Juanita High students have been killed, walking in this area
 - We must ensure safety of students
 - Costs of liability insurance can skyrocket with death and injury, too
 - There is no safe north/south routes to/from Juanita High
- Proposed path in stages
 - Section A: from Cross-Kirkland Corridor (CKC), through Heronfield Park (Jasper’s dog park is part of this), to NE 124th Street, south of Fred Meyer
 - Connects Juanita High School to the west Totem Lake business area
 - Section B: connects Juanita High’s eastern edge, through Edith Moulton Park, to 140th St.
 - Section C: from Edith Moulton Park to Windsor Vista Park, then to NE 145th St. (the north edge of Kirkland) – would require a new easement across a private property
 - Section D: Continues north of the city line to the Brickyard Park & Ride, all on land owned by Sound Transit
- We’ve been trying for years to get this before City Council, and we’ve been ignored
- We believe it is superior to many other programs: for example, Safer Routes, Greenways, Neighborhood Safety Projects
 - This project should get priority funding
 - This project can affect you, regardless of whether you live in Juanita
- Doug asked for a vote: “KAN supports the Juanita Public Pathway”
- Discussion:
 - [Aaron] What surface do you propose for this path?
 - Open topic. Maybe just start with a simple path that can be upgraded later. Probably should be similar to the CKC.
 - [Liz] How would you expect to use the results from a vote tonight?
 - I’ve already presented to City Council. I feel that they’ve stopped listening to me, but multiple people supporting it could be influential.

- [Chris] I'm comfortable with a motion to encourage the city to explore the proposal; not comfortable with implying anything about the priority of this proposal over other projects.
- [Jeanne] Would this be a walking or biking path, or both?
 - Walking at first, could eventually be both.
- [Leo] This route offers a significant improvement over the CKC's veering away from the north/south line
- [Janet] Can this be partially funded from existing project funds? And what access is there to this path, other than from streets or public parks? Would there need to be additional easements for access?
 - [Don] Doug and I have had lots of conversations on this. The city is listening to Doug. At the last KAN meeting, Kurt mentioned that we're setting aside some funding from school cameras and we are planning a feasibility study. It doesn't connect to existing walkways and part of it goes through a wetland, so it requires a feasibility study, benefit study, and environmental study. Projects do tend to take a lot of time in Kirkland, as we all know. Safer Routes and the Active Transportation Plan are plans that have already been adopted by City Council, so they can't just be changed—so we can't just pop this project into those actions.
- **Motion** by Chris Kagen, seconded by Janet Pruitt:
 - **KAN recommends that the City consider and study the Juanita Public Pathway proposal.**
 - **Motion passed.**

8:54pm Neighborhood Services updates

- Don Robinson presenting
- Neighborhood Safety Projects
 - Accepting new project proposals now
 - Double Jeopardy! Since there were no NSPs last year, double the funding is available now, and neighborhoods can double their submissions for consideration
 - Dec 2 is the deadline for Round 1 submission
 - **Reach out to your NSP rep or to Don** for more information
- Budget adoption expected Dec 13 by Council
 - Public Council mtg Nov 15, if you want to participate in the process
- [Bill] Funding for compensating residents in community engagement?
 - For Resolution 5434 and Roadmap input, the city considered input from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents on their lived experiences, on how structural racism had impacted them. The city offered a stipend (~\$100) compensation to 8-10 people who participated in recognition of the traumatic nature of the participation.
 - There's no specific plan to offer funding for participation in other community engagements
 - **Bill and Don will meet to discuss**; Bill may invite other attendees

8:58pm Roundtable

- Everest (Anna)
 - Neighborhood Picnic in summer was great
 - Planning a holiday donation drive, probably for Eastside Baby Corner
 -
- Finn Hill (Bill)
 - Hiring a coordinator to manage website and communications
 - Considering starting a foundation to fund and manage green space, such as the Green Loop
 - DennyFest last year was last-minute; planning next year's DennyFest now
- Juanita (Leo)
 - General meeting next week
 - Transportation Benefit District as probable topic
 - Holiday lights are still up from last year, will be on for this season (white lights)
 - Will be surveying for feedback about the Welcoming event
- SRH/BT (Chris)
 - Public mtg last week
 - 85th Station Area Phase 2 topic: biggest topics: building height transitions and sky plane exposure, and parking impact
 - Houghton Transfer Station project is kicking up again, after being largely quiet for the last year; environmental studies for the three remaining sites (existing Houghton Transfer Station, Houghton Park & Ride, and a site in Woodinville)
- Market (Ken)
 - Park funding advisory group discussion included Kurt saying that the Houghton Park & Ride is very unlikely to be a transfer station site.
- Evergreen (Johanna)
 - 132nd St. Park: New athletic field with artificial turf is moving along just fine. The upper section, largely used by neighbors walking in for spontaneous play, doesn't look like they're implementing what they said they would do. The park was supposed to open by end of 2022, and it doesn't look like that's happening. So, a familiar thing: they asked for our opinions and then ignored them and didn't notify us.
- Lakeview (Aaron)
 - Not much happening yet
 - Hope to have a meeting by January
- Norkirk (Janet)
 - Tweaked our bylaws to neaten things up
 - Increasing the size of our board, and there's lots of interest: more people than we can accommodate
 - For public meetings, we sometimes get these great speakers, and then five people show up. Considering increasing the social engagement aspect; DERU and Top Pot donated goods, and 50-70 people showed up. For our

December meeting, we'll do the same thing: a holiday social, still having a formal agenda of sorts.

- [To Liz and Ken] Any planned KAN effort to encourage attendance at upcoming PC and Council meetings?
 - [Liz] Two public hearings upcoming; which would we prioritize to rally people for? Dec 8 Planning Commission public hearing, perhaps? I have a mailing list of 50-60 people from the Phase 1 outreach, need to form a rallying message. **Liz, Ken, and Bill to meet and strategize.**
- Houghton (Lisa)
 - Considering what CHNA wants to be in the future, after sunseting
 - What do we want to see at the old PCC site, which the city now owns?
 - Received a radar speed sign near Lakeview Elementary, so **watch your speed there**
- Moss Bay (Jeanne)
 - Newly appointed KAN rep
 - Lots of interest in the 85th Station Area Plan
 - Interest in community safety, bicycle safety, and leaf blowers
 - Held an October social meeting at Chainline Brewery: board + ~15 people, a nice alternative to Zoom meetings

9:19pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:19pm
- Next meeting: January 11, 2023
- **Off for December**