

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
November 11, 2023 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	
Juanita Neighborhoods	Doug Rough
Lakeview	Aaron Jacobson
Market	Ken MacKenzie, Liz Hunt
Moss Bay	
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- Don Robinson, Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator

Guests:

- Sheila Cloney, representing some downtown business owners
- John Tymczynyn, Kirkland Planning Commission
- Mark Nelson
- Scott Morris

**NOTE: Secretary [Chris] did not join the meeting until 7:35pm, after the Kirkland Comprehensive Planning Visioning event ended.**

7:XXpm Introduction

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

7:XXpm Public comments

- None?

7:XXpm Park Lane closure

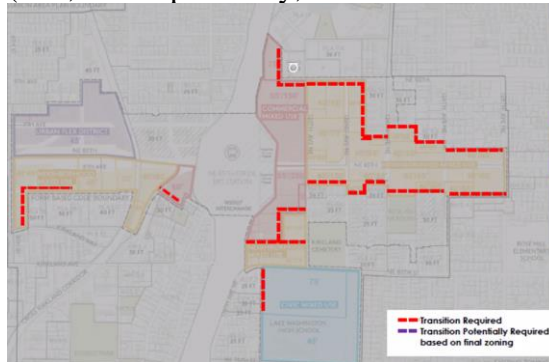
- Sheila Cloney presenting
- ...
- [Chris joined the mtg at 7:35pm]
- Danger to lose businesses if the street is closed
  - Some businesses are already looking at mitigation if they feel the need to close down or move

- What would be the ideal action from the business owners' perspective? (Bill)
  - Activate the area around the McLeod Fountain (outside the Starbucks)
  - KAN and others should form a formal process, for a transparent process in public decisions like this. The business owners have blamed KAN for this situation, and that's not necessarily correct.
  - Activities on Park Lane should go through the Special Event Permit process, which has been bypassed
  - Launch a 3-month study on Park Lane and what the citizens of Kirkland really want. Note that the majority of people who patronize downtown Kirkland are not Kirkland residents
  - Define the internal and external stakeholder groups
  - Establish performance benchmarks
  - Identify funding sources for Park Lane; the city stopped investing in the area after the revitalization
  - Update the infrastructure on the street (water, power, etc.) to support festival use
  - Get the Wednesday Festival back, once the infrastructure can support it
  - Fund Public Works FTEs to support and reestablish a proper level of service
  - Let Park Lane decide what it wants to be
- [Anna] Recommend consolidating what you said, be concise and literal about what you're looking for and what you see as a problem
  - This is a work in progress, and the intention is to feed this information to the consultant who will study the issue
- [Bill] Is it fair to say that KAN did not formally endorse any Park Lane plans? Karen Story gave a presentation.
  - [Janet] I remember a generally positive reaction to the proposed closure plan.
  - [Bill] Recommend that Sheila and Chris get together to confirm the history.
  - **Action: Chris to provide email contact to Sheila.** DONE; contact info posted in Zoom meeting chat.

7:48pm      85<sup>th</sup> Station Area Plan: Phase 2 update

- Liz Hunt presenting
- Staff continuing to work on Phase 2
  - Arguable more complex than Phase 1
- Public hearing for Phase 2 Planned Action Ordinance was 11/15/22
  - Streamlining the environmental review process
  - One person spoke; Council is ready to approve
- Planning Commission discussions
  - How to craft the new code to encourage desired uses
  - How to make this area walkable, bikeable, vibrant
  - Transitions between new heights and existing neighborhoods
  - 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Corridor redesign: a Main Street from Forbes Lake to Lake Washington High School

- Transition areas
  - Map of areas that require transition from high to low building elevations (Yes, the map is fuzzy, but the idea is how many borders there are)



- Need to have setbacks, stepbacks, and “sky plane” exposure angles to mitigate the transitions
  - At the south end of Norkirk, the Urban Flex district, there may not be any mitigations because there may not be any differences larger than 30’
- 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. corridor (“Main Street”)
  - How to fit all the stuff in? Drive lanes, turn lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, trees, parking, loading zone
  - May need to cut into the right-of-way to create space
  - Study is underway
- Incentive zoning
  - Method for developer to get more height, above the base allowance, by providing amenities to the community
  - Applies only to properties of significant height, with a base allowance and a maximum “bonus” height
- Concerns from community
  - New, tall buildings next to or near homes
  - Traffic
  - Parking, including overflow into neighborhoods
  - LWHS property: what changes are planned?
  - Do the plans really create a transit-oriented area?
  - Do the plans really create a walkable/bikeable area?
- New name for the Station Area Plan (SAP)
  - Sample Council suggestion: “The Cedar District” (including planting a bunch of cedar trees)
- Public feedback
  - Watch Council and Planning Commission meetings
  - Next public meeting is date TBD; possibly February
  - Final approval may come in March
- Neighborhood feedback
  - [Janet] No, not hearing anything
  - [Chris] We had Joel Pfundt at our NA meeting last night, to address specifically the transportation impacts of the SAP. Biggest issues from the community were overflow parking, the feasibility of the 120<sup>th</sup> Ave.

corridor plan, and challenging the viability of the Bus Rapid Transit station as a transit hub when it has no parking.

- [Bill] North Rose Hill hasn't been showing up at KAN and as a voice in this conversation.
- [Anna] People call it "the big bus stop project." That's what it is, and it's perceived as a fait accompli. It will provide a fast ride to Bellevue and to Redmond, where you can get onto something else. The City isn't winning any stars on this one.
- [John T.] Phase 2 has been slowed down. City didn't take a lot of feedback in Phase 1, and that may have carried over into low feedback levels in Phase 2. Email [John](#) offline if you would like to offer more feedback to the Planning Commission.

#### 8:17pm Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS)

- They welcome any input in their process
- They'll be at the February KAN meeting

#### 8:18pm KAN meetings in person

- Proposing: meeting at the Kirkland Justice Center
- Hybrid meeting?
  - There's a camera but no projector
- Peter Kirk Room at City Hall
  - Does have hybrid technology for in-person and online
- [Doug] NA general meeting recently voted for Zoom only, not hybrid
- [Don] Hybrid meetings are very difficult to have, in technology and in practice. I encourage people to do one or the other. The City Council meetings have a support team of four people.
  - [Liz] I've been on multinational teleconference calls since the 1990s, and I get the challenges, and it can be done. I miss having in-person meetings. Our Market meetings are back to in-person at Heritage Hall; people can wear masks at their option and we measure the air quality.
  - [Chris] Our NA voted: online or hybrid is acceptable; in-person only is not acceptable. We're probably stuck with online for now, don't yet have a hybrid solution.
  - [Johanna] We're online for now. Hybrid solutions have real challenges with audio, even when there's dedicated technology in use, as at City Council meetings when someone leans away from their microphone.
- [Bill] We are a voice and a shaper of Kirkland community; I'd like to see a way to move forward on this.
  - [Don] If you do want to explore a hybrid solution, I suggest the Peter Kirk room.

#### 8:30pm Roundtable

- Everest (Anna)
  - Next meeting is in March. We were all very busy with Neighborhood Plan Update and the "bus stop plan." Also debating in-person, online, hybrid.

- Good result with last summer's neighborhood picnic; starting planning for next summer. Working to engage new residents.
- Kiosk in Everest Park has a new lending library
- Finn Hill (Bill)
  - DennyFest! Redefining it as a larger music festival.
- Juanita (Doug)
  - Juanita Public Pathway (JPP) update (proposed pathway)
    - 4mi long, from Cross-Kirkland Corridor to Brickyard Park&Ride
    - The last mile is actually in Bothell, owned by Sound Transit
    - Bothell is interested in helping to connect that last piece, and connecting it to the Sammamish River Trail
    - The section along Juanita High School: high-voltage line seemed a good place for a path, but it turns out there's a locked gate across it.
    - The southernmost mile is technically in Totem Lake, so this is a very cross-geography effort
  - A piece of Finn Hill's Ring Trail is in Juanita, so we support that as well
- Market (Liz)
  - Liz is the new chair
  - Lots of cottage/missing-middle developments
  - Looking forward to Easter Egg Hunt and garage sale
  - Updating our website
- Evergreen (Johanna)
  - No meetings in Nov/Dec; next meeting is next week
  - 132<sup>nd</sup> Park completion is now pushed out to spring '23
    - Immediate neighbors are still unhappy, don't feel listened to
  - 132<sup>nd</sup> x 405 intersection: complications
- Lakeview (Aaron)
  - Permits for housing in the former La Quinta site
    - Letter sent to the City from Houghton NA
    - Request more study and information, security plan
  - [John T.] Noting a murder at a similar transitional housing center in Seattle, stirring the conversation about security
- Norkirk (Janet)
  - Added five new board members
    - Jane and Juan (chairs) went out and recruited
    - Bill has access to systems that can harvest emails for a neighborhood; see him if you want such a thing
  - Building our email list; planning a mailing to the entire neighborhood
  - Planning to stick to one major topic per public meeting, and make the rest of the time social, including food
  - We've been doing "coffee meetups" that have been popular
- SRH/BT (Chris)
  - 85<sup>th</sup> Station Area conversations, as noted earlier
  - Engaging with Green Kirkland for park maintenance and improvements

- NERTS scoping is an unsatisfying process; decision is clearly made and being groomed through the process
- Suggestion to develop a “Welcome to the neighborhood” brochure. Last time I tried contacting a new development area, the Toll Brothers rep blew me off vigorously
- [Bill] Want to develop KAN business cards that one could hand out, with a contact QR code on the back
- Houghton
- Moss Bay
- Totem Lake (Ken presenting)
  - Kirkland Corridor Residential: a new development proposed
  - In Forbes Valley, along I-405 and the Cross-Kirkland Corridor (just north of Highlands, but no connection to Highlands) – from the 116<sup>th</sup> exit of I-405, turn south on 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE and go past Tacoma Screw and all that stuff
  - Toll Brothers is selling it to the City as “transit-oriented”
  - The 893 bus is the only transit, and it runs twice a day
  - 121 townhomes on a cul-de-sac
  - They’re claiming that the development will reduce daily trips

8:54pm      Neighborhood Services (Don)

- Outreach and community connection
  - KAN is a big first step in getting information to/from the City
  - Let Don know what he can do to help connect people to the City’s services and information streams
- Comprehensive Plan
  - Kickoff was tonight, with Visioning event
  - Want to see what you envision for 2044
  - Coming to KAN in February, but watch for other engagement opportunities
- Community Appreciation event
  - Celebrate boards, commissions, and neighborhood leaders
  - Save the date: April 26, 2023
  - Highlights and awards
  - How to nominate and recognize community members
- Come to public meetings of council, boards, and commissions
  - Encourage your neighbors to come!
  - We want a transparent and engaging process
- [Anna] What’s going on with the Neighborhood Matching Grants program?
  - It’s a very complex method, with all the separate spreadsheets and all
  - Planning to roll out a new process in February, while closing out last year’s program
  - New process will have training, will not change funding amounts

9:05pm      Closing

- Adjourned at 9:07pm

- Next meeting: February 8, 2023