

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods

February 14, 2024

Hybrid meeting: online and Peter Kirk room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Walter Jaccard
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	
Highlands	Larry Bust (board member, filling in)
Juanita Neighborhoods	Margaret Bouniol
Lakeview	Aaron Jacobson (KAN co-chair), Judith Beto
Market	Liz Hunt, Ken Mackenzie
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon (KAN co-chair)
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Deirdre Johnson, Jim Hoff, Chris Kagen (KAN secretary)

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
- Jay Arnold, City Councilmember
- Neal Black, City Councilmember
- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager

Guests:

- Dave Asher, Kiwanis
- 

7:07pm Introduction

- Chair Aaron Jacobson called the meeting to order
- Round-the-horn introductions

7:09pm Public comments

- None.

7:07pm Kirkland Youth Services

- Dave Asher presenting
- Kiwanis
  - Kiwanis is interested in youth services, not so much location
- Demographic
  - Teen population is projected to grow in coming years
  - KTUB closed in 2020
- Funding

- Interim funding has been a stopgap
- Main constraint on youth services today is budget
- City commitment is to a “full meal deal,” comprehensive services
- Everything cannot be implemented at once
- Proposal
  - Staff will present to City Council on 2/20/24 at study session
  - 3 options:
    - Full meal deal
    - City-Lite
    - Contract
  - The study session is not decision-making, but it certainly shapes staff action
- Questions
  - (Ken) I’ve asked around, and no one I’ve talked to has found the services at KTUB to be of value. Why is that?
    - The “full meal deal” would be more comprehensive.
  - Why did KTUB close?
    - YMCA operated it under contract and the contract expired
    - Studio East Performing Arts is in there through April on short-term arrangement
  - What happened to the money that was budgeted for KTUB, when KTUB closed?
    - Don’t know
- Kiwanis recommendation
  - Full meal deal
    - Can’t get there under current funding
    - Everything doesn’t have to happen at once
  - Need a human needs assessment that includes youth
    - Acknowledging that we’re behind on providing services; don’t need the assessment to tell us that
  - A broad Youth Services ballot measure in November would go a long way toward restoring confidence in the Council
  - See the January 17 2023 City Council study session notes for a detailed description of the full meal deal provisions

7:25pm      Bringing city council members to neighborhood associations

- Bea Nahon presenting
- History
  - City Council members regularly attended NA meeting
  - Had a three-year cycle of scheduling council members to meetings
  - Attended KAN as well; needed to ensure no more than three at a time
  - Attendance has been sparse in the last year or so
- Benefits
  - Sense of connection to the community
  - Chance to share perspective with the residents
  - People could ask questions

- How can we reestablish that connectivity?
  - (Deirdre) Told story of Council coming to meeting at Rose Hill Elementary; people raised the issue of needing a Spanish interpreter ... and it happened
  - (Jim L.) Attendance and energy at NA mtgs dropped off some time ago
  - (Lisa) There's some challenge in reestablishing relationship, and part of it is how to ensure that the atmosphere is welcoming and productive, not diatribes to the council member with complaints and arguments
    - (Chris) SRH/BT has been working on increasing attendance and engagement, through hybrid technology and better communications, outreach on social media
    - (Lisa) Important to remember that engagement may mean more than butts in seats; 10 people can be a great meeting
  - (Larry) It seems more important to ensure attendance at KAN, as it's a chance to have contact with representatives from all neighborhoods
  - (Jim L.) We have many more mechanisms of communication now (newsletters, social media, etc.) so in-person communication has fallen off in importance. We insure and support KAN and NAs in ways that we don't for other organizations in Kirkland.
    - When you ask for staff to attend KAN and NA meetings we show up
  - (Bea) Yes, staff show up. For all sorts of reasons—COVID, world events, whatever—we just don't have the relationship with council that we used to have
    - KAN co-chairs will be meeting quarterly with mayor and deputy mayor
    - (Jay) And Mayor Curtis and I are scheduling small meetings in the coming months with the leadership of each NA
- Next steps
  - Consider a “Neighborhood University” training session on how to improve attendance at NA meetings, improve outreach and engagement

7:53pm      Restarting the annual food drive

- Postponed

7:53pm      2024 KAN survey

- Aaron Jacobson presenting
- Separate surveys for each neighborhood
- Questions:
  - How do you engage with your neighborhood association?
  - What would encourage you to participate more?
  - How can your NA do a better job keeping you informed?
  - What are the three main issues facing your neighborhood?
  - What are the three main issues facing Kirkland?
  - What are your important sources of information for finding out what is going on in Kirkland?

- How many years have you participated in your neighborhood association?
- Do you have any other neighborhood comments or concerns you'd like to share?
- Demographics
  - Age
  - Race, ethnicity
  - Own vs. rent
  - Income
    - May not be a useful question, and it may turn off some people from answering the survey overall
    - Low income may indicate financial insufficiency but it may also be a retiree with high levels of assets; confounding
    - Removing from the survey
- Discussion
  - Recommended to add a short definition of a neighborhood association; differentiate from homeowner's associations (HOAs), KAN, other groups
  - (Chris) In addition to "participating," can we address "welcoming?"
    - (Aaron) We can infer some things from the demographic questions
    - (Bea) I like the broader "participate" language, as it's neutral language and invites a wide range of responses
- Implementation
  - Aaron will post the survey as a Google Doc for comment, then we'll ratify it at a future KAN meeting
  - Aaron will post the survey, leave it up for 3-4 months
    - Some NAs meet only every other month, need to leave it up for a while
  - Neighborhood associations will then promote it, encourage participation

#### 8:30pm      City update to KAN

- Jim Lopez presenting
- Transportation Strategic Plan is in the field for comment
  - [Interactive map](#) is available for suggestions, comments
  - The survey/map is not easily discovered on the City website
    - Jim to pass that feedback along
- Online survey is out for the Prop 1 pool/gym proposal, understanding what the public actually wants
- Boards and commissions are still in recruitment
  - Extended deadlines: Cultural Arts, Design Review Board, Human Services, Park Board, Transportation (youth position), Tourism
- Public meeting 2/17 at Houghton Park & Ride to explore short-term uses
- New temporary stoplights at 405 x 85<sup>th</sup> St.
  - Lights are not well timed; Jim to pass that along

#### 8:51pm      Calendar update

- Potential future topics include:
  - Following the state legislative session

- Tools for following the city council
  - Aaron has built a tool to send an update when the posted Council agenda topics get updated
- Other possible topics from old KAN list:
  - King County Metro programs, such as mobility programs
  - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
  - CERT/Map Your Neighborhood
  - Community Conversations
- Neighborhood update plans
- “Neighborhood University” trainings
  - Maybe wait until we have some survey results to point us to topics

### 8:50pm Roundtable

- Everest
- Evergreen Hill (Johanna)
  - The City calls our neighborhood “Kingsgate,” but that’s only part of our residency area; asking City to rename and we’ll snap to that
  - We’re learning to drive in roundabouts
- Finn Hill
- Highlands (Larry)
  - Big impact from 405/85<sup>th</sup> construction
  - Agree that the temporary stoplight timing needs to be improved
- Houghton (Lisa)
  - Social meetings alternate with business meetings now
    - Social meeting at a restaurant; they donated appetizers
    - Sitting at small tables, conversations
- Juanita (Margaret)
  - Board discussing how to get more attendance
- Lakeview (Judith)
  - Looking forward to excitement and engagement over traffic on Lake Washington Blvd.
- Market (Liz)
  - Planning Easter egg hunt and garage sale
- Moss Bay (Bea)
  - Alternate social/business; this month was Happy Hour at Chainline
  - Everest neighborhood was contacted by Department of Revenue
    - “Why haven’t we heard from you?”
    - You can respond that your NA has “Active Non-Reporting Status,” doesn’t have to file
- Norkirk (Janet)
  - March 3, Sunday, is Neighborhood Meet & Greet, social meeting rather than business
    - Should consider moving it to different venues
- SRH/BT (Jim H.)
  - Public mtg this Saturday at Houghton P&R for short-term uses

- Increased attendance at NA public meetings (10-12 in person, 10-12 online)
  - Jim recruits board members and public attendance, just by walking around and talking to people
  - Jim's perception: people are just too darn busy
  - Free food and drink helps!
- Totem Lake

9:04pm      Closing

- Adjourned at 9:04pm
- Next meeting is March 14, 04