

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
May 9, 2018 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods Attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story, Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	
Market	
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Heather Hendrix-McAdams, Cindy Randazzo
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials Attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Dave Asher, City Council

Guests:

- Mark Still, Lakeview
- Kit Eldredge, Moss Bay
- Samuel Rodriguez, Inclusion Network, Juanita
- Doug Rough, Juanita

7:00 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Janet Pruitt called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
- April 11, 2018 minutes accepted.

7:08pm Public comments

- Asher: Sat May 27, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
  - Proceeds to Attain Housing
- Rodriguez and Rough: “Welcome” event (previous names: “Welcoming Kirkland” or “Welcoming Juanita”)
  - Sept 15, 10am-3pm
  - Edith Wharton Park
  - Entertainment, free food
  - “Visualize Windsor Vista Park” effort
  - Inclusion Network efforts
    - Planning to bring cultural wealth to the neighborhood

- Knocking on doors
- Increasing awareness in Kirkland
- “el Siete Días” ([www.elsietedias.com](http://www.elsietedias.com)) weekly newspaper that is distributed to 50K Latino households, avenue for reaching out to Latino households

7:12pm      Gun Safety Resolution and Planned Follow-Up

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Resolution R-5312 was passed by Council, calls for a community dialogue about gun safety
- City Council is seeking input and feedback from the community
  - Fostering a broad discussion; want to ensure that all voices are heard
  - The City’s scope is limited; less about gun regulation and more about safety, inclusion, welcoming
  - Planning a mid-June Town Hall event; date TBD
  - Staff will report to Council on July 17 with recommendations to proceed
  - Planning to use the new “Kirkland Talks” protocol for holding community conversations
- Question: How do you plan to keep this conversation civil and productive? “Kirkland Talks” isn’t designed for “Town Hall” events
  - (Johanna) Does anyone on City Staff have specific knowledge around firearms? For example, the word “weapon” implies intent, so NRA classes emphasize “firearm”
  - Concern expressed about a Town Hall becoming a shouting match
  - Concern expressed that the NRA is categorically demonized, when they have many important views and expertise to inform the conversation
  - Recommendation: hold speakers to 2 minutes, with an option for a 1-minute follow-up later; no overspeak and no rebuttals
- Leo: What if the State trumps anything we in Kirkland try to do?
  - (Asher) Don’t worry about the limits. We (Council) want to take the citizen input, validate it with statistical survey, and then be bold in taking our ideas to Olympia.
- (Bea) I notice that the resolution refers to “gun safety” and also “community safety,” signaling how broad the emotional/sociological impact of this conversation is
  - I like to focus on Venn diagrams: where are the differences, and where are the commonalities?
- (Bill) Query to T. Aksdal (sp), police: How much energy do Kirkland Police put into gun issues in the community?
  - Answer: not a lot.
- How can KAN support and participate in this?
  - Can anyone help reach out to gun owners? Perhaps form a focus group?
  - If you have other ideas about structuring the Town Hall or other outreach efforts, please contact David

- Get word out to your neighborhoods: forward information and announcements
- Get involved yourself!

7:37pm Welcoming, Safe, and Inclusive Initiative Update and Applications

- Debbie Lacy presenting, Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC)
- The “Kirkland Talks” dialogue model
  - Model is complete; will be modified as needed as we go forward
  - Has been tested twice in community
  - Focus: understanding without debate
  - Can be a good tool for the gun safety conversation, though not at a Town Hall
  - Asking people to strip out emotion and focus on facts is flawed; that’s not how people really work!
- Rollout
  - 30 people trained in the model to lead conversations
  - There have been great events throughout the country; often we only hear about the contentious events
- Welcoming Week
  - National event; third year of action on the Eastside
  - Sponsored by “Welcoming America”  
<https://www.welcomingamerica.org>
  - Major focus on immigration, but people everywhere feel diminished cohesion in their communities
  - Possible dialogue topics during Welcome Week: plurality, what it means to be in diverse communities
  - Bellevue Botanical Garden: monks will be creating a sand mandala, with events and activities for families to visit (Sep 14-23)
  - In past years, people made friends and connections that last past the week
- “Kirkland Reads”
  - Launching during Welcoming Week
  - Reading the book “Spare Parts,” stimulating community conversations
- For more information:
  - [www.ERICmembers.org](http://www.ERICmembers.org)
  - Expect preliminary calendar by the end of May; official calendar by the end of August
- What can KAN do?
  - Pass on information, announcements
  - Reach out to Debbie Lacy ([Debbie@ericmembers.org](mailto:Debbie@ericmembers.org)) if you’d like to have a presentation or discussion at your Neighborhood Association meeting
  - Look at the draft “Welcoming Week” calendar that comes out this month; consider if you want to leverage or add to any of those activities within your neighborhood

7:57pm Mayor’s State of the City, for Neighborhoods

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Schedule conflict with the Sound Cities Association (of which Mayor Walen is the president)
- Possible dates: June 4, 6, 7
  - Feedback: can't collide with any Neighborhood Association mtgs; those three dates are rejected
  - Proposed: Monday, June 11
- Content of the address
  - Proposed at last KAN mtg: center address on budget and how the City's priorities drive it
  - Perhaps meld in some aspect of "Neighborhood U" material?
  - We don't want an exact recapitulation of the Chamber of Commerce address, but there may well be a lot of overlap of pertinent content
- The community survey is going on right now; could the Mayor comment on how that fits with the Council's priorities?
- David proposes: "demo" a game-like activity where the participants work on a budget themselves
  - A budget is an expression of people's values and priorities
  - Question: would this "game" have any meaningful follow-on influence on policy? David: Council and staff could certainly take results as input.
- David to check the 6/11/18 date and report back to KAN.

#### 7:55pm      KAN Board Elections

- Slate:
  - Bill and Janet, co-chairs
  - Chris, secretary
- (Karen) Proposing rolling co-chair pairs, where a new chair can roll in, while an experienced chair stays
  - Don't have to start this this year!
  - Could start the roll mid-year, if that's a more comfortable on-boarding
- (Lisa) In Houghton, the month after an election, they hold an evaluation of the past year's performance, visioning for the coming year – re-solidify the leadership
  - (Bea) We had talked about having a task force to review by-laws, structure, etc.
  - Proposed: hold such a task force over the summer, report results in the Fall
- KAN members: Review the KAN bylaws.
  - (Continuing this action item from last month, for all KAN members: Review the KAN website, guidelines, policies.)
- Motion to elect the proposed slate: moved, seconded, passed

#### 8:25pm      City Updates

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Community Survey
  - Biennial survey, conducted partly by telephone
  - Discussion: phone method is passé! Consider methods (door-to-door, television, social media) that have better penetration

- Take the community survey yourself, through May 21:  
<https://www.research.net/r/2018KirklandCommunitySurvey>
- Email David if you have topics to request for the Mayor's Address
- Communications toolkit
  - Desired: templates, best practices, etc., for reaching out to your neighborhood
  - Is there a subset of people who would like to consider this?
    - Karen and Cindy to work with David.
  - "Every Door" direct mail is a new option from the US Post Office
    - You choose distribution by postal route
    - Cheaper and easier than paying for an address list!
    - Lisa mailed all of Houghton for \$400

8:55pm Liaison Reports, Hot Topics, Roundtable

- **May 15: Form 990 due**, to keep tax-exempt status
  - It's easy to do
  - Everest and Moss Bay are registered on the IRS website as filed
  - Others have filed but are not yet reflected online
  - There are no extensions
  - You can lose your tax-exempt status
- Sign Code Compliance program (Karen)
  - Photo display of sample signs that are now banned
  - City sent notice to all Kirkland businesses, but the signs are still there
  - City started enforcing two months ago, with two officers
  - City is in the process of approving a new procedure:
    - Citizen volunteer rides with an enforcement officer
    - Collect signs, talk to businesses – City staff to interface directly with the public; volunteer just pulls signs
    - Need volunteers! Commitment:
      - 3-4-hour shift, once every 3-4 months
      - Weekday or Saturday, your choice
      - Would like citizens from multiple neighborhoods
      - Karen's vision: a monthly "sign sweep," which would require 3-4 volunteers to staff up
  - Ask your neighborhood board members for interest
  - Interested parties: contact Karen directly at [karen@nwnative.us](mailto:karen@nwnative.us)
  - Question: what happens to confiscated signs? Answer: they're taken away, not destroyed.
    - In the past, they've put the signs by a dumpster and you could pick them up from there
    - Redmond issues fines; that can be a great motivator!
- "For the Love of Kirkland" projects (Karen)
  - Five winning events had people sign up to work on them
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Crossing Kirkland" event, 9/8/18 11am-4pm

- Issue: some people stayed away from last year’s event because they felt it was politically slanted to discourage transit on the Cross-Kirkland Corridor
    - Last year, the “Save Our Trail” organization had a presence; perhaps that’s where the impression came from
    - Last year: 6 stations, with shuttles, and few people visited all six stations
  - Covered playground pilot project
    - Mtg next week with manufacturer to get a quote
  - Car-free Summer Sundays
    - Organizer has dropped out
    - Close one or more streets downtown, promote pedestrian strolling (common now in many cities worldwide)
    - Coordinate with KDA and Kirkland Chamber of Commerce
    - **If interested in helping, contact Karen**
  - NE 85<sup>th</sup> St. mural (done)
  - Utility-box wraps
    - Putting decorative “skins” over unsightly utility boxes
    - Sue Contreras organizing
    - Underway!
    - Public Works and Kirkland Historical Society participating
    - **If you want a particular box to be considered for wrapping, email Karen**
- Planning and Economic Development Council Committee (Bea)
  - Many topics that Bea hears result in a discussion of reducing parking requirements
    - KAN took a reactive stance in the past; Bea would like to see more of a solution-based approach
    - Reduced parking results in spill-over parking
    - We also hear complaints about construction parking, blocking sight-lines
    - **Chris: Add parking to future agenda items**
- Transportation Commission (Lisa)
  - 85<sup>th</sup>/405 intersection has been a big topic
  - Transportation Implementation Plan has a link for input, May 7 to June 11:  
<https://ktip.participate.online>
- Roundtable
  - Johanna: 120th NE through the middle of Totem Lake mall is open!
  - Norkirk: Considering a social event to increase participation. Pub night? Play date for moms/kids? Please share ideas that you’ve had
  - Houghton: July 12 set for Houghton 50-year celebration, at the fire station. Bring historical photos for a “Now/Then” display. Storytelling, scanning photos for the Heritage Society. Want to have family activities as well.
  - Finn Hill: working on the Holmes Point Overlay. Acquired land on top of Goat Hill; planning a party there. Raising money through GiveBig (Finn

Hill is a 501(c)3); exceeded the goal of \$10K! Funds used for DennyFest, etc.

- Janet:
  - Affordable Housing week is coming
  - Housing Strategy recommendations include a recommendation to drive housing strategy through Neighborhood Plan updates

#### 9:05pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:05pm
- Next meeting: June 13, 2018, Peter Kirk Room, Kirkland City Hall

#### Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
  - Communication and Outreach Strategies
  - Review the KAN website, guidelines, policies
  - Neighborhood Planning – Adam Weinstein
  - FAR and lot coverage planning review
  - Parking reduction proposal from Totem Lake study
  - Floor area and lot coverage regulations
  - Attainable Housing update
  - Housing Strategy Advisory Committee recommendations/updates/Council actions
  - CERT/Map Your Neighborhood
  - New police Neighborhood Resource Officer
  - Animal Services Program – Jennifer Matison
  - Parks Director – Lynn Zwaagstra
  - Welcoming Week Projects – plan for September
  - Totem Lake Park / Totem Lake Mall
  - Community Conversations
  - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
  - Parking Survey – Part II
  - Budget input
  - “For the Love of Kirkland” project status review, follow-up
  - Parking, including parking spillover from crowded areas
- Events
  - 5/15/18: IRS 990 due date for all neighborhood associations
  - 5/14-18 "Affordable Housing Week" in Kirkland
  - 5/17/18, 6-8pm: Imagine Housing event at the First Congregational Church in Bellevue. For more info and to register to attend, go to the following link: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-difference-a-home-makes-tickets-45109077465?aff=es2&blm\\_aid=32468](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-difference-a-home-makes-tickets-45109077465?aff=es2&blm_aid=32468)
  - 6/11/18, 7pm: Mayor's State of the City for Neighborhoods presentation <location TBD>