

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods

March 13, 2019

Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in **yellow**.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell, Larry Toedtli
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon, Amanda Judd
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Cindy Randazzo
North Rose Hill	Kevin Coomer
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

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

Guests:

- Randy Bannecker, president of Bannecker Public Affairs, state lobbyist
- Jim McElwee, South Rose Hill
- Troy Thiel, Norkirk
- Amy Falcone

7:03 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Janet Pruitt called the meeting to order
- January 2019 minutes not accepted; posted too late for review

7:04pm Public comments

- None

7:08pm State Legislative housing-related update

- Randy Bannecker, president of Bannecker Public Affairs, lobbyist
- Every city in King County is feeling population pressure
- Three core pieces of housing-related legislation this session, and his opinion of their status:
 - Condo liability reform
 - Current environment makes it inevitable that a builder will be sued
 - Only condos being built have been high-end units, not entry-level, moderately priced “missing middle” path to ownership

- Median house/condo price on the Eastside is \$800K, houses \$900K
 - Much needed to fill the gap
 - Middle-income people will always get squeezed: too much income to get subsidies, not enough to buy easily
 - May pass this year
 - Accessory dwelling units
 - Would require cities to support ADUs
 - Not likely to go through; may get “supportive language” for ADUs but no requirement
 - Minimum density (two separate bills)
 - Jurisdictions in the urban area that retain large lot zoning
 - Would require upzoning for increased density
 - Not likely to go through
- Questions:
 - (Bill) What can the City can do, to improve housing availability and affordability?
 - Build to the entry-level homeowner, with condos
 - Provide property tax breaks for low-income owners
 - (Cindy) Aren't we ahead of projected housing requirements?
 - Yes, and behind target on jobs
 - However, Randy added that the GMA housing targets are “way low” and not forward-looking
 - (Cindy) What about infrastructure requirements for increased density and total population?
 - Example: managing water supply, schools, transit
 - Yes, these things lag
 - WA state's Growth Management Act got us into this mess
 - (Lisa) Builders in Kirkland will build expensive, luxury units unless you require them to build affordable options
 - Minimum density does not equal affordable housing
 - This bill eliminates impact fees – big problem!
 - (Bea) Example: downtown Kirkland has no density cap, and yet there's no affordable housing there
 - For the condo developers: need a multidisciplinary approach, getting all parties involved (builders, bar, City, citizens, etc.)
 - (Karen) How quickly would the condo bill be implemented?
 - Depends on the local government and how eager they are for the development
 - Expect that Kirkland would move quickly
 - Could see units within 12-16 months
 - (Bea) There's a “Catch-22” that when you upzone, the price of the land immediately goes up
- Per Bannecker, KAN is advanced as a citizen body to further the conversation
 - Kirkland's Housing Strategy project was admirable
 - Many decisions happen at the regional and county level

- Cities that drag and resist growth (e.g., allowing one-acre single-family lots) put an unfair burden on those who implement it
- City leaders (incl. KAN members) need to get into the regional and county policy processes, putting the focus and pressure on other Eastside cities

7:40m School zone safety camera pilot program

- Marilynne Beard, Deputy City Manager
- Safety is the key driver
 - Cars, pedestrians, bikes
- Speed in school zones
 - Reduce to 20mph during key times
 - For safety: significant reduction in injury/death at lower speeds
- Pilot for automated cameras
 - Identified locations by highest speeds and volumes
 - 2 areas: Rose Hill Elementary and John Muir/Kamiakin
 - Lots of cut-through traffic
 - Local behavior tends to change quickly; cut-through behavior takes longer
- Tickets:
 - Picture taken of license plate (not of the driver)
 - Police review every ticket to validate that it's an infraction
 - You can see the image online, to ensure accuracy
 - Treated like parking tickets; don't go on your driving record
 - \$136 for 26-29mph
 - \$250 for 30+mph
 - Your options:
 - Pay the fine (if not paid, it goes to collection)
 - Contest in court
 - Sworn statement to the court that you were not driving the car
- Improving signage
 - Should post signs for entering and leaving the school zones
 - Flashers for times of active enforcement
 - "Photo Enforcement" signs
- Cost to the City
 - Fee to vendor, per infraction
 - Court costs
 - Revenue goes to program costs and then to a wide variety of safety improvement programs
 - Ancillary benefit of the program: encouraging kids to walk/bike to school
- (Kevin) Mark Twain Elementary has issues too; is there data to share on why it wasn't considered for the pilot?
 - It was certainly measured and considered
 - Hope to add more safety cameras after the pilot program is established and evaluated
- (Janet) Can you report violations yourself?
 - Yes, we just launched the "[Our Kirkland](#)" portal for reporting anything from potholes to speeding and all else

- (Cindy) If the program works and the cameras aren't covering their own cost, can we get out of the contract?
 - It's highly unlikely; other cities don't see it happen
 - There is a clause for a five-year contract exit
- (Jim McElwhee) Are the cameras bi-approach (both directions)?
 - He has observed people gaming the cameras, speeding up as soon as they leave the camera scope (while still in the zone)
 - Answer: there will indeed be blind areas in the zones
- (Jim McElwhee) Can we tie unpaid citations to car registration?
 - Not now, but people are looking at it
- (Janet) When would we see a next wave of implementation?
 - Depends on how this pilot goes
- (Leo) Why not make school zones 20mph permanently, no time limits? They are a hub for kids at all times
 - Some cities do
 - We want to be true to our mission, to make it safer for kids around schools
 - Not sure how well the public would accept it
 - If the Council hears pressure to do this, they might!

8:15pm FAR update

- Karen presenting
- Planning Commission public hearing, 3/28/19, 7pm, in Council chambers
- Proposing 5% extra square foot allowance if meeting two of these requirements:
 - Peaked roof (with minimum pitch)
 - 7.5' or more setback from all property lines (now, one side can be 5')
 - 2nd and 3^d floors set back from the 1st floor along the side property lines (setback of 15% of first floor square footage)
- The Planning Commission is considering removing altogether the exemption for basement space below 6' high
 - Removing this exemption could help discourage three-story houses with flat roofs and steep driveways
- The decision is truly not yet made; speak up if you want to be heard

8:20pm Communications Workshop

- Karen Story presenting
- Wednesday, 3/27/19, 7-9pm
- Kirkland Justice Center
- Agenda
 - How best to coordinate communication between the city and neighborhoods, with City Communications Manager Kellie Stickney and Neighborhood Services Coordinator David Wolbrecht
 - Email, NextDoor, other online tools
 - Communication best practices
 - Poll results
- Invite anyone you like, but especially board members and communication committee people

- No RSVP required

8:20pm Park Lane Sunday summer closures to vehicles (“Car-Free Summer Sundays”

- Karen presenting
- Came from the Love of Kirkland project, 2 years ago
 - Modeled on <https://openstreetsproject.org>
- Close Park Lane to cars on selected summer Sundays (to be defined)
- This is not a street festival!
 - No food trucks, etc.
 - Businesses don’t want competition
 - Local businesses may be able to expand out into the space
 - Karen lobbying to have this be okay at no cost
 - Create a pedestrian plaza for the entire length of Park Lane
 - No plan for music, etc. (though Kirkland has no ban on busking ...)
- Most businesses support it; some have parking concerns
- Karen will present to City Council next week, supporting the program
- Need a way to measure success
- How to promote: social media, etc? Karen is open to advice
- **Email Karen if you have input** on:
 - Start and end dates for the weekend closures (July thru Sept? End to start of local schools?)
 - Names for the event
 - Do you support this idea? Do you have any suggestions, concerns, or questions?
- Opportunity to show support: Council meeting, Tue 3/19/19, 7:30pm
 - Or send letters of support to the Council, at citycouncil@kirklandwa.gov

8:30pm Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Community Appreciation Celebration
 - 4/9/19, at Kirkland Performance Center
 - Notices sent to NA chairs
 - Each NA can send 6 people
 - 3 couples, or 6 individuals, whatever
 - Each NA board to determine who to invite
 - Have one person do the Eventbrite registration, please
 - Annual event; expanding the scope this year to include NA leaders for the first time
 - Volunteer services program
 - Civic leaders
 - Boards and commissions
 - Goals:
 - Convey appreciation
 - Throw a fun party

- Networking for participants
 - Musical number from City staff ...
 - Posters with names
 - To recognize attendees and those who are not attending
 - David to send email asking for names of NA board members; please reply
 - Get those invitations out and register invitees by 3/25/19
- Bikeshare pilot program
 - 919 surveys (1/3 in person, 2/3 online) received
 - 64% in favor of a one-year pilot
 - Only group under 50% was the group that said they were unlikely to ever use such a program
 - Highest support from those likely to use, renters, under 25yrs
 - Council is now deliberating on details of rolling out a program
 - Program should be self-funding; no cost to City
 - Annual permit fee of \$2,000 paid to City
 - Fee of \$35/bicycle paid to city
 - Kirkland business license required for the bikeshare provider
- Off-leash dog areas
 - 1,182 surveys completed
 - Trends less clear than with the bike share survey
 - 62% dog owners
 - General support for more off-leash areas
 - Preference for fenced dog parks, vs. designated time/space in general parks
 - Dog waste was a high-response issue, more so than other enforcement issues
 - Now sits in the Park Board's hands
 - Timing
 - Implementation
 - Funding
- More surveys and outreach on the way!
 - Watch for email from David soon
- Neighborhood Safety Program
 - Meeting postponed recently (Kari busy with new grandson)
 - 3/19 and 3/26 meetings are planned; will add a third if needed
- Safe Routes to Schools action plan
 - Taking place over the next two years
 - Council funded a coordinator position for 18 months
 - Kari Page will take that position, stepping away from her general Neighborhood Coordinator position
 - Christian Knight will take on CIP outreach, CKC day-to-day issues, special event planning for that 18-month period
 - We have a new Transportation Engineer, Kim Scrivner -- among other things, responsible for regional CKC issues

8:50pm Hot Topics, Liaison Reports, Neighborhood Roundtable

- Liaison Reports
 - Transportation (Lisa)
 - Traffic intelligent control system study should be completed this summer
 - At least four new stoplights going in
 - Bike share: Kirkland and Bellevue both considering electric bikes,
 - But the charging stations are over in Seattle ... not a great environmental situation
 - Perhaps leverage Lake WA Tech, build a charging facility
- City Council Committee Reports
- Neighborhood Reports
 - Central Houghton
 - Everest
 - Evergreen Hill
 - 132nd Square Park field replacement work pending
 - Replace with natural turf, artificial, bleachers, etc?
 - Meeting for public discussion about changes being planned for the park
 - March 26, 6-8pm
 - LDS Church - 13220 NE 132nd St, Kirkland (across from Friends of Youth)
 - See Johanna for details
 - Finn Hill
 - Highlands
 - Juanita
 - Lakeview
 - Market
 - Moss Bay
 - Norkirk
 - North Rose Hill
 - South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails
- Nourishing Networks
 - Spring Break food drive coming up
 - Replaces free/reduced meal support, when school is out for vacation
 - See shopping list at <https://kirklandnourishingnetwork.org>
 - Dropoffs
 - Thu April 4th, 8:30am-12pm
 - North site: LDS Church - 13220 NE 132nd St, Kirkland (across from Friends of Youth)
 - South site: LDS Church - 7720 126th Ave NE, Kirkland, WA
 - Questions to daveasher@comcast.net

8:59pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:03pm
- Next meeting: April 10, 2019

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
 - Housing strategies
 - Neighborhood Plan updates
 - Transportation – City, Metro
 - KC Metro Community Van program
 - Disaster Preparedness Coordination
 - CERT/Map Your Neighborhood
 - Parking reduction proposal from Totem Lake study
 - Parks Director – Lynn Zwaagstra
 - Community Conversations
 - Parking Survey – Part II
- Events
 - 3/27/19, 7-9pm: KAN Communications Workshop, Kirkland Justice Center
 - 3/28/19: Planning Commission public hearing, FAR and lot coverage
 - 4/9/19, 5pm: Community Appreciation Celebration, KPC
 - 4/10/19 4pm, Groundbreaking for the Women and Families shelter at the Salthouse in South Rose Hill (before the KAN meeting that night)
 - 4/23/19: LWSD Capital Projects Levy election