

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
April 10, 2019 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	
Everest	David Aubry
Evergreen Hill	
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair), Scott Morris
Highlands	Karen Story
Juanita Neighborhoods	Doug Rough
Lakeview	
Market	
Moss Bay	
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair)
North Rose Hill	Margaret Carnegie
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Dave Asher, City Councilmember
- Adam Weinstein, Planning and Building Director
- Sean LeRoy, Project Manager, Planning Dept.
- Armaghan Baghoori, Transportation Program Coordinator
- Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner
- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager
- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator

Guests:

- Stacey Summer, Finn Hill/Juanita Holmes Point
- Neal Black, Houghton Community Council

7:03 pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order
- January 20129 minutes not accepted; posted too late for review

7:04pm Public comments

- Seaplane traffic
 - Concern: there is no monitoring of the traffic and its impact
 - Fly at 7:30am-dusk in the summer, as often as every 10 minutes (16 flyovers in 2hrs, at one count last summer)
 - She has contacted Kenmore Air, and they've been quite courteous
 - Is there a way for more voices to join the discussion? KAN? City?

- Perhaps alternative routes, different planes, other noise abatement techniques

7:09pm Missing Middle Housing

- Sean LeRoy, Project Manager, Planning Dept.
- “Missing Middle”
 - Everything between single-family (SF) detached homes and stacked, multi-family (MF) housing
 - Showed samples of alternative housing options, from complexes to duplexes
- Goal in amending Kirkland Zoning Code (KZC) 113: increase housing supply and stock, making housing more affordable and allowing greater housing choice
 - Neighborhood Plans: Retain residential character of the neighborhoods and accommodate new and innovative compact housing opportunities
 - The Housing Strategy Plan: Expansion of housing choices by leveraging the private market
- History
 - 2002: interim regulations adopted
 - 2004: KZC 113 codified, with limited construction of new projects
- Potential amendments:
 - Max Unit Size: Eliminate for two/three-unit homes
 - Floor Area Ratio (FAR): Allow the same FAR as for SF homes
 - Development size: Reduce cottage to 2 units or delete; keep maximum (allowing one duplex on one lot)
 - Location: Eliminate location restrictions
 - Parking requirements: Reduce to 1 space/unit within ¼ mile of transit
 - Required setbacks: Revise to front: 20’, rear: 10’, Side: 5’ (currently 20/10/10)
 - Height: RS Zones: 25’, RSA and RSX 30’, Accessory structure (non-dwelling): 1 story, not to exceed 18’ above ABE
 - ADUs : allow attached ADUs
- Next steps
 - Staff would like input on the following questions:
 - Are staff recommendations a sufficient starting point?
 - Can further insight be offered for staff to consider?
 - Should the City consider additional design guidelines to measure compatibility with SF residences?
 - Upcoming meetings with Planning Commission (4/11/19), Houghton Community Council and City Council
 - Code amendments for ADUs in progress as an independent project
- Discussion
 - (Karen) Please don’t reduce the setbacks
 - (Bill) Why hasn’t this caught on in the past? Sean: We see more people seeking alternative housing solutions, such as a triplex to accommodate aging seniors, young families, and rental

- (Bill) Have you talked to developers? Sean: Not enough yet. We hope that loosening some of the regulations will stimulate the market for alternative housing. Alternative housing appeals to walkability-scoring Millennials and to AARP.
- (Doug) I think that the whole concept of the missing middle is wrong. You have to make the high-end multi-family housing cheaper, or else the “middle” housing will never be affordable. Also, history shows that tweaking the housing codes makes housing more expensive. And there’s a move in state Congress to restore incentive to build condos.
- (David A.) Why do we allow multi-family building on SF lots? Isn’t that what the SF zoning was intended for? We have a Land Use Plan and should follow it, not allow deviations by Council fiat. SF homeowners are the people who have a stake in the community and get involved, form the backbone of the community. If we screw this up, we’ll have density and no community.

7:48pm The Future of Kirkland’s Transportation

- Armaghan Baghoori, Transportation Program Coordinator
 - Kirkland Green Trip program
 - <http://www.kirklandgreentrip.com>
 - Incentives
 - Commute options
 - School Pools
 - Learn about the ORCA Small Business Transit Subsidy
 - Kenmore-North Kirkland Community Van program
 - Search on that term to find info
 - Volunteer drivers
 - Ride share for groups, scheduled in advance
 - One-time or recurring trips
 - In-Motion program (coming in Fall or Winter 2019)
 - Encourage ORCA cards and transit usage
 - Coffee Talk: Getting Around Kirkland event
 - Wed 4/24, 2-4pm
 - Peter Kirk Community Center
 - Register at www.kirklandparks.net or call 425-587-3360
 - ORCA cards at City Hall
 - Starting next week, hosting a van on 1st and 3^d Wednesdays
 - Get a regular or non-regular (senior, reduced fare, etc.) cards on the spot; no need to send away
- Kim Scrivner, new Transportation Planner
 - Started in December
 - Update to the Active Transportation Plan
 - Last updated in 2009 (though some parts updated as part of Master Plan updates)
 - Technologies for safer bike/ped/car passage
 - “Vision Zero” implementation

- Zero deaths are acceptable on our streets
- Working with police dept, many other groups, on how to improve safety
- Bikeshare plan
 - Proposals are being accepted now
 - Goal: have some implementation by 5/1/19 (beginning of Bike Everywhere Month)
 - Start with 2 companies, 200 bikes per company
 - Emphasis on safe, effective parking of the bikes
 - Identify parking areas
 - Paint/Mark locations
 - Informational campaign to educate on proper parking
 - Bikeshare companies are required to rebalance the bikes into designated areas
 - Must respond within 2hrs if someone calls in an unsafe blocking condition, 24hrs if it's not an immediate safety issue
 - Companies must financially incentivize customers to park responsibly, and disincentivize them from parking improperly
 - City will designate some no-parking zones, e.g., State Parks
 - GPS resolution is not always fine enough to absolutely determine how a bike is parked
 - Council will consider scooter programs later
 - Other cities (e.g., Tacoma): LimeBike rented bikes and scooters, has stopped bikes and now wants to be scooter-only
 - Bellevue wants electric bikes, not scooters
- (Bill) What are you going to do about traffic congestion on Finn Hill?
 - Incentivize other transit options for people passing through that area (van share, etc.)
 - Engineering solutions are elsewhere in the Transportation dept ...
- (Karen) How do we keep electric bikes off the Cross Kirkland Corridor?
 - State rules allow electric bikes of Class 1 and Class 2 on regional trails
 - Kirkland City Council did vote to allow electric bikes
 - Speed limit signs are posted
- (Doug) Transportation is really about money. Transportation cost affects shopping and other trips/commerce. Lowering speed limits all around does not increase safety. If human life has infinite value, we'd set speed limits at zero.

8:12pm Kirkland Strategy: The City Work Program and our strategic approach to civic engagement

- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager
- Volunteer Appreciation Night went well
- Civic Engagement team

- Constantly thinking about how to be responsible, responsive, and accountable
- Vision of platforms for communication to community
 - Networks of engagement
 - Geographic network
 - KAN
 - Not-for-profit network
 - All community organization that want to improve quality of life
 - For-profit network
 - Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association, Business Roundtable
 - Digital platform
 - Surveys, social media, etc.
 - Variable platforms
 - Targeted to specific segments (e.g. disabled workers, elders, etc.)
- Goals for communication with KAN and Neighborhood Associations:
 - Presentations: package information for fast delivery and consumption
 - Follow-up meetings for reaction to presentations
 - Build capacity: how to get more people at the table
 - Rental population
 - Vulnerable populations
 - Accountable feedback loops, so that the City is responsive
- Current offerings
 - Safe Routes to School action plans
 - Community policing: what are highest concerns in your neighborhood
 - Sustainability master plan (housing, welcoming communities, water systems, carbon reduction, ...)
 - https://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/CMO/Neighborhood_Services/Sustainability_Master_Plan.htm
 - Citywide Connections: transportation connections map, validating and soliciting neighborhood input
- Coming soon
 - Off-leash dogs (issue coming back around again!)
 - School resource officers
 - “Welcome to <Neighborhood>” signs are aging; refresh
 - Welcoming Kirkland project
 - Leadership Eastside partnering for a 2-part program on racial bias, equity training
 - Additional police training, revised protocols
- (Doug) Juanita has had a Welcoming Event for years; next is Sep 14; encourage attendance by City staff and police

- (Karen) KAN has been working to recreate itself as a meaningful organization; it's gratifying to see the City recognize KAN and NAs as an important network. We need to work harder to get people to use this network, to attend meetings and participate.
 - (Jim) Let us know if there's anything we can do differently to help get people involved.
 - (David A.) People are often intimidated to approach a City staff member or to consider service on boards and commissions; can we promote and demystify service at NA meetings?
- (David) I need suggestions for Neighborhood University topics
 - Neighborhood U has been inactive for some years
 - (Jim) How can we leverage the fall City Hall for All event?

8:37pm Neighborhood Safety Projects for 2019

- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, presenting
- Thanks to people who sat on review/scoring teams
- Panel-approved projects, funded
 - Raised sidewalk on corner of NE 134th St. at 87th Ave. NE (Finn Hill)
 - Rapid Flashing Beacon (RFB) on NE 132nd St. at 129th NE (Evergreen Hill)
 - Traffic median island on Slater Ave. NE at NE 119th St. (Totem Lake)
 - Intersection improvement on NE 87th St. and 114th Ave. NE (Highlands)
 - Walkway on NE 120th St. between 93d Pl. NE and 96th Ave. NE (Juanita)
 - Crosswalk on Lakeview Drive north of 64th St. (Lakeview)
- Lower-priority projects, not funded
 - RFB on 108th Ave. At NE 46th St. (Houghton)
 - Crosswalk on 132nd Ave. NE at NE 66th St. (SRH/BT)
 - RFB on 124th Ave. NE at NE 95th St. (Norkirk)
- Projects that are happening, under separate funding
 - RFB on 124th (North Rose Hill)
 - Radar speed sign on Kirkland Way, west of the CKC/trestle (Everest)
- Streetlight projects are proceeding as planned last year

7:09pm Car-Free Sundays

- Karen Story presenting
- Pilot project this summer
- Council will consider formal proposal 4/16
 - Update 4/18: Proposal approved
 - May 26 through September 22, Park Lane will be closed on Sundays to vehicles
 - "The street was built to be a pedestrian-friendly, festival space, with built-in bollards to regularly close the street for pedestrian/bicycle use only."
- Need two people for a planning committee for marketing and outreach; Karen will send recruitment email to KAN
- This is not a "festival" – no amenities, food trucks, etc.

8:55pm Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Neighborhood U
 - Please send ideas to David
- State of the City
 - Kurt Triplett is preparing his presentation
 - What would you like to have as topics? Send to David

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?
 - Upcoming meeting at Friends of Youth for public discussion
 - See Johanna for details
 - Finn Hill
 - Highlands
 - Juanita
 - Lakeview
 - Market
 - Moss Bay
 - Norkirk
 - North Rose Hill
 - South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails
- Dave Asher
 - Thank you for supporting the Nourishing Networks drive
 - 6/22: Sustainability Summit, 9am-12pm
 - Send prayers for Bruce Nahon (Bea's husband); sick
- Communications Workshop
 - Karen: it went very well
 - She'll reach out to neighborhoods that may need extra help

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
 - 4/23/19: LWSD Capital Projects Levy election