

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
November 13, 2019 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Anna Aubry
Evergreen Hill	
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman, Karen Story
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Laura Harding
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt (KAN Co-Chair), Heather Hendrix McAdams
North Rose Hill	Margaret Carnegie
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kari Page, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kathy Robertson, Traffic Control Coordinator, Public Works
- Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner, Public Works
- Patrick Tefft, Volunteer Services Coordinator

Guests:

- Taylor Knowles, Metro
- Brian Henry, King County Metro
- Vic Stover, King County Metro

7:02pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order
- October 2019 minutes accepted; send any corrections to [Chris](#)
- September 2019 minutes accepted

7:05pm Public comments

- None

7:06pm Dave Asher leaving City Council

- Long-standing rep to KAN from the Council
- Many good works in the community
- Motion for KAN to be in favor of Dave Asher
 - Seconded, approved, and unanimous approval

- “Thank-you” card circulated

7:15pm RapidRide Transit K-Line

- Metro staff presenting: Vic Stover, Brian Henry
- Description of RapidRide (Vic)
 - Stations are distinct, higher level of amenities
 - Vehicles have the latest features, often first in fleet for new features
 - Speed and reliability: optimized routes and timing, investments in infrastructure (e.g., queue jump lanes) and high frequency
 - Service and operating plan
 - Branding
- Capital investments
 - Passenger facilities
 - Accessibility
 - Safety, comfort, and security
 - Access to transit
 - Speed and reliability
 - Communications and technology
- Question (Lisa): how much capital investment is expected of the City of Kirkland to support the K-Line?
 - Support can come in many forms: financial, road upgrades, etc.
 - Haven’t determined yet how much the city will support
 - Looking for opportunities to cooperate on projects that may already be in the pipeline
- Benefits of the K-Line
 - Connects fast-growing communities between Eastgate and Totem Lake
 - Supports the Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan
 - Incorporates feedback from the North Eastside Mobility Project
 - Connects riders to other high capacity transit option in the area
- Started preliminary design phase in September 2019
- Integrated transit network
 - Supports higher demand for transit
 - Connects riders to high capacity transit options
 - RapidRide B Line (existing)
 - ST Link light rail Blue Line (2023)
 - I-405 Bus Rapid Transit (2024)
 - Complementary service restructures
 - Coordinating with Sound Transit, partners, stakeholders, and riders
- Prompts for feedback in this meeting
 - What connections are most important to you?
 - When the ST Link Blue Line opens in 2023, how would you prefer to get to downtown Seattle?
 - What priorities are most and least important you when you think about possible changes to bus service on the Eastside? In Kirkland?
- Questions
 - (Bill) How did bus service in Seattle change when the light rail went in?

- Not getting stuck in traffic is a game changer: reliability
 - A lot of people are more than willing to transfer to light rail, because they know they'll zoom along without hitting traffic
 - (Bill) Will RapidRide B go away when the light rail goes through Redmond?
 - No, they are complementary, serving different neighborhoods on their routes
 - And the RapidRide has more frequent stops, differing from light rail
 - (Leo) Unless the buses are in bus-only lanes, they will be slowed by local traffic. I give strong support to bus-only lanes, to preserve their value to transit users.
 - That's our experience in downtown Seattle, for sure
 - Will be looking for opportunities for this
 - (Karen) What's the difference between RapidRide and Bus Rapid Transit?
 - BRT is Sound Transit, not Metro; runs primarily on freeways
 - Much longer routes with stops far apart
- K-Line [route options](#)
 - Analysis points
 - Travel times, potential time savings
 - Equity and social justice
 - Destinations and activity centers served
 - Network considerations
 - Projected future ridership
 - Community engagement
 - Public survey, events, briefings in November
 - Northern segments (see map on [webpage](#))
 - From Kirkland Transit Center, current Metro 255 route (A1) to Totem Lake, vs. going up 85th to North Rose Hill, and then north on 124th Ave. to Totem Lake (A2)
 - (Lisa) Important to note that choosing A1 will directly impact the Metro 255, possibly eliminate it, possible move it
 - (Ken) The important point is to get people to their destinations (UW, and especially downtown Seattle) in shortest time. The current change to 255 is already making a hit to getting downtown
 - (Debate ensued on whether travel to downtown is faster or slower with the 255 change; opinions differ)
 - Southern segments
 - From South Kirkland Park and Ride: along Lake Washington Blvd to Kirkland Transit Center (B1), vs. following the Metro 255 route on 108th Ave. (B2)
 - Comparisons
 - What counts as a "Destination and activity center?"
 - Shopping, services, resources, places of community interest
 - How many stops will be on these segments?
 - Not yet determined, but roughly quarter-mile

- How many additional buses would be on these routes, than currently are on these same roads?
 - Standard is 10 -minute service
- Timeline
 - Prelim design now through end of 2020
 - Needs and priority assessment
 - Draft concepts
 - Final concepts
 - Opening in March 2025
- Community engagement
 - Introducing the K-Line
 - Online [survey](#) is open through end of November
 - Ensure stakeholders understand how K-Line will benefit their communities
 - Build relationships and include communities in decision making
 - Lead with equity
 - Meet the community where they're at, including
 - Stakeholder engagement and briefings
 - Community surveys
 - Tabling events
- Actions
 - Take the online [survey](#) by 11/26/19 (~25 minutes)
 - [Subscribe](#) to project updates
- (Lisa) Would like to see cost data on each of the route options
 - For example: how much service improvement would a queue jump investment buy us?
- (Heather) Any effect from the recent Sound Transit funding budget hit?
 - Hard to say yet. Some parts of the project are not tied to car tabs.
- (Ken) The RapidRide kiosk signs that show bus arrivals are not reliable. Please divert funding to improve the data capture.

7:53pm Neighborhood Safety Projects

- Kari Page presenting
- Been out presenting to many neighborhoods
- Timeline
 - Project suggestions due 12/3/19
 - 4 neighborhoods have not yet selected a rep
- We're at 60% design on last year's projects

7:57pm Street light program update

- Kathy Robertson presenting
- 46 upgrades completed
- Approx. \$86K committed to date
- Remaining sites to be installed:
 - Two PSE sites (sched for December)

- Two City of Kirkland lights – on hold pending LED fixture evaluation/selection; need to be able to shield
- Balance remaining: \$112K
- Next tasks:
 - Complete four sites on original list
 - Next list of sites
 - Finish evaluating next 38 potentials
 - Continue until we expend the remaining budget
 - Report back in March 2020

8:03pm Sign compliance volunteer program

- Karen Story and Patrick Tefft presenting
- Types of illegal temporary signs
 - A-Frame
 - Flags
 - Balloons
 - Off-site
 - In the median
 - Wind-activated devices (“string people”)
 - Offsite “for sale”
 - Exceeds 6 sq. ft. / located in sight distance triangle
 - Real estate arrows
- New volunteer role: Temporary Sign Compliance Assistant
 - Piloted the role for six months
 - Team assignment, coupled with a paid code enforcement officer (CEO)
 - Compliance Assistant is not doing enforcement
 - Four volunteers in the pilot
 - Paired with the two enforcement officers
 - Patrolling on weekends
 - Inform businesses
 - Remove signs, take possession
 - Maximum one shift per month, 3-4 hours
 - Pitching this idea today
 - Anyone interested: contact [Patrick](#), 425-587-3012
 - Ask around your neighborhood for interest in volunteering
 - Ideal goal: one volunteer based in each neighborhood
- Handout: [volunteer position description and application](#)
- Karen’s experience as a volunteer
 - It’s a great opportunity to learn about code enforcements of all kinds, as CEOs do all city code enforcement
 - No one has ever reacted poorly; zero conflict
 - Have pulled easily 600 signs in the last year
 - Going out this Saturday, planning to pull political signs (were supposed to be removed 7 days after election)
 - While it’s a “once-a-month” commitment, we don’t actually go out that often; the CEOs are often too busy

- When signs are impounded
 - We keep them for a month
 - If owners retrieve their sign, they have to sign a promise to not violate again

8:17pm Missing middle housing

- Feedback and question opportunity, after October discussion
- Handout: summary page of ADU change proposals, from last month
- What has come up in your neighborhood?
 - Zero lot lines for detached ADUs
 - Parking
 - No or low parking requirement; may force more on-street parking
 - No parking required even for 2 ADUs, within ½ mile of transit service with 15-minute headway during commute hours
 - Definitely a hot topic for KAN and for residents
 - Absentee landlord rentals (owner occupancy requirement)
 - AirBnB (and other short-term services) rental of units
 - (Karen) City already has restrictions on this
- Conversation in the room generally trended toward the Houghton Community Council recommendations (e.g., owner occupancy required, parking required for a second ADU, etc.)
- Zoning
 - Feedback from some residents: Concentrate multi-family housing in the higher-density zones
 - (Heather) Aging in place is a strong argument for ADUs
- (Lisa) Increasing duplex and triplex as affordable options
 - Seems to be more support for these, rather than ADUs, rentals
 - Make them like condos, where you can own one unit of a duplex/triplex
 - That's not how they always work; many are owned by one party who rents out the other unit(s)
- (Bill) New ideas, cropping up around the country
 - Eliminate single-family home permits; require multi-family builds
 - Use AI to determine who is going where
 - Speed up the permitting process
- (Janet) Likes the idea of spreading density across neighborhoods; give people more diverse choices of where to live, in what conditions
- (Bea) Are we really going to get what we're trying to promote, or are we just going to get small and still very expensive units?
 - Example: a "cottage" in North Rose Hill is listed for \$1M
 - (Bill) Affordability is out the window; we've built a lovely place to live and now lots of people want to live here
- Limiting the number of people who live in a house
 - Fair Housing rules forbid any limitations
 - City should not try to regulate it
- Access to transit
 - (Bea) Tying housing rules to transit infrastructure is problematic

- Transit networks change!
- (Bea) I've never seen proof of the statement that forcing more on-street parking acts to slow down traffic
- (Leo) Part of the problem is people buying more than one house, as investment property
 - Drives up prices overall
- Continue to bring this up in your neighborhoods, bring comments back to KAN

8:30pm Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Community Appreciation Night
 - April 16, 2020
 - Last year's event was awesome!
 - Combination of volunteer appreciation and recognition of boards and commissions
 - Celebrate the spectrum of volunteers in the city
 - Chance for the city to say "thank you"
 - Peter Kirk Community Center and Kirkland Performance Center
- City Hall for All debrief
 - 500-700 people attended
 - Truck-a-Palooza
 - Sustainability Fair – well attended, ran out of swag
 - Sustainability Summit – furthering the Sustainability Master Plan effort
 - Thank you for staffing the KAN booth (Lisa, Cathy)
- Safety Advisory Group
 - Detailed notes from meetings [Oct. 29](#) and [Nov. 7](#)
 - See Chief Joe Stanford's video of history of Kirkland firefighting (I couldn't locate this, but the slides are in the Oct. 29 document)
 - Thank you for recruiting neighborhood reps to the Advisory Group
- Citywide Connections map
 - Final stages of the process
 - Planning maps for all potential street and pedestrian connections, consolidated into one source
 - Goes to Council on Nov. 19th for comments, direction
 - Council approval scheduled for Dec 10
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Behind other priorities lately, but moving along
 - Have conducted three focus groups so far
 - Online survey coming out soon; please spread the word when you see it

8:52pm Elections

- Janet stepping down
 - Bill would like to step down in the next year; start thinking now about stepping up!
- Heather volunteering for co-chair
 - Any nominations from the floor? – No

- Motion by Bill to nominate Heather for co-chair
 - Secoded by Lisa
 - Unanimous yes
- Motion by Heather to nominate Chris for Secretary
 - Secoded by Bill
 - Unanimous yes

8:55pm Hot Topics, Liaison Reports, Neighborhood Roundtable

- Liaison Reports
 - Transportation (Lisa)
- City Council Committee Reports
- Neighborhood Reports
 - Central Houghton
 - Neal Black moved to City Council, leaving vacancy on Houghton Council
 - Finished the Northwest University plan
 - Everest
 - Annual [donation drive for Treehouse](#) (foster care)
 - See notice on NextDoor
 - Evergreen Hill
 - Finn Hill
 - Lost Amy, but gained Cindy Randaazo
 - \$2.5M for connections
 - Highlands
 - Communication survey definitely identified NextDoor.com as the most effective method of communication
 - There are ways to get your post to be more prominent, e.g., doing “thanks” or comments to refresh it in the timeline
 - [Alternative Gift Fair](#)
 - Peter Kirk Community Center, this Saturday, 10am – 4pm
 - Great gifts that are not material things
 - Hosted by Kirkland Interfaith Network
 - Juanita
 - Got an update on BRT and redeveloping the Kingsgate Park & Ride on 132nd (garage structure, transit-oriented development)
 - Voted on NSP
 - Putting up neighborhood holiday lights on 11/23
 - Wrap the light poles in holiday lights
 - Lakeview
 - Market
 - Held our Halloween house decorating contest
 - Moss Bay
 - If anyone develops a survey for their neighborhood re: missing middle topics, **please share**; we could all use such a thing
 - **Dave Asher’s last Council meeting is Dec 10; presenting the signed KAN card**

- Norkirk
 - Narrowed down from 100 NSP proposals
 - Discussing missing middle housing at next NA meeting
 - Cindy Randaazo has moved to Finn Hill, so no longer representing Norkirk
 - Haven't heard anything recently about the Norkirk Light Industrial District
- North Rose Hill
- South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails
 - 5K violations at new school radar speed cameras, in October
 - Many dog parks under consideration by Parks Board; suggest having that on an upcoming KAN agenda

9:11pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:00pm
- Next meeting: January 8, 2019
 - NOTE: No December meeting

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
 - Parks update, incl. dog parks
 - Housing strategies
 - Neighborhood Plan updates
 - Transportation – City, Metro – upcoming changes in bus routes, BRT, RapidRide, etc.
 - King County Metro: Community Van program
 - Disaster preparedness coordination
 - Community Conversations
- Events
 - Nov. 16 – [Alternative Gift Fair](#), Peter Kirk Community Center, 10am – 4pm
 - Dec. 10 – City Council