

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
January 8, 2020

Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

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

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	
Everest	Jim Meniketti
Evergreen Hill	
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Brian Vaughn
Lakeview	Mark Still, Judy Beto
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Laura Harding
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Heather Hendrix McAdams (KAN Co-Chair), Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	Margaret Carnegie
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Chief Cherie Harris, Kirkland Police Department
- Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner, Public Works
- Neal Black, Kirkland City Council
- Allison Zike, Senior Planner, Planning and Building Department

Guests:

- Scott Morris, Finn Hill
- Birgitta Hughes, South Rose Hill
- Stephanie Lecovin, Highlands

7:00pm Introduction

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

7:03pm Public comments

- Stephanie Lecovin, Birgitta Hughes
  - Small cell antennae, 5G -- concerns
  - Aligned with the philosophy of Physicians for Safe Technology
  - FCC is giving telecom companies access to “small-cell” technology
    - Need to be installed a few hundred feet apart, so densely clustered
    - 800K antennae planned by 2021
  - No long-term studies of the effects of the radiation on humans, but some research suggests risks

- Privacy
- Reduced property values
- Proximity to schools
- Bird migratory patterns
- Bee navigation
- Health implications, as shown in animal studies
- Would like to reach out to neighborhoods
  - Come to NA meetings
  - Send notices to residents
  - Many cities are pushing back against FCC allowance of the proliferation of antennae

7:13pm      Follow-up on KTUB incident

- Chief Cherie Harris, KPD, presenting
- YMCA brought a formal complaint, one week after an incident last summer
  - One youth was filmed on a “NEST” camera, stealing at a store
  - Tracked to KTUB, arrested there, with use of force
  - YMCA staff felt disrespected
- Conclusion by KPD: the use of force was within acceptable parameters
  - Language was not acceptable
  - Damaged relationship with the YMCA and KTUB is not acceptable
- Friends of Youth have helped
  - Sharing practices with how they partner with city of Redmond
  - Presence in Kirkland as well
  - Leveraging relationship with Boys and Girls’ Club, too
- Welcoming Kirkland
  - James Whitfield from Leadership Eastside organizing on behalf of the city
  - Race and police relations are certainly factors
  - Chief Harris and Jim Lopez working with Whitfield
  - Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, first Town Hall to have a conversation around race
- Questions?
  - Surprised that there’s not a better relationship with KTUB, given our investment in School Resource Officers and other efforts (Heather)
    - We had some turnover in the PD
    - Definitely working to rebuild relationships with youth organizations
  - What can KAN do? (Heather)
    - Publicize the outreach efforts, including the 1/21 Town Hall
    - Help to engage people of color in the conversation
  - Is the city reaching out to organizations that represent people of color in Kirkland? (Heather)
    - Yes. Using personal contacts to connect with the [IMAN Center](#) (Ithna-asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest), for example, and churches
  - You said that language use was not acceptable. What will be done about that? (Leo)

- We're making that very clear.
  - We typically practice "contact cover," including having two officers present at all incidents
- We see issues in the neighborhoods relating to racism.
  - We sometimes get calls that are clearly race-based and have no other foundation (simply reporting a person of color in the area), and we don't respond to those calls other than to have a conversation with the reporting person
  - We recognize the reality of implicit bias, and there are many good books and materials to learn more
- I think you folks did just fine. (Ken, Mark)

7:38pm      Safe and active transport

- Kim Scrivner, Transportation Planner
- Active Transportation Plan Update
  - Last updated in 2009
  - Master Transportation Plan of 2015 included important elements
- Coordinated with other initiatives
  - Vision Zero action plan
  - Safer Routes to School
  - Sustainability Master Plan
  - Neighborhood Plans
  - Neighborhood Safety Projects
- Scope of work
  - Goal: Complete network accessible to people of all ages and abilities
  - Outreach
  - Technical analysis and recommendations
    - Bike network
    - Pedestrian access to transit and schools
    - Benefit analysis for recommendation
  - Design guidance
  - Policy support
  - Potential updates to the Greenways guide
    - We have many narrow streets
    - Greenways are shared, quiet streets
    - Also need to focus on safety at intersections, where many accidents happen
  - Implementation Plan
    - Painting, maintenance, etc.
    - As well as building out new infrastructure
- ATP Survey
  - Keeping it open until the end of January
  - **Please promote the [survey](#) to your residents!** We want to hear from everyone
- Considerations
  - Equity

- Safety
- Access
- Metrics: planning to do counting when the new Greenway opens
- Wayfinding
- Questions?
  - Any patterns around accidents at intersections? (Bea)
    - We're looking closely at crash types
    - Where are we seeing most incidents, and of what type?
  - Glad to hear that full, networked connectivity is an important part of your planning (Leo)
  - Are you planning around Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and other "first/last mile" issues? (Debbie)
    - Yes. High-capacity transit, for example at the new I-405/85<sup>th</sup> BRT station, is a big question for us, in partnership with WA DOT and others
    - Another example: the public parking at the Kirkland Library has a corner for bike parking; good place for a locked bike cage
    - Connecting to light rail: the nearest station will be Spring District, and Bellevue is planning bike parking there
  - Story of bike riders who endanger others (Ken)
    - Vision Zero plan includes lots of outreach around behavior
    - Acknowledgement by bike riders (Leo and Chris) that the biker in Ken's story was in the wrong; WA law allows riding on the sidewalk but must yield to pedestrians

7:50pm      Tree code update

- Deb Powers, Kirkland Urban Forester, and Scott Morris, who wrote a doctoral thesis on the topic
- Process
  - Have been through many cycles with City Council and Houghton Community Council
  - Spent 6 months working with stakeholder groups
  - 6 months of working with Planning Commission and HCC
  - Jan 21 City Council study session upcoming
  - Tentative late Feb adoption by City Council
- Goal: 40% canopy cover
  - More consistency in how the code is applied
  - Clarify/Streamline the code
- Recent analysis by consultant
  - In the single-family zoned areas of Kirkland
    - Loss of 253 acres, 2010-2018
    - Other land-use areas showed less loss
  - Handout of "Effects of Code Concepts"
    - How is current tree code functioning?
    - How do we achieve a "no net loss" state?

- Tabulating increase/decrease/no effects of each proposed code revision
- Draft Kirkland Zoning Code (KZC) Chapter 95
  - Public trees
    - No major code changes
    - Homeowners can prune branches up to 1.5” diameter
  - Private property trees
    - Landmark tree removal limited to 1 per 24 months
    - 2, 3, or 4 removals per year, regardless of property size (old rule was 2 regardless of property size)
    - Hedge removal/replacement is easier
    - 1-year wait before submitting development permits
      - Responding to developers removing or damaging trees in advance of submitting development permit applications
    - Order severely diseased tree removal (rare)
  - Tree retention with development
    - Eliminated retention values
    - Eliminated “if feasible / if possible” language
    - Now condition ratings
    - Tier 2 trees, getting much more specific about what’s necessary to preserve significant trees
      - Building envelope dimensions
      - Site plan alterations
      - Tree protection methods
      - Variations to development standard – where are leniencies and trade-offs available
    - Eliminated phased tree removal
      - All plans are required at the beginning of development
    - No credits for planting arborvitae; not counted as a tree
- Scott presenting the neighborhood perspective
  - From Finn Hill, “land of tree-hugging protectionists”
    - Finn Hill has its own overlay requirements, inherited from the county when incorporating into Kirkland
  - There’s overlap between what Finn Hill likes, developers like, and what the city staff want to do
    - Trying to achieve a tree code that optimizes the city’s ability to regain a 40% canopy cover
  - How does the tree code apply to developers?
    - Talked to Master Builders
    - Trees will get cut down
    - Let’s set standards for protecting significant trees
      - This led to the definition of Tier 1 (30” diameter) and Tier 2 trees
      - Finn Hill wanted 26” diameter for Tier 1
    - The new standards, in Scott’s opinion, will save some significant trees, though not that many more than before

- Finn Hill and staff wanted language around preserving trees in the setback areas of lots
      - Quickly gets very complicated, with tree credits and diameters vs. canopy sizes, lots of issues
      - Deb: the “Tier 2” provisions actually map pretty much to existing tree codes
    - Planting new/replacement trees
      - Finn Hill disagrees with developers on the threshold for requiring planting
  - Homeowner requirements
    - Under current and proposed code, homeowners can remove one Tier 1 tree per year without question
    - Is this appropriate? Scott doesn’t think so
- Questions
  - Is this truly making things clearer for developers?
    - Yes, it’s doing some. Only the builders can say for sure.
  - How will the city enforce codes? Developers in my neighborhood have egregiously removed and girdled trees without permits
    - Current penalties are at a nuisance level
    - Proposed penalties are much more deterrent
  - Addressing zoning other than single-family?
    - The focus is SF for now
    - Trying to address the 40% canopy cover, and SF is the big impact

8:25pm      Rooftop amenity code amendments

- Allison Zike, Senior Planner
- Also known as “rooftop appurtenances”
- Existing code allows appurtenances to extend up to 4’ of height above max building height
- Examples: HVAC, etc.
- Public outreach
  - Focus on multi-family and commercial buildings, not single-family
  - Positives
    - Better design
    - Community gathering space
    - Green space
    - Increased renter tenancy
  - Negatives
    - Loss of views
    - Clutter
    - Noise, lighting
    - Disruptive behavior
- Barriers
  - Railings must comply with maximum building height
  - Allowed height for elevator equipment (16.3’ for overall height, including equipment)

- No allowance for amenities to extend above the maximum building height
- Directions, as set by Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council
  - Amend code to encourage more rooftop amenities
  - Increase flexibility to provide rooftop access, e.g. elevator eight overruns
  - Explore allowing enclosed or covered space on the rooftop, above max. height
- Special zones
  - CBD 1A-1B zones, downtown near waterfront
  - Limited to just the building height
  - Planning Commission will need to decide how to treat these zones
- Draft code amendments, highlights
  - Add definition for “rooftop amenities” (planters, railings, seating, kitchen/BBQs, dog runs, fire pits, umbrellas, etc.”
  - Add definition for “rooftop common room”
  - Revise height allowance and review process for elevator and stair equipment – up to 15’ above building height
  - Add new section allowing rooftop amenities to exceed the max structure height by 4’
    - Railings included, must be transparent or “majority open”, and set back 5’ from building edge
  - Add new section allowing rooftop common rooms, height matching the story below, limited to 1,000 sq ft or 10% of building footprint, whichever is *less*
    - Would include enclosed spaces or simply covered spaces
- Next steps
  - 1/9 Planning Commission study session
  - 2/13 Tentative joint Planning Commission public hearing with Houghton Community Council
  - Possible March at City Council
- Questions
  - Would these amenities be allowed in the Market Street corridor?
    - Currently scoped for “stacked buildings” rather than simply multi-family
    - So, under the proposal, the code would not apply to townhomes that are not stacked
  - For covered spaces, and requirements around what people put in those spaces?
    - The only requirement is that they be common spaces, not dedicated to the use of one resident unit
    - No requirement that the space be open or transparent
    - Spaces would be subject to design review, hence subject to public scrutiny and appeal
  - Solar panels
    - Solar panels already have their own code exception
- Comments can go to [Allison](#)

8:46pm Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Community Appreciation Event
  - Apr 16, 2020
  - Eventbrite invitation coming soon
  - Please **invite any and all of your neighborhood volunteers!** No limit this year
- Mayor's State of the City event
  - Typically in May/June
  - **Let David know** if you have innovative ideas for location or format
  - Janet: Perhaps combine it with a KAN meeting, for ease of attendance?
  - Heather: Hold it somewhere else, somewhere out in the community? Heritage Hall?
- Neighborhood University
  - Program has been on hold for a while
  - Past topics gravitated toward civics, zoning, mechanics of governments
    - "For the Love of Kirkland" was a Neighborhood U event
  - New events coming in 2020
    - Leadership development, skill building (positive response from KAN)
- Summer Sundays
  - Pilot program last summer, closing Park Lane to cars on Sundays
  - [Survey](#) is open; **please encourage responses** even from people who didn't attend last summer

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

- Liaison Reports
  - Transportation (Lisa)
- City Council Committee Reports
- Neighborhood Reports
  - Central Houghton
  - Everest
    - Good collection at benefit for Treehouse charity this year
  - Evergreen Hill
    - Park is defined as a "community park" rather than a "neighborhood park," so wording/criteria that the city is applying differ from what we put in our Neighborhood Plan. Watch the wording in your Neighborhood Plan carefully!
  - Finn Hill
    - New board members, and more applying for positions
    - Note that Finn Hill does quarterly public meetings (with monthly board meetings); perhaps that's a better model for NAs?
    - We should have an update of the [KAN Handbook](#) for best practices
  - Highlands
  - Juanita

- Will be having the public utility district (PUD) folks speaking at next meeting
    - Taking down holiday lights soon
  - Lakeview
  - Market
    - Same issue as SRH/BT
  - Moss Bay
    - Changes in transit service, including the K Line
    - Time to file your NA's "990N" tax form!
  - Norkirk
    - January 23, City Council meeting on "Missing Middle" initiatives: attend if you want to weigh in
    - Neighborhood Plan update process is coming fast! Coordinate with other neighborhoods that are undergoing updates
  - North Rose Hill
  - South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails
    - Issue that our Board has been addressing this past year: criteria for who does/doesn't present at our meetings
- Neal Black, City Council
  - Wants to come around to NA mtgs, though some conflict
    - Will concentrate on neighborhoods that are in Plan update cycle
  - Boards and commissions
    - Want to promote how we use that entrée to bring in people to civic leadership who are "non-traditional participants" (shares this focus with Amy and Kelly on City Council)

9:08pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:00pm
- Next meeting: January 8, 2019

Upcoming agenda items, events, deadlines

- Agenda items
  - Criteria for speakers at NA meetings
  - KAN Handbook update for best practices (frequency of mtgs, etc.)
  - Neighborhood Plan updates
  - Transportation – City, Metro – upcoming changes in bus routes, BRT, RapidRide, etc.
  - Disaster preparedness coordination
  - Community Conversations
- Events