

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
February 12, 2020 Kirkland City Hall, Peter Kirk Room

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

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Jim Meniketti
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Co-Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Rob Scarber
Lakeview	Judy Beto
Market	
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services

Guests:

7:00pm Introduction

- Co-Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order
- January 2020 minutes accepted; send any corrections to [Chris](#)

7:01pm Public comments

- No public attendees

7:02pm Parks updates

- Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services
- Capital Improvements, Totem Lake, Juanita Beach Park, Dog parks
- Juanita Beach Bathhouse
  - Fully approved, groundbreaking done
  - Bathhouse projected to be open on July 1; the rest will lag a bit
  - Q: Any way to reduce the incidence of closure due to environmental issues?
    - A: We've looked at it extensively. The brunt of the lake gets pushed into this shallow area and it circulates poorly. It's not primarily an issue of dogs or waterfowl. The only way to address it would be a massive pump that circulates the water, and that would violate other environmental structures.

- The recent project by the surface-water folks to flag dog waste was a help in reducing fouling of the beach and water. Exact impact will come after the analysis from that project is complete.
- Totem Lake Park
  - Should be awarded by Council next week
  - Construction would start March 2020, completing March 2021
    - Playground will be a fully inclusive facility, the second such for Kirkland
  - Demolition and park development at the site of the old Yuppie Pawn
  - Q: How does this interact with the other development in the area?
    - A: This won't have huge impact on the streets or new buildings
    - We will have to close the Cross Kirkland Corridor for a few months during construction
  - Q: Any consideration of installing a "shade sail" in this or any other park?
    - A: We've been talking about it. It would be a fine amenity near the playground, for people who sit while children play. But they're expensive and we have no funding allocated. There will be trees.
- 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park
  - 30% design review was tonight; bidding in November 202; construction start Spring 2021, complete end of 2021
  - Fully funded
  - Q: Can we get Shakespeare in the Park at any Kirkland park?
    - A: Juanita Beach does a summer concert series, so maybe we could put one there
  - (Johanna) There are unhappy neighbors. Many felt they weren't included in the process. By being classified as a "community park," the needs of the community are being held above the needs of a "neighborhood park." The synthetic turf, the landscaping, the view from the hill into people's houses ... many issues.
- Juanita Heights Trail
  - Easement potential for trail connection from Juanita Heights Park to Juanita Beach Park
- City playfields: Finn Hill Middle School and Peter Kirk Elementary School
  - Playfield turf renovation, irrigation, adding netting, new bases
  - Finn Hill field opens spring 2020
  - Peter Kirk field opens Fall 2020
  - Kamiakin Middle School is being considered but may be due for major renovation
- Dock and shoreline: David Brink Park (just south of the marina)
  - 30% design complete, now in design and permitting, construction 2021
- Dock and shoreline: other
  - Seven projects under assessment
  - May consider a Council bond to fund all projects over the next 6 years
  - Much of it is pier and dock repair that's not easily visible
  - Q: What happened to the marina expansion study a couple of years ago?
    - A: That was a feasibility study; it's not planned for now

- Parks Maintenance Center
  - Completed! Refurbishment of the old Office Max building in Totem Lake
- North Kirkland Community Center playground replacement
  - Will remove and replace in May
  - Did local outreach to community for a theme
  - Assumed they'd want a train theme, but no!
  - 1100 kids voted for "space adventure" as the new theme
- Windsor Vista Park
  - Just north of Edith Moulton Park, with Juanita Creek running through
  - Reusing Juanita Beach Park playground equipment that's being replaced
- Off-leash dog parks
  - Highly controversial! Gets lots of community attention
  - Benchmarking of 23 off-leash sites in the area, for comparison and baselines
  - Selected 11 sites for evaluation for both fenced and unfenced options
  - Final slate of five options for review by the Park Board at their December 2019 meeting
  - That's where we stand now. Need more conversation before going back out to the public.
  - Q: Is the plan to have a larger number of small facilities, vs. one large regional one?
    - A: Yes, that's precisely our focus.
  - Q: How much concern is there for liability?
    - A: We're not too concerned, given our plan to follow good standards and signage
- Other projects
  - Prep of the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program
  - Budget analysis and development for 2021-2022 biennial budget
  - Fee policy review with City Council: special events and athletic fields
  - Youth safety initiative with Prop 1 Community Safety Ballot Measure
  - KTUB operating contract w/YMCA expiring, exploring city-operated option and/or RFP process
    - YMCA's 10-year contract was not renewed last summer
    - Some concern that YMCA level of service was not satisfactory
  - Parks: herbicide reduction pilot, crime prevention through environmental design initiative (clear vision into all areas of the park), tree removal and replacement project (dying or hazard trees, with a 2:1 replacement ratio)
  - Expansion of Green Kirkland Partnership and integration of GKP with natural parks division
  - Major upcoming projects:
    - Synthetic turf and athletic fields strategic plan
    - Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan update in 2021
- Q: Will you be taking a look at unscheduled time at ballfields?
  - A: Yes. Council actually mandated that there be unscheduled time available at all fields.

7:53pm      Census hiring

- Anita Price, Recruiting Assistant, US Census Bureau – was scheduled but did not appear
- Lisa recommends getting Anita to a NA meeting

7:55pm      Policy and procedures for neighborhoods

- We need policy for who can speak at KAN meetings, and potentially at NA meetings
- What has our process been?
  - The co-chairs make a judgment call
- Q: Whom have we turned away before?
  - Mostly people wanting to speak in self-interest, e.g. for their businesses
- Generally trust the chairs to use good judgment
- Do we want to make any changes to existing policy for “Process for determining topics?”
  - Discussion concluded that current process is working well
  - Inviting opposing viewpoints, for controversial topics
    - We tend to do this as a practice
    - Do we want to formalize this as process? – general response: no
- If we ever want to do a “candidate forum” or equivalent, remember that we can’t hold political events on City property
- Moved:
  - Individuals during the public comment phase have a time limit of three minutes. The KAN chair(s) has prerogative to limit discussion of any topic. The public comment phase is limited to a maximum of 10 minutes overall.
    - Moved by Lisa
    - Seconded by Bea
    - Affirmed by vote

8:46pm      Neighborhood Services Report

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
- Neighborhood U
  - Leadership Development track
    - Intended for NA chairs and KAN reps
      - Communication styles (quadrant system)
      - Implicit bias training
      - Communicating inclusion
      - (Lisa later suggests: Defining success for NAs)
    - Scheduling such a thing
      - Two- to four-hour sessions
      - Saturday mornings (Bill) are okay
      - Serve a meal? (Breakfast preferred)
      - Interesting location? Make it a feature
        - Google campus

- Other hosting company/organization
  - Use this as a KAN building opportunity?
    - Attract new people? This could be a draw
    - Hook up with schools, to transition leadership parents to community involvement as their kids age out
    - (Judy) ~30% of Lakeview residents are not citizens, here on visas and such. Trying to figure out how to reach out in a way that involves them. Ties into David's idea of a "communicating inclusion" training.
    - (Lisa) We had a "building membership" Neighborhood U previously. One take-away was redefining what "success" is, beyond attendance at weekday evening meetings. What do you deliver, on what platforms? What connections are you making? What succession practices are you using?
  - David will process this feedback and come back with a proposal
- Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance plan
  - Sending out a survey next week
  - Watch for emailing of survey and promote it
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
  - Planning Commission deliberation tomorrow on Missing Middle housing
- Community Appreciation Event
  - Apr 16, 2020
  - Eventbrite invitation coming soon
  - Please invite any and all of your neighborhood volunteers! No limit this year
  - Awards for volunteers, neighborhood leaders
    - Please submit nominations (by emailing David) for:
      - Leadership award
      - ABCD (Above and Beyond the Call of Duty) award
      - Behind the Scenes award
    - See email from David for definitions of the awards
- Mayor's State of the City event
  - Typically in May/June
  - Let David know if you have innovative ideas for location or format
  - We're in a budget year; could combine this with a budget-focused activity
  - (Bea) The most successful SotC events have emphasized personal connection/exposure to elected officials and City Manager
  - (Lisa) Maybe have introductions/face time of other City Council members as well?
  - (Chris) Consider using the old Juanita Community Center on 100<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE
- Summer Sundays results
  - 670 survey responses
  - Will relay when analysis is done
- Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
  - 1,300 survey responses

- Kirkland Talks About Racism
  - Co-sponsored with Leadership Eastside and Eastside for All
  - Many presentations and forums; see the [Welcoming Kirkland Initiative](#) webpage
- Map Your Neighborhood
  - Handouts to promote MYN

8:52pm Hot Topics, Liaison Reports, Neighborhood Roundtable

- Liaison Reports
  - Transportation (Lisa)
- City Council Committee Reports
- Neighborhood Reports
  - Central Houghton
    - Lost a leader to public office
    - Installing a picnic table at Carillon Woods, with ADA access
  - Everest
    - Pouring foundation for art on the CKC
  - Evergreen Hill
    - Canceled the January meeting due to snow
    - Neighborhood Safety Project proposals are due! Get 'em in
  - Finn Hill
    - Last meeting had board elections, 5G speakers, police speaker
    - Good energy level in new volunteers
  - Highlands
    - Joshua McNichols (KUOW) contacted someone in the NA about Google growth and increasing housing density
    - (Bill) Scott Morris met with him today
  - Juanita
    - Board is shrinking with some people moving away; need to bolster participation
  - Lakeview
    - 17 people came for wine-and-cheese website development meeting!
    - Starting planning for “National Night Out” – and the City has a competing event
      - Maybe we could spread the events over that week rather than one one night
      - (Lisa) The Kirkland Senior Center is looking for ways to reach out to isolated seniors; maybe this could be a tie-in?
  - Market
  - Moss Bay
    - Time to file your NA’s “990N” tax form!
    - Also need to file a state B&O form (“Combined excise tax”), to show “no activity” – otherwise risking a fine. Someone in your NA should have gotten a form in the mail.
  - Norkirk

- Need to get moving on the Neighborhood Plan Update process!
- North Rose Hill
- South Rose Hill / Bridle Trails

9:08pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:00pm
- Next meeting: March 11, 2020

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