

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods  
April 8, 2020 Held online with Zoom meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

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

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager

Guests:

- “Marie Toedtli” (male, older, white hair)
- Call-in User 1

7:25pm Introduction

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

7:01pm Public comments

- Preamble by Jim Lopez
  - Good to see people’s faces
  - Ask of KAN tonight: \_\_\_\_\_
- Three initiatives that Kirkland is working on during coronavirus response
  - Website: \_\_\_\_\_
- Support for the business community
  - Notices sent early on to 6K businesses in the city
    - Critical information about how to record information for loan/grant programs that we knew were coming
  - Coord with Chamber and Google to set up a program for small business relief
    - Possibly first/unique in the country

- Scope of entire city; others had other scopes
    - 650 applications received, ~250 responses going out this week
  - Established a regional response with Redmond, Bellevue, etc., to help navigate the complexity of the programs
  - Kirkland, like Seattle, has eliminated commercial and residential evictions for now
  - Deferred sales and utility taxes for now
  - Unemployment system is getting bolstered by federal government
  - “Family First Act” for questions about FMLA, other protection concerns: working to disseminate information
  - Ask of KAN: **Push these resources out to the community**
    - David Wolbrecht demonstrated the online “Resources for Kirkland Businesses Impacted by COVID-19” webpage
  - Question: do these support services apply to “Mom and Pop” businesses?
    - Absolutely – though we’ve limited this first round to brick-and-mortar businesses. Cap is 500 employees.
    - We hope to address non-storefront businesses in a second round
- Human Services “strike team”
  - Principal strategy: leverage existing “pipes” of services
    - Focus: getting information to people who are not media-savvy
    - Mailed a physical postcard to 39K households
    - Translated to the three most common languages spoken in Kirkland
    - Cards sent by the USPS “carrier route” method, which should reach all residential addresses; some may have been delayed
  - We are currently within existing capacity to provide food to households that need it
    - Leveraging Hopelink
    - Added city funding
    - If demand does exceed supply, we have partnered with Sound Generations for a network of drivers for food delivery, other contingency plans
  - Question: how do school lunch programs and/or Nourishing Networks fit into these programs?
    - Check the Kirkland Parks and Community Foundation website for more supplemental programs
    - Includes school lunch programs, Nourishing Networks
    - Ask of KAN: **Raise awareness for availability of these programs**
  - Council advanced the full year’s funding to all supporting organizations (including surge funding as well) rather than the usual procedure of requiring quarterly evaluation of function
- How can the City serve your (KAN’s, community’s) needs?
  - Want to increase the efficiency of networks
    - People who know people
    - People who pass information along
    - Want to partner with all community channels

- Example: want to spread info about the Kirkland Food Lifeline
- Question: have people been calling the phone numbers that you put out on the 39K-household postcard?
  - Some of that data is not in our reach, as the phone numbers go to regional resources
  - We have received fewer than ten calls for food support; expect many more to come
- We will promote a Startup425 map of Kirkland restaurants
  - Want to push this map to the community
  - Patronize the businesses for food pick-up and delivery
  - Donate to the businesses for food to be provided for people in need
- Question: It's important to get this information to individuals and businesses that are in a position to help fund these programs
  - Yes! The IRS is overwhelmed right now, but we want patrons to get involved
- Question: What exactly should we send out to our communities?
  - David posted relevant links and resources:
    - <https://kpcf.org/projects/kirkland-delivers-feed-neighbors-support-businesses/>
    - <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/BusinessSupportCOVID>
    - <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/ResidentSupportCOVID>
    - <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/HelpCOVID>
- How can people help? (David)
  - David demonstrated the website that collects resources and opportunities for people who want to help (included in the links just mentioned): <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/HelpCOVID>

8:02pm      Roundtable, KAN questions

- When neighborhoods want to have meetings online, does the City have resources or support for this?
  - Jim recommends Zoom, though he has no business interest :-)
  - David suggests that a Neighborhood Association could apply for matching grant funds to allay costs of a subscription to such a service
- Laura Harding:
  - Had to cancel NA mtg last month, of course
  - Blue ribbons around town, in support of nursing home workers, families, and residents
  - KirklandStrong
    - Facebook page
    - A place to tell uplifting stories
    - Not just for coronavirus times but a durable
- Karen Story
  - Put up a flyer in a kiosk to tell how to get reliable information
  - Many are out walking the neighborhood, saying hello from a distance
  - NextDoor.com "Help Map"
    - Something you can launch from the main page

- You can offer ways to help, or ask for help
    - Example: picking up / delivering groceries
  - Debbie: Important to reach out to elderly neighbors, especially if you already know them (might be less receptive to outreach from a stranger)
  - Jim: If you have something to tell the City, a suggestion or idea, tell us!
- Aubry
  - Sent out neighborhood newsletter, soft- and hard-copy, with resource info
  - Many people out walking, especially on the CKC
- Mark
  - Near launching a new NA website
  - Will relay resources from the City
- Johanna
  - May try an online meeting
  - Lots of people out and about (complaints about soccer players!)
  - Concern that a small group of people still haven't been reached – e.g., her mother, who couldn't easily read the postcard even if she did get one
- Chris
  - Lots of walkers/runners/bikers – not always 6' separations (Lake Sammamish Trail is a highway!)
  - My neighborhood, ~30 houses, has a tight support system
    - Offers to pick up, deliver things
    - Checking in on senior residents: “Has anyone talked to <whoever> yet?”
    - We have done MapMyNeighborhood, CERT emergency response plans, etc., in the past
    - Perhaps KAN could return to promoting support at the block level; this has been an opportunity to see how helpful that is
- Leo
  - Implemented a scavenger hunt, modeled on one in Seattle
    - You can look for things in public spaces, in windows, etc.
    - Got strong negative feedback! “Shouldn't be encouraging people to go out of their houses”
    - Canceled the scavenger hunt, but would still like to put something similar in place
- Bea
  - IRS moved tax deadlines out, but you should still file on time if you can
  - Praise for the City's small business support program
- Scott
  - MapMyNeighborhood program is indeed a good idea for now and future
- Any idea when things will return to normal?
  - Jim: Watch Governor Inslee's announcements
- Heather
  - Forwarding City announcements to NextDoor and BeNeighborly on Facebook
    - The Facebook posts are more effective if one of the group admins posts them, so that's what Heather tries to make happen

- If we did try to go door-to-door today, what would that look like?
  - “Are you suffering? Do you need support?”
  - MapMyNeighborhood is something you do between times of crisis
- Janet: Can we get Heather from the City (emergency preparedness) to work with KAN to do something on the short term, as well as for the future?
  - Jim: I will take this question to Heather’s team and see what they think is appropriate

8:29pm      Closing

- Adjourned at 8:29pm
- Next meeting: May 13, 2020? – probably still online

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
  - MapMyNeighborhood
- Events