

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
February 10, 2021 Virtual online 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 Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story, Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Liz Hunt
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt, Huan Zou
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
- Chief Cherie Harris, Kirkland Police
- Officer Tiffany Trombley, Neighborhood Resource Officer, Kirkland PD

Guests:

- None

7:00pm Introduction

- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order
- Round-the-horn self-introductions

7:00pm Public comments

- No public attendees at start of meeting

7:05pm Resolution 5434: Affirming BLM, Safe/Welcoming Community

- Jim Lopez presenting
- Resolution: “Affirming that Black Lives Matter and Approving the Framework for Kirkland to Become a Safe, Inclusive, and Welcoming Community”
- New [webpage](#) on City website
- Background
 - Kirkland has had specific work underway since 2017; see historical records on the website
- Scope of action
 - Police Transparency dashboard

- School Resource Officer dashboard
- Human Resources dashboard
- Police accountability and oversight
- Organizational equity assessment and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Manager
- Community safety partners (“co-responders”)
- Public art and city contracting
- Presentation 2/16 at City Council
 - Jim and Chief Harris attending
 - Pros/Cons of ideas
 - Civic engagement on each decision
- Dashboards (Chief Harris)
 - Have added an analyst on staff
 - Current dashboard is focused on property crimes
 - Other dashboards are in the works
 - Burglaries are down, presumably due to COVID
 - But some other crime categories are up (such as assault)
- Use of force
 - King County Sheriff’s office has a public-facing dashboard
 - Dashboard includes demographics, techniques involved
 - Our policy manual is nationally recognized as sound
- Questions
 - (Bill) What has stood out for you during this process?
 - Jim: Hearing stories. Inspiration when having conversations on a genuine human level, with an intention to learn and grow.
 - (Lisa) What have community groups that you have talked with told you that success looks like for them?
 - Jim: Acknowledgement and authentic acceptance that racism is here. Commitment to take ownership of that and take ownership before you go into policy. We’ll know success when we are in a room of leaders who acknowledge the connection on a deep level, not just an intellectual one.
 - Oversight: We have good insight that there should be independent oversight, though no precision yet on what that looks like.
 - (Debbie) Is there participation from Asian, Indian communities? And mental health stakeholders?
 - Jim: Last focus group we did was Latinx (who didn’t like the term “Latinx”). In 90 minutes, policing did not come up as a topic. Reinforced the message that we need to center this discussion around the experience of Black people, to address the essential issues. That said, we are open to meeting with any focus group of any demographic!
 - Chief Harris: We hired a full-time mental health professional, a co-responders, to work in the field. Also have some state money in the budget. It’s been super helpful for our staff to watch a specially trained professional working in the field.

- (Lisa) Is there work with the school district to address consistency in discipline and reporting on School Resource Officer action in schools?
 - Chief Harris: Yes. It's a challenge. We want to divert children from the criminal justice system; that's our key objective. There was a task force in 2019 that addressed policies, as well as training for teachers.
- (Chris) Any progress on establishing a community court?
 - Chief Harris: Yes, work is underway. Redmond and Shoreline have good models.
 - David W: We may be presenting or reaching out to KAN soon on this topic, specifically about the Resource Center.

7:38pm Neighborhood Resources

- Officer [Tiffany Trombley](#) presenting
 - 13 years in law enforcement, 11 years at Kirkland
 - Had positive encounters with police when young
 - Working toward Masters degree in mental health
- Responsibilities as Neighborhood Resource Officer
 - Liaison between PD and community
 - Attend neighborhood meetings
 - Teach children and adults about safety
 - Safety assessments (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED))
 - Assisting with homeless outreach
 - Assisting with behavioral/mental health community concerns
- Questions
 - (Debbie) You're training in mental health. Does that signal that you plan to shift your job in that direction?
 - When I respond in a situation that involves mental or behavioral health, I respond as an officer. I do have a strong relationship with our mental health co-respondent.
 - Mental health training helps her write better reports, use correct terminology, and model skills to patrol officers.
 - <Told a story of working to connect a homeless person living in a car to resources.>
 - (Liz) Can you say more about "teaching about safety?"
 - Examples: Going to retirement community to educate on identity theft; school visits to talk about what police do, building trust
 - CPTED: Crime prevention through environment design: lighting, hedge placement, creating "hard targets" (making a site unattractive to a criminal as a target)
 - (Liz) Are you someone we would reach out to with questions as a neighborhood?
 - Yes! < ttrombley@kirklandwa.gov >
 - (Leo) Are you a person we could call when there's a loud neighbor, for example?

- I can respond to community issues like that.
- (Debbie) Do you feel that there are adequate mental health services in the community?
 - In King County, we're doing pretty well. I'm excited about Community Court. I coordinate with other regional resources.
- (Bill) Tell us about an interesting experience you've had recently.
 - Person experiencing homelessness on a bus, was kicked off. Radioed from patrol officers to help. My goal is to work with the person to discover or establish a plan, rather than to arrest or discipline: to navigate them to resources.
- (Chris) How do you navigate the web of community concern and escalation of concerns when you address a report of homeless encounters?
 - There are legal responses, including Notice to Vacate, that we present to a person experiencing homelessness, and our larger effort is to provide services. We have many tools in the toolbox. I like to think that I have this job because I'm good at building rapport.
 - With residents, I take a truthful, fact-based approach. I encourage calls because it adds information, helps us address the issues.
- (Leo) What is stopping Kirkland from starting to look like Seattle and other big cities, people sleeping in encampments, etc?
 - I'd be speculating ... I think we do a good job of being in contact onsite, on the ground, knocking on doors.
 - (Leo) If an encampment pops up, what do you do?
 - We don't have specific policy, but we do follow the laws and then use our tools for navigating resources.

8:06pm Yard Smart presentation postponed to March

8:07 Neighborhood Plan Update for Moss Bay and Everest

- Bea asked for tips/tricks for forming a working group
- Chris, SRH/BT
 - Should have made the selection process more transparent, broader net
 - It felt equitable and balanced at the time, but people questioned the balance after the process
 - Six people total on working group: 3 SRH, 3 BT
- Janet, Karen: Norkirk and Highlands updates finalized in December
- Lisa, Houghton
 - Always takes 2-3x more time than you think it will
 - There are things in the plan that you don't need to touch too much
 - Make sure you explain well to people what each section means, what can be changed
 - With better explanation and transparency, you may get more people interested in getting involved
 - We did the neighborhood center separately, and I'm glad we did: the zoning makes for very different issues

- Save the hard parts for last, after people understand the plan better
- Ken, Liz: Market
 - We divided the effort between the business district (Market St. corridor) and residential areas
 - That worked well, and you may have the same split in Moss Bay
 - Important to work with City people to ensure that proposals are positioned well for action; be assertive and helpful, pre-work the thorny issues
 - Small working group, formed late

8:22 85th St. Station Area – see [*appended letter*](#) response by *Jim Lopez*

- Bill: Followed up with Kurt on having KAN take an active role in the process
- Response: Kurt doesn't want to add a new voice in the core deliberations
- (Debbie) The Highlands Board has submitted formal comments
 - Diverse concerns, compiled by board member Matthew
- (Anna) At recent Everest NA mtg, Neal Black and Jay Arnold got an earful
 - Good for attendees to hear the plans and proposals
 - Recommends that if you send anything to Allison Zike, cc: the Council and the Planning Commission. Stay factual and polite, get your points across.
 - (Bill) I'm happy to help out any way I can, so feel free to cc: me as well
- (Ken) The response that "the City will keep us informed" is unsatisfactory; disappointed in that response
 - Echo the advice to cc: the decision makers and stay strongly factual
 - Perhaps KAN should send letter to City Council and state that we tried to have direct input with staff and were unsatisfied
- (Liz) Attendance unpredictable at our online neighborhood meetings; what methods do you all use to gather input/feedback?
 - Lisa: We've noticed a big uptick in our Facebook feed since COVID. Rather than post a big piece, we post "bite-sized" issue pieces: "Are you OK with this density situation?" Make the questions neutral when you can, but sometimes a polarized post gets more response.
 - Anna: We have an extensive email list and will send out another reminder to submit comments (deadline extended). We also hand-deliver a physical newsletter throughout Everest.
 - Liz: Do you encourage people to cc: the NA when they email a comment?
 - Anna: No.
 - Karen: We also use NextDoor, reaching 75% of households, and it has a polling feature that's useful for things like this. Nextdoor and email are both important because there are many people on one but not the other.
- (Bill) Propose a task force on this
 - Keep the pressure on, to be heard
 - David W.: The City does want to hear from KAN. Latest report from Allison Zike clearly states that more input is needed, after the Jan 16 Planning Commission study session, before decisions are made.

- Ken: The City could treat KAN as a focus group and seems to have chosen not to.

8:07 Houghton Transfer Station siting

- Chris: King County Solid Waste is evaluating four sites for a new waste transfer and recycling station
 - Two are in Kirkland, in Bridle Trails
 - One in Redmond (124th St. x Willows) and one in Woodinville
 - City Council seems to be rolling over and ignoring decades of promises that the “Houghton” site would be shut down
 - Bridle Trails neighborhood is pretty upset, high attendance at last night’s NA meeting, movement toward grassroots response outside of NA
 - Please spread the word that the [King County Solid Waste survey](#) is open through next week
 - Thoughts from around the City?
 - Bill: I find it convenient where it is.
 - Ken: I thought the survey was even-handed and effective. I don’t like the vision of trucks on 124th St.
 - Johanna: Our neighborhood (Evergreen) is strongly against the site on Willows, for traffic reasons. If it’s sited in Bridle Trails, can they do a good design that creates park amenities?

8:49pm Neighborhood Services Coordinator report

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Neighborhood Association access to city Zoom account
 - Available now!
 - Need a process for logistics, to avoid collision (e.g., two NAs meeting on the same night)
 - David will create a “User Guide” one-pager on how to use it
 - We will all share this resource, so need shared agreements (don’t change the password, etc.)
 - Karen and Anna volunteered to help with logistic planning
 - Janet: It’s very hard to switch meeting days, so how can you resolve it?
 - Perhaps could split the time
 - May be less collision than we think; some NAs already have a solution or don’t need Zoom
- Neighborhood Grant paperwork received; it’s in process now
- Neighborhood Safety Program is underway
 - Staff meetings and site visits more difficult to coordinate due to COVID restrictions
 - Conferences next week; meeting invitations going out tomorrow
 - (Lisa) I’m the NSP rep for Houghton, and I haven’t seen communication in a while
 - (Karen) Would like to see a report on where we are with last year’s projects
- Shop Local Kirkland

- Check out the “In-Car Dining” program at Marina Park
- In-car movie event coming on 2/27/21

9:01pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:01pm
- Next meeting: March 10, 2021

Attachment: Letter emailed to KAN in response to 85th St. Station Area conversation

David Wolbrecht

Fri, Feb 12,
10:37 AM

To: kirklandkan@googlegroups.com

Sent on behalf of Assistant City Manager James Lopez

Dear KAN,

After reviewing the draft minutes from Wednesday’s KAN meeting, I wanted to provide a quick summary of what I conveyed to Bill to help make sure we’re all on the same page. (Thank you for all your time on this, Bill!)

I interpreted KAN’s submitted request as an ask for the City to create and staff a special committee like a Board or Commission that would provide Commission-level guidance to the City Council about the various decisions of the Station Area Plan. The City values KAN as a community leadership group that’s integral to the flow of information to and from the City. However, we don’t have the resources nor infrastructure to commit to a Commission level of decision-making influence for an ad hoc KAN committee that has priority over other community leadership groups that the City routinely engages with.

What we are committed to is meeting frequently with KAN to discuss the elements of the Station Area Plan (I will attend on request), provide thorough updates on the City’s position on those elements, and to support you in gathering and articulating input from the neighborhoods to help inform the decisions of the City Council. I heard in KAN’s request a desire for there to be more process around the plan, and that’s what I am committing to. We are eager to roll up our sleeves and continue the conversation.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me or David if you have any questions or concerns.

Jim

jlopez@kirklandwa.gov