

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
March 10, 2021 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	
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, Susan Dietz
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt, Jane Ainbinder
North Rose Hill	Robert Iracheta
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Penny Sweet, Mayor
- Jay Arnold, Deputy Mayor
- Kurt Triplett, City Manager
- Amy Falcone, Councilmember
- Aaron Hussmann, Education and Outreach Specialist

Guests: (all from 7-8pm only)

- Pete Veazey
- Mark Nelson
- Jeff Canin
- Notterholt
- Dieta Hanson
- Ramola Lewis, Norkirk
- Eva
- Mari Bercaw
- Sharon Rodman

7:02pm Introduction

- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order

7:XXpm Public comments

- Not done

7:03pm City of Kirkland State of the City video (excerpt)

- The [full video](#) is available online

7:05pm State of the City feedback and Q&A

- Mayor Penny Sweet and City Manager Kurt Triplett
- Comments from Mayor Sweet
 - Thanks to contributing groups and individuals
 - Acknowledgment of Kirkland volunteers and outreach from community
- Comments from Kurt Triplett
 - Acknowledgement of staff and public efforts
- [Aubry] What is the city’s plan for supporting single-family (SF) neighborhoods?
Specific trigger: the 85th Station Area plan
 - [Sweet] Huge question! Transportation issues, etc.
 - Our intention is to approach it in much the same way as we approached annexation: lots of outreach, lots of conversation
 - [Triplett] Our focus for many years has been on controlling growth, putting it in targeted areas—not intensely up-zoning SF areas
 - The 85th St. Station Area plan is still very much in motion, lots of questions still to answer
 - [Aubry] So I can confirm to my neighbors that there’s not a big effort to up-zone in SF areas? [Triplett] True
- [Iracheta] Is there any visibility to public event planning, such as the 4th of July parade?
 - [Sweet] We will not be able to have 30K people downtown in July. But we do foresee events later this year. Looking toward an “end of COVID” event in late summer or fall ... Maybe something like the Cross-Kirkland Corridor (CKC) events with station stops
- [Iracheta] How do I get you to our NA meetings?
 - [Sweet] I go to lots of meetings! Ping me
- [Story] Is there a written summary of the *State of the City* video contents?
 - [Sweet] We should be able to provide a transcript.
 - [Triplett] We have a [summary proclamation](#) as well as a transcript.
- [Story] What is the status of the CKC connector bridge?
 - [Triplett] Most of the construction will happen off-site, with assembly in spring of 2022. You’ll see some construction (footings, etc.) in 2021. It’s fully funded and underway!
 - [Sweet] The old train rails are coming out, all the way up to the Redmond connection.
- [Jim (“Jeff Canin”)] Vacancies, business failures
 - [Triplett] We’re working on ways to attract new and replacement businesses. We split CARES Act money into multiple pots: grants, Shop Local initiative, and other supports for local business. We will be helping businesses connect with any resources that come from the American Rescue Plan Act that just passed.
 - [Falcone] Lots of community support for businesses, including restaurants and businesses outside of the city core

- [Arnold] Ask your local businesses if they're using Chamber of Commerce [Startup425](#) resources
- [Gilbert] Seattle has a major homeless challenge, and Kirkland does not. Why?
 - [Sweet] We do have a significant challenge on the Eastside.
 - [Falcone] Homelessness isn't as visible in Kirkland, but we have many people sleeping in cars and experiencing homelessness in other ways. We have many support services, including the women and family shelter. I expect that we will see this problem get worse before it gets better.
 - [Gilbert] What about the intransigent homeless, mentally ill, etc., who want to camp in the park?
 - [Triplett] It's a mix of luck and policy/programs. Seattle seems so much more dire partly as a matter of proportion. One of the good stories of the Eastside is compassion and extraordinary contribution from churches and non-profits. Our council determined some time ago not to criminalize homelessness, but instead connect people to services. We've been fortunate that most people we contact are willing to engage. Recent case law suggests that it is illegal to deny someone access to public land, so ordinances that simply try to prohibit public camping are not viable.
 - [Arnold] We do have a [Tent City](#) that moves around; was recently across from City Hall (moved a few days ago, perhaps to Kenmore?).
 - [Story, in chat] I think it's important to differentiate between chronic homeless and "temporary" homeless. It seems like Seattle has more of the former but the Eastside has more of the latter?
- [Nahon] Where do we stand on reopening facilities?
 - [Sweet] We are following state protocols closely. Kirkland residents are on the whole very compliant. We do not have any firm dates for reopening.
 - [Triplett] We will continue to adhere closely to state and county public health standards.
- [Hunt] Concern in Market neighborhood for increased density, and its impact on safety
 - [Sweet] We did intentionally add housing options such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to increase density, in response to issues of affordability. Yes, it adds to neighborhood density, but it also allows people to stay in their properties and be independent.
 - [Arnold] Around $\frac{3}{4}$ of people who work in Kirkland live elsewhere. We want to improve that. Also, we want to support people aging in place in their housing.
 - [Hunt] We observe that the "missing middle" changes are affecting different neighborhoods in different ways. An example is people building a detached ADU (DADU) and then simply using it as a house extension, not adding to the housing supply.
- [Hunt] How are we managing open/green spaces as we move forward?
 - [Sweet] Great question. We're certainly trying to maintain a balance, partly through innovation like putting a park on top of a Kirkland Urban building.

- [Triplett] We will be launching an update to our parks and open space plan around June. There will be outreach and many opportunities for community to engage. We recognize that we have decent capacity in large parks, but we do have a deficit of neighborhood parks (“pocket parks”). The new Totem Lake park is a \$9M investment.
- [Mackenzie] [Amusing cartoon squeaks from malfunctioning computer audio.]
- [Blanchard] Closing remarks.

7:59pm KAN introductions

- Round the horn

8:06pm Yard Smart Rain Rewards

- Aaron Hussmann, Education and Outreach Specialist
- Free technical assistance and rebate up to \$3K
 - Installation of simple and beautiful projects to manage flow of rainwater from your property
 - Widened this year from Forbes Creek watershed to all of Kirkland
- Goals:
 - Improve water flow
 - Reduce flooding impact
 - Support fish and wildlife
 - Support human health
- “Slow it down, soak it up”
 - Prevent flooding and erosion
 - Naturally filter water
- Program elements
 - Rain gardens (shown to filter 100% of tire contaminant that harms salmon!)
 - Cisterns
 - Native landscaping
- [Program overview](#)
 - Find out if your property is eligible
 - Only properties with downspouts connected to the City’s stormwater drainage system
 - Schedule a free project consultation
 - Choose your Yard Smart project
 - Build your project
 - Claim your rebate
- Q&A
 - [Palmer] If we see water waste discharge that looks improper, how do I report it?
 - 24/7 Spill Hotline: (425) 587-3900
 - [Ainbinder] You mentioned an example garden in Norkirk?
 - Yes, near 1900 4th St.



Connected downspout



Disconnected downspout

8:17 85th Street Station Area plan update

- Joining the working group:
 - Dana Nunnely, North Rose Hill
 - Martin Morgan, South Rose Hill
- Jim Lopez suggested that we form a focus group
- Reaching out to city leadership and letting them know what we're doing
 - Bill hears enthusiasm for big moves at the station area
- Survey, which closed a couple of weeks ago
 - [Iracheta] Have we seen results yet? (no, it's too soon)
 - [Aubry] People in our neighborhood felt that the survey was worded in a slanted way, so don't look for good results

8:45pm Neighborhood Services Coordinator report

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Neighborhood Association access to city Zoom account
 - Available now!
 - Chairs need to return a signed agreement
 - Please do read it ... it has some legal details
 - Karen and others have helped with logistic planning
- Neighborhood Matching Grants
 - In process now
 - Not likely to have them wrapped by the end of the month
 - Most of them are straightforward, continuing past patterns
- Neighborhood Safety Program is underway
 - Panel meetings begin tomorrow
 - Ten projects proposed
 - David will present in April with results
 - Project approval goes to Council on April 20
- "In-Car Dining" program at Marina Park on 2/27/21 was successful

8:33pm Around the horn

- Lakeview: Getting new website launched
- South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails: Big stirring of resident participation, with 85th Station Area and the Houghton Transfer Station issues. 70 people at our bimonthly meeting yesterday! Some pop-up groups forming among the residents for petitions, letter campaigns, grassroots activism ... which is great.
- North Rose Hill: Seeing more involvement from residents. The Madison Project and [the other one at 85th and 132nd] are stirring up participation.
- Everest: Work starting on the Neighborhood Plan Update, with participation coming from diverse resident population.
- Norkirk: Hard to pin down a collective reaction to the 85th Station Area plan; we direct people to the public participation methods. Had a speaker at the last meeting to talk about vaccination. Interested in how other people are stoking participation when we can't do picnics and such.

- Highlands: Next meeting will address zoning, ADUs, housing strategy plan. Some neighbors asking about the usual neighborhood events, and the answer is, no, we're not doing that this year.
- Evergreen Hill: Work on 132nd Square Park is supposed to start in May, but all we have is conceptual drawings from a year ago. Don't know if initial work will close the entire park (just as the good weather comes) or just the stormwater area.
- Market: The neighborhood is quiet, feeling a lack of engagement. We'd love to see more feedback, for example, on the 85th Station Area plan. Weather has been good, so Liz is connecting with lots of people out walking. Lots of conversation about two short-plat projects that involve DADUs: what's going well with that and what doesn't seem right.
[Ken finally got his audio working!] Can Chris give more detail on what the discussion of the 85th Station Area plan was like?
[Chris] Gave a brief summary, will send around the PPT in email. [DONE]
- Juanita: Want to have a public meeting soon! Haven't had one in months. Invested in some uplifting signage. Juanita does feel the impact of sprawl, as all neighborhoods are.
- [Finn Hill] We typically have lots of events, so it's sad not to have them. We've had great success this year with land acquisitions: \$2M for 6 acres next to Big Finn Hill Park. Met with Duwamish folks to discuss reclaiming Denny Creek as salmon-bearing waters.

8:58pm Closing

- Adjourned at 8:58pm
- Next meeting: April 14, 2021