

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
September 8, 2021 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	
Everest	
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair)
Highlands	Karen Story, Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	Liz Hunt, Mark Nelson
Moss Bay	Alex Chen, Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt, Jane Ainbinder
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
- Kimberly Scrivner, Transportation Planner
- Neal Black, City Councilmember
- Rachel Konrady, Surface Water Planner
- Kelli Jones, Surface Water Program Supervisor

Guests:

- None

7:05pm Introduction

- Chair Bill Blanchard called the meeting to order

7:05pm Public comments

- Neal Black announced a 9/11 commemoration event
 - Police and fire honor guard, music, speakers, ceremonial wreath
 - Sat 9/11, 8am, Kirkland City Hall

7:09pm Active Transportation Plan

- Kim Scrivner, presenting
- Background
 - 2009, last update of the Active Transportation Plan
 - 2015, last update of the Transportation Master Plan
 - Definition:
 - Walking
 - Bicycling

- Access to transit
 - Wayfinding, signaling, configuration
 - Accommodation for varied abilities
 - Injuries
 - 62% of fatal and serious injury crashes (2015-2019) are pedestrian (44%) and bicycle (18%)
- Coordination and outreach
 - Three interrelated initiatives:
 - Vision Zero Action Plan
 - Safer Routes to School Action (SRTS) Plans
 - Active Transportation Plan
 - Additional overlap/coordination:
 - Sustainability Master Plan
 - Neighborhood Plans
 - Neighborhood Safety Program
 - Coordination includes outreach, analysis, data renovation, and recommendations
 - Online "Safe and Active Transportation Plan" survey
 - Over 1,000 respondents
 - Summary of results
 - Some things we can't change (weather, hills)
 - Major theme: "personal safety from other roadway users"
- Policy direction and analysis
 - Design for people of all ages and abilities
 - Connections
 - Access to transit
 - Access to activity centers, 10-minute neighborhoods
 - Connections to the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC)
 - Other priorities
 - Equity
 - Overlap with SRTS action plans
 - High crash corridors (Vision Zero)
 - Policy area updates
 - Data collection and signal technology
 - Connected networks
 - Facility design guidelines
 - Bike parking policy
 - Low-cost enhancements
 - Maintenance
- Q&A
 - (Bill) Explain the "safety" category of concern in the survey?
 - Yes, it's very important for us in planning, although it generates relatively low numbers as a priority in the survey
 - (Debbie) Do the plans differentiate e-bikes from bikes?
 - Yes. For example, we've added speed signs on the CKC
- Next steps

- Bicycle network analysis
 - Level of traffic stress (LTS)
 - Presence and quality of bike facilities
 - Number of lanes
 - Posted speed limit
 - Average daily traffic
 - Bicycle network analysis (BNA)
 - Two census blocks are considered connected if there is an “unbroken, low-stress connection”
 - Prioritize by additional measures
 - LTS and crash rates
 - Access to transit, parks, activity centers, CKC
 - Equity and overlay with SRTS priorities
 - Apply policy to facility type designation
- Pedestrian network analysis
 - Complete sidewalk on one side of all principal and minor arterials
 - Complete sidewalk on one side of all school walk route segments of all arterials and collector streets
 - Network analysis
 - Walk access to activity centers
 - Examine connectivity and gaps in the system
 - Where are critical crossings and paths for improvement
 - Improve the top 25 crossings in need of enhancement
- Neighborhood Greenways
 - Select network of residential streets for people of all ages and abilities to feel safe to walk and ride bicycles
 - Low speeds and volumes
 - Signs, pavement markings
 - Traffic control measures
 - Safe crossings of arterials
 - Art
- Implementation plan
 - Prioritization framework for project development
 - Cost estimates for high-priority projects
 - Plan for incremental increase of improvements through existing programs (striping program)
 - Seek opportunities with the Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP)
 - Coordination with SRTS, Vision Zero
 - Seek grants and other opportunities for funding
- Funding
 - Neal: We look for creative opportunities to fund projects, and we look for “shovel-ready” priority projects
 - Kimberly: We do require developers to implement improvements where appropriate

- Rachel Konrady and Kelli Jones presenting
- Definition of surface water and stormwater
 - Goal is for the system to mimic how water naturally moves through porous ground
- Goals:
 - Reduce flooding
 - Improve water quality
 - Maintain infrastructure
 - Improve stream, habitat, and wildlife conditions
- Master Plan
 - 2014, last update (update every 5-10 years)
 - Timeline
 - April 2021: kickoff
 - July-Oct: Solicityen feedback
 - Nov-July 2022: Developo draft plan
 - Aug-Nov 2022: Solicit feedback
 - Nov-Dec 2022: Adoption through Council
 - Engagement
 - Invite us to present at your Neighborhood meeting
 - Email us
 - Vist our [website](#) and submit comments
- Q&A
 - (Debbie) Can you speak to groundwater vs. surface water? We don't hear about it that much around here, as one does in other areas (e.g., Texas, Arizona)
 - Our focus is cleaning surface water before it reaches aquifers (groundwater)
 - We make sure to use “deep infiltration” (30, 40, 50+ feet where necessary) to ensure that we don't interfere with aquifers
 - (Debbie) Do you have a program for “adoption” or private stewardship of waterways?
 - No, but we'll take that as a suggestion!
 - (Jane) We had an incident this year with contaminated drinking water ...
 - Clean water supply is not our department, happy to refer you to the appropriate person in Public Works
 - (Liz) How are we doing with handling stormwater and surface water? We are behind on other initiatives (e.g., tree canopy)
 - Much of our infrastructure is aging and/or undersized, so yes, it's a challenge
 - Kirkland is retrofitting (e.g., 132nd Square Park) and using grant funding to do the work
 - We are being successful in our larger projects

7:56pm Candidate Forum

- Bea Nahon presenting
- KANdidate Forum 😊

- Four seats on the ballot
 - Two contested, two not = six candidates
- Committee has been developing a plan for the forum
 - The City cannot take any role in election or candidacy activities
 - But we can use the City's Zoom account, so long as we remain neutral and the City cannot promote the event
- Each neighborhood should reach out individually to residents to advertise the event
- Timing
 - Ballots drop into mail on October 12, so the forum should happen before that
 - Possible dates:
 - **September 30**
 - October 12
 - October 7 (Seahawks are playing that night)
 - Call for comments or objections to the first two dates: October 12 conflicts with the Houghton Neighborhood meeting
 - So, September 30 is the date, time TBD but likely to be 7pm
- (Chris) SRH/BT is having its own candidate forum Tue 9/15, 7pm, in case you can't make the other date

8:06pm 85th Station Area Plan

- Liz Hunt presenting
- KAN task force (incl. Bill, Liz, and Ken) has been meeting and discussing
- Welcoming community members to the task force
 - **Contact Bill if interested in getting involved**
- Background
 - New bus rapid transit (BRT) station, pushed out by a year or more, but still coming
 - Impact on four neighborhoods: NRH, SRH/BT, Everest, Highlands
- Latest developments
 - Up-zoning decisions delayed until later this year
 - Revised "June alternative" limits presented to City Council, with reduced up-zone limits (and there is still a "no action" alternative as well)
 - New analysis ongoing of:
 - Fiscal impacts
 - Community benefits
 - Transportation impacts
 - "Phased Planned Action Ordinance:" a separate deliberation (November?) addressing issues of the Lee Johnson property, separated from the main planning
 - There was talk of a "community open house in the Fall," but it's not an any formal schedule that she's seen
- Where is the vision?
 - Are there creative visions that are not being entertained or addressed? (Example: putting a transit lane down the middle of 85th)

- Crossings of I-405
 - NE 85th is already overloaded as an I-405 crossing, while Totem Lake has three crossings
 - Is there any other way to approach this?
- Next steps, questions
 - (Bill) This is a huge impact on Kirkland. We have an opportunity for some really creative thinking, and that's being pushed aside.
 - If you know someone who would be passionate about this, please have them contact Bill
 - (Mark S.) Is there a definition of what a "household" is, in the "bookend" statistics?
 - (Liz) I believe it's housing units.
 - (Mark S.) I really feel that Google pressure is driving a short schedule and hope that our City staff and elected officials will not bow to such pressure
 - (Bill) Historically, Kirkland lost Costco headquarters to Issaquah and don't want that to happen again
 - (Debbie) What counts as "improvements" in these plans?
 - (Liz) Varied and affordable housing. Some of that is driven by the heights allowed, as that triggers various requirements. There is no school space specified in the plans, so perhaps putting some school space in the building areas. Parks, other amenities, are considered in the "community benefits" category.
 - (Bill) Somehow, density is supposed to solve some traffic issues, and that doesn't necessarily make sense. Perhaps establishing alternate routes to 85th?
 - (Bea) Let's remember to adhere to KAN's priorities and deliberated values, e.g., affordable housing
 - (Liz) Yes. And pay attention to how things like "affordable housing" are defined, when added jobs are high-income software jobs
 - (Chris) Where possible, we need to leverage the Neighborhood Plans and the update process for them. Unfortunate that the 85th Station Area Plan was developed after the update process for key neighborhoods (including Rose Hill, North and South).

8:32pm Neighborhood Coordinator Updates

- David Wolbrecht presenting
- Broken water main
 - A private contractor inadvertently separated a valve that they were planning to connect to
 - The situation could have led to serious injury due to the pressure involved, so lucky that no one was seriously hurt
 - 200K gallons contaminated (1/3 of an Olympic swimming pool)
 - City is exploring insurance claims, recovery
 - Thank you to everyone for helping to spread the word in the emergency situation

- Public notification process
 - (Liz) Since it wasn't a direct threat to life, it wouldn't have triggered a county alert system; it was simply a boil advisory.
 - (David) Yes, and we are considering what it would take to have a better notification system
- "Welcome to Kirkland" and neighborhood signage
 - Planning to replace older, worn city-owned signs
 - Expect to replace in kind, but we're considering minor improvements (slogan, etc.)
 - Signs prioritized by visual inspection, 15 signs, highest-to-lowest
 - (Debbie) Many people really like the signs as they are
 - (Bill) Does this involve the neighborhood signs? Because Finn Hill doesn't have one ...
 - (David) Part of the process will be considering new signs where they are warranted
- 9/11 Ceremony
 - <See Neal Black's announcement at beginning of the meeting>
- [City Hall for All](#)
 - Sat 9/18/21
 - Featured speaker in the morning (Richardson), historical perspective
 - Equity planning forum: how to work equity perspectives into existing planning processes, chaired by Jim Lopez
 - Register on Eventbrite, to ensure proper facility planning
- Neighborhood meetings
 - In person? Online? Using city facilities?
 - KAN: vote by hand: [virtual for October](#)
 - [Please email David and let him know if you are planning to use city facilities for a Neighborhood Association meeting](#)
- Neighborhood Safety Projects
 - David will be sending info soon
 - [Start thinking now about what projects you may consider submitting](#)
 - [Email David if you'd like for him to come to an NA meeting and present on NSP](#)
 - (Mark) What statistics are available, to help us consider which projects will compete well in the process?
 - (David) I'll work on getting some links out to the group
- Board updates
 - (emailed by David [after the meeting](#))
 - [It sounded like there had been some changes to your Boards. Please let me know if you have any changes to your Boards, so we can keep our records up to date!](#)

8:48pm Roundtable

- Moss Bay
 - Neighborhood Plan Update process is well underway

- Since Moss Bay includes some key downtown facilities, we encourage everyone to take a look at the plan update and weigh in during public meetings
- Next meeting: Sept 17, with Council candidate introductions, then presentation on the Neighborhood Plan Update
- Evergreen
 - 132nd Square Park construction is a big deal this summer!
 - Lost our NSP representative: moved to Spokane
 - Neighborhood signage is a can of worms for our neighborhood; we already have a lot of Kingsgate signs around and got pushback when we suggested changing any of them
- Highlands
 - We have an entirely new board, though no meetings lately
 - People have wanted a Halloween parade in the past, which could work even during COVID times, in Spinney Homestead Park
- Lakeview
 - Not a lot of resident participation in the Neighborhood Association
 - Street racing has been a problem this summer; working with police
- Norkirk
 - Power outage tonight! All black to the north of Janet's house ...
 - Did a Lego "treasure hunt" for residents, presented on the NA website
 - Jane working with Kimberly and Kristen about doing a Neighborhood Greenway survey, snaking through Norkirk to Heritage Park
- SRH/BT
 - Next mtg (Sept) will be virtual; the Nov public mtg is planned for hybrid in-person and livestream
 - Hot topics have been 85th Station Area Plan and Houghton Transfer Station plans
- Market
 - No summer activities
 - Power outages and lots of construction
 - Short plats filed in February and still not done, so there's certainly a backup in the City planning department
- Finn Hill
 - Virtual meetings
 - Green Loop subcommittee focused on improving the trail connectivity around the neighborhood, including land acquisition
 - One plot purchased for \$4.5M, with contributions including the City and Duwamish tribe
- Council (Neal)
 - Good to hear the topics discussed tonight
 - Appreciate KAN's deliberation and activism
 - Important to align vision between Council and residents
 - Considering community response alternatives for mental health and substance abuse incidents
 - Thinking creatively about how to respond to crises

- Available for viewing as part of last Tuesday's meeting
- 85th Station Area Plan hot topics
 - How to address truly affordable housing
 - How to create "third spaces," as we're doing in Totem Lake
 - Coordinating with the school district

9:10pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:11pm
- Next meeting: October 13, 2021