

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
February 9, 2022 Virtual online meeting

Note: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell, Larry Toedtli
Everest	Anna Aubrey
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair)
Highlands	Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods	Leo Gilbert
Lakeview	Mark Still
Market	Liz Hunt, Mark Nelson
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, Communications Program Manager
- Chief Cherie Harris, Kirkland Police Department

Guests:

- Terrie Cleveland, Woodland at Forbes Lake
- Karen Levenson (audio failed, so no check-in)

7:04pm Introduction

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

7:05pm Public comments

- None

7:11pm Kirkland Police

- Chief Harris presenting
- Staffing
 - Focus on increasing diversity on force
 - Recent reduction: retirement and moving to private sector
 - We're staffed at 104 of 108 positions
 - Actively hiring; refer candidates if you know of any
- Resolution R-5434
 - Developing [use-of-force dashboards](#)
 - Developing a crime dashboard
 - Body-worn camera pilot program
 - Community process for input into operational policies
- Demo of draft crime dashboard
 - Crime statistics
 - Arrest statistics
- Demo of draft use-of-force dashboard
- Crime trends
 - Car prowls and property damage are highest
 - Burglaries are down
 - No homicide in last year
 - [Bill] What qualifies as larceny?
 - Many types of theft
 - Includes mail theft
 - Hard to track all the different kinds of theft
- Q&A
 - [Debbie] Is the category of injuries available on the dashboards?
 - Yes.
 - [Leo] What should I do when I see encampments of people experiencing homelessness? I don't want to see bikes being stolen or people walking out of Fred Meyer with full shopping carts
 - You can report concerns on the [Our Kirkland](#) website
 - Officers can contact the person and offer service information and vouchers for services
 - [Anna] Please tell the retiring Lieutenant that we will miss him
 - [Terri Cleveland] Do you ever do "Coffee with a Cop" outreach?
 - We had a strong program until Feb 2020. Did a few open-air things this summer, with low attendance. I expect a return as we emerge from pandemic times
 - For police outreach scheduling, contact [Patti Ball](#)
 - [Chris] On the use-of-force dashboard, what is "point" as a force tactic? I understand all the others
 - "Point" means to deploy a force tactic but not actually use it, such as to point a taser or other weapon. We track that as well
 - [Bea] How do we compare to Seattle, specifically in the response to crimes of theft (package theft, catalytic converters, etc.)?

- We have officers who are dedicated to respond to these crimes, working collaboratively with other agencies, and we have a very good relationship with retail loss prevention personnel. Catalytic converter theft is common across the state, and we’ve had a couple of successful cases. Redmond is encouraging people to etch their equipment for identification.
- [Chief Harris] I appreciate the work we all do for communication and community building in our neighborhoods

7:42pm Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging 5-Year Roadmap

- David Wolbrecht presenting (Jim Lopez unable to attend)
- Overview
 - [DEIB Roadmap](#) introduced on 10/19 alongside Preliminary Executive Findings of DEI Gap Analysis and Recommendation
 - Plan for operationalizing equity gap recommendations, built around “next action” deliverables by quarter
 - Essentially, a work plan for staff
 - Public draft – receiving community input
 - Dynamic, living document anticipated to respond to continued learning and feedback
- Aligned with the *King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan*
 - 18 goals, in six goal areas
 - 67 objectives that define next actions, responsible departments, and timing

- Objective 11.3:
 - How to engage more diverse populations in neighborhood association engagement
 - [Lisa] The sentence about “longer term residents, particularly those that own their home” makes it sound like we intentionally exclude others. It’s been a regular topic at KAN and NAs: how to engage renters and diverse populations. As for “... Staff will help increase the diversity of representation on neighborhood association boards and general membership,” we’d be delighted to have more folks stepping forward!

Specific Objectives

11. City partnerships with community-based organizations contribute to building their internal equity practices and capacities.

11.3 Kirkland's Neighborhood Associations are independent non-profit organizations that serve to enhance the civic life of the Kirkland community. The City recognizes 13 neighborhood association boundaries that encompass the entire geographic area of the City. Neighborhoods are the building blocks of any city, and Kirkland is enriched by these strong civic organizations that work alongside the City to improve the quality of life for everyone in Kirkland. The neighborhood associations are open to all members of the community and often engage longer term residents, particularly those that own their home. Supporting the neighborhood associations in diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts will help foster a Kirkland that is more welcoming. As such, staff will help increase the diversity of representation on neighborhood association boards and general membership.

→ CMO will collaborate with the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods in developing a plan to be implemented by Q4 2022.

- [David] We are still working the wording and welcome suggestions! We do want to recognize existing efforts to honor diversity. Calling out the last point: developing a plan, intended as a collaboration.

- [Bea] Ditto on what Lisa said. All NAs have found that the idea of volunteer participation seems to be less strong in the younger generations these days. We can help by making the organizations more attractive to potential volunteers.
 - [David] Yes, that’s a national trend.
- [Chris] I appreciated the direct language, naming the problem and the intention to make a plan.
- [Terri Cleveland] Please keep in mind elderly renters (such as at Woodland at Forbes Creek retirement community) who would like to be involved
- [Leo] Perhaps we can push some information about KAN and NAs into curriculum for the school district, informing young people about these groups and how they are a mechanism for affecting their society
 - [David] Council has a similar interest in strategic partnership with the schools to nurture civic interest. This is a rough time for schools, of course.
- [Anna] I’d like to see more detail about how staff will partner with us to make changes. And, we’ve lost the ability to enter rental facilities because management is locking the doors; perhaps the city could help us with that?
 - [David] It’s awesome that you walk your newsletter around! Perhaps you could use some NA matching funds for “every door direct” mailings? As for more clarity on the how: it is intended as a true collaboration. Not intended as a mandate, more as a best practices plan development.
 - [Anna] Mailing is too great a budget burden. We need another strategy for reaching residents in locked buildings.
- Objective 16.2:
 - [Mark] Where objective 16.2 states, “... The City shall adopt a policy to compensate community members from underrepresented groups ...,” I recommend that the compensation be made available to the NAs to be applied and disbursed.
 - [David] Good point, and we already have funding mechanisms in place for NAs
 - [Bea] Want to make sure that the wording recognizes that we need to address underlying conditions that affect diversity participation and that the NAs are eager to engage.

16. The City’s Capital Improvement Program includes clear strategies to advance equity, which are informed by underserved communities.

16.2 Soliciting feedback from the community for City programs, policies, and plans is a key characteristic of a transparent and responsive government. However, unintended barriers to participation exist for some community members based on their social, cultural, ethnic, and/or historical experiences. Offering compensation to participants of select processes is one way to decrease barriers to active engagement and participation for those that may need to obtain child care or incur other expenses in order to participate, while also acknowledging the time, energy, and effort in discussing personal experiences that may include painful stories. To support this, the City shall adopt a policy to compensate community members from underrepresented groups who are most likely to not be engaged on a regular and consistent basis in civic life, such as those from lower income communities, people of color, and renters, for providing input from their lived experience.

→ CMO and Finance and Administration will develop a pilot program for implementation by Q2 2022.

- [Larry] Interested in how KAN and NAs would identify who exactly is affected and who would be compensated. Need to have consistent expectations
 - [David] Yes, and it speaks to Bea’s point about the generations and the keepers of organizational knowledge. More to come about how staff will operationalize the objectives.
- [Liz] Does the city have some research they’ve done about how such a program has been done fairly?
 - [David] Puget Sound Regional Council implemented a policy like this, and some other regional bodies are trying it. We’ll certainly look to those examples as we consider how to do it fairly and effectively. Compensation is just one piece of the overall effort to increase diverse engagement.
- [Ken] How much money are we talking about? And would this policy apply to other boards and commissions?
 - [David] The funding is unclear for now. Don’t know how it applies to other boards and commissions.
- [Leo] Compensation is a wonderful idea, to support people who otherwise can’t participate: childcare, taking time off work, etc.
- [Lisa, in chat] Need to define what success looks like for NAs
- Expect to have Jim Lopez at the March meeting to discuss further
- Look at the rest of the [Roadmap](#); we only discussed two of the 67 objectives
- Cultivating civic engagement for young people
 - [Johanna] There are only three high schools in Kirkland, so it’s probably not a district-centered conversation, more about reaching out to the specific teachers responsible for civics curriculum
- [Larry] More state bills are coming up regarding missing middle housing, and I’ve fielded a lot of questions about six-plexes, stacked housing, cottages, ADUs, DADUs, etc. Perhaps we could have more of a citywide presentation rather than addressing the concerns piecemeal at the neighborhood level?
 - [Bill] Yes, it’s a huge issue. Council is focusing a lot on attainable housing. Perhaps we could have someone at the next KAN meeting to talk about zoning.
 - [Larry] Starting with a KAN meeting is fine, but we need to get the discussion out to the residents who have concerns.
 - [Lisa] This reminds me of neighborhood plan updates, where the plans address land use and zoning. The city could take this as an opportunity for education, to help people understand when their own neighborhood plan comes up for update (or they’re questioning the plan update that’s already happened).
 - [Johanna] Example of why education matters: we defined the 132nd Square Park as a “community park” rather than a “neighborhood park,” and that radically affected the future of the park. For example, neighborhood parks don’t usually have ballfields or parking. We lost control of the park.
- [Lisa] Diversity and inclusion are about way more than what we’ve discussed tonight. Neighborhood activities, such as Juanita’s Welcoming events, are where

NAs can really shine. Need to have a lot more discussion with Jim and others to leverage what we do best.

8:37pm Neighborhood Services updates

- David presenting
- Neighborhood Safety Program is still on hold due to staffing gap
- Public hearing this Tuesday for Council considering assuming the powers of a Transportation Benefit District

8:37pm Roundtable

- Finn Hill (Bill)
 - Still working on acquiring properties
- Moss Bay (Bea)
- Market (Ken, Liz)
 - Had a good January meeting
 - Presentation on the tree code, appreciated by attendees
 - Planning a picnic, in response to request from Parks to plan well in advance
 - There's a cottage development planned for Market St., so lots of interest in that
- Lakeview (Mark)
 - No meetings lately
 - Interest in King County converting the La Quinta Inn for housing
- Houghton (Larry, Lisa)
 - Starting to plan our 2022 picnic (post-COVID celebration?)
 - Will advertise the event with direct mail (by postal route distribution) – costs \$200-300 for mailing a couple thousand units
 - La Quinta Inn conversion is also of interest to our residents
 - Houghton Community Council sundowning is still a hot topic
 - Getting a remodel for Fire Station 42 this year
 - **Active Transportation Plan early draft is open for comments**; get to it before it goes to the full draft version (by March 11)
- Everest (Anna)
 - Neighborhood (with the exception of Laurel Park) is pretty involved; just finished the Neighborhood Comprehensive Plan
 - Will begin planning picnic at March public meeting
- Evergreen (Johanna)
 - Getting a new fire station
 - At 132nd Square Park, we have concerns about how stormwater is being handled; 20' of gravel doesn't seem sufficient, especially in light of recent landslides
 - New I-405 interchange at 132nd St.: If using the southbound express lane and wanting to use that new exit (or 124th St., for that matter), you have to get out of the express lane before Hwy 522. That's ridiculous. Should be

able to transition out around 160th St. instead. Trying to escalate the issue to WA DOT.

- SRH/BT (Chris)
 - Our big three topics have been fairly quiet lately (85th Station Area Plan, Totem Bowl development, Houghton Transfer Station)
 - Planning on tree code and sign code presentations at March public mtg; focus on enforcement of tree code violations (
- Juanita (Leo)
 - Planning the next neighborhood picnic
 - (Audio breaking up after that)

8:58pm Closing

- Adjourned at 8:58pm
- Next meeting: March 9, 2022