

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
March 8, 2023 Hybrid meeting: online and Peter Kirk room

Note: Action items are highlighted in **yellow**.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Anna Aubrey
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN Chair), Scott Morris
Highlands	Launa
Juanita Neighborhoods	Jennifer Salem (sub for Leo)
Lakeview	Aaron Jacobson
Market	Ken MacKenzie
Moss Bay	Jean Large, Bea Nahon (left early)
Norkirk	Sarah (last name?)
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Chris Kagen

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- Don Robinson, Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator
- Carly Pacekonis, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Guests:

- Deirdre Johnson, SRH/BT
- Keleigh Sharp, Friends of Taylor Fields (SRH/BT)
- Prossy (last name?), Totem Lake
- Daniel Kruse, SRH/BT
- Sheila Cloney, representing selected downtown business owners
- Sue Contreras, Moss Bay
- Bonnie McLeod, Moss Bay property owner
- Keleigh Sharp, SRH/BT, representing Friends of Taylor Field
- Pierce Sharp, SRH/BT (minor)
- Abi (sp?) Gupta, SRH/BT

7:05pm Introduction

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

7:13pm Public comments

- None

7:14pm [Office of Emergency Management](#)

- Provides information for readiness, response and recovery for an all hazards approach

- The office works to increase the City's capabilities, empower the community to be prepared, and prepare employees.
- Employee preparation
 - Cascade Rising: an earthquake scenario exercise program
- Community Preparedness
 - "Let's Chat" series on KirklandTelevision on YouTube
 - Videos to watch, to prepare for emergencies
 - Public Educations Sessions are available for sign ups via www.kirklandparks.net
 - Presentations for Large Groups of +15 attendees once per calendar year
- CERT
 - Community Emergency Response Training
 - Popular program
 - Medical and strategic disaster response training
 - www.kirklandwa.gov/CERT
 - CERT Continuing Education opportunities for people who've completed initial CERT training
 - Some opportunities online
 - Some opportunities for in person training
- Other emergency training
 - Go to www.kirklandparks.net
 - Select the "Emergency Preparedness" tab
 - March 14th there will be a Pet Preparedness training, sign up if you're interested
- KECT
 - Kirkland Emergency Communications Team
 - Licensed HAM radio operators
- Booth at summer markets
- [Ham radio licensing](#)
- [Survey](#) currently running until the end of March, we're looking for your input!
- For additional information go to www.kirklandwa.gov/KirklandEM
- Questions
 - Pet preparedness?
 - Carly gave advice on having backup plans and food reserves
 - Evacuation: shelters may not accept animals. The City has anticipated the need to open a human and animal shelter.
 - Ham radio training?
 - Currently pointing to online resources, the American Radio Relay League
 - Open to increased interest from residents, could spin up more resources
 - How to accommodate children who are at school during a disaster?
 - School districts have plans and support services. The City is willing to partner to support preparedness efforts!

7:32pm Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS)

- Keleigh Sharp presenting
- Friends of Taylor Fields
 - Opposing the site selection and SEPA process for NERTS
- History
 - Promise for 30 years from King County to close the Houghton transfer station
 - MOU that promised no expansion at the existing site
 - Many issues: pollution, traffic, waste spillage, rodent infestation, odors, etc.
- Site selection
 - More than 100 8+ acre sites were available for investigation
 - Only four moved forward, and 2 were in SRH/BT neighborhood
- Existing location
 - Hundreds of homes
 - Proposed storage of containers close to homes
- Location
 - The stated goals of the facility include moving the site out of residential areas, and serving the northeast area
 - The Houghton site does neither of these
- “No critical areas identified”
 - The surface water and ground water contain arsenic, vinyl chloride (carcinogens)
 - Disturbance of the site could spread contamination along the downhill flow path
- This facility should be sited in industrial zoning
- **Contact Facebook: Friends of Taylor Field**
 - For more information
 - For a copy of the organization’s letter to their lawyer
- [Kruse] Been in our house since 1978, and the County has often represented their intention to close the station. You can smell the dump when you walk by it.
- Q: Where’s the city council on this?
 - We haven’t gotten much response.
- [Deirdre] Larry Toedtli, last month, introduced information that the city was purchasing the Houghton Park & Ride lot from Metro. That lot is now out of consideration for NERTS. But Redmond does not have a site under consideration. The fourth original site on Willows was never viable. There is suitable property in Redmond that King County already owns! Site selection has not been fair and transparent. They need to revisit the process, add more sites, and ensure that at least one is in Redmond.
- Q: Who should one speak to about this?
 - King County.
 - City Manager Kurt Triplett did write a letter insisting that the siting process should include a Redmond site.
- Q: Why is the county concentrating on Kirkland?

- Kirkland is continuing to issue residential development permitting around the Houghton site. There is constant truck flow and frequent speeding on 60th St.
- Jessica Greenway, the first SRH./BT NA president, talked about how the county had intended to create a site in Woodinville, but then the county suddenly sold that land and stopped that plan. No explanation.
- Getting the message out
 - Engage with Friends of Taylor Field
 - Need media coverage and publicity
- At annexation time, our Council said it would give us a louder voice in the region. Where is that louder voice now?
- [Jean] Alternative view: We in Kirkland are creating trash. If we want less trash impact, then make less trash. I am delighted to have a transfer station in a convenient location. The original plan to extend the existing station to the north looks to me like a reasonable plan. Maybe there should be another station in Redmond, but that doesn't mean that's a solution for Kirklanders.
- [Pierce] Expanding the Houghton site would greatly affect a friend of mine.
- [Abi Gupta] Kids walk on the roads where the large trucks roll. Woodinville has issued a strong statement opposing the Woodinville site. We haven't seen a similar statement from Kirkland.
- [Launa] Has there been a petition?
 - [Keleigh] The petition didn't get far, so we engaged a lawyer.
 - We get a lot of response about why the Houghton location is a good site
- 21-day comment period is coming up
 - Perhaps KAN could submit an opinion about the transparency and fairness of the site selection process?
 - [Bill] At the least, KAN can disseminate information

7:20pm Interim KAN Co-Chair discussion

- Bill moderating
- Aaron has volunteered to take co-chair position
- Election for mid-session appointment
 - Motion by Bill, seconded by Lisa
 - Passed

8:05pm Park Lane discussion

- Bill presenting
- Officially, KAN has no position
- Do we want to discuss Park Lane?
 - Vote: Yes
- Do we want to form an official position?
 - Vote: No
- Proposed: KAN has no official position on Park Lane
 - Moved by Bill, seconded by Aaron
 - Passed

- [Jennifer] Check with Leo for his opinion
- [Sue] Why does KAN not take a position on issues that affect the neighborhoods?
 - [Bill] My view: KAN disseminates information
 - There's value in having discussion without taking a position
 - Moss Bay is having a discussion of this at their next NA meeting
 - KAN has had speakers on both sides at previous meetings
- What are next steps?
 - Council has projected making a decision in July

8:15pm Community Appreciation Night

- KAN gets the honor of picking two honorees
 - April 26, 6pm, at Kirkland Performance Center
- Leadership award
 - Liz Hunt, Chair of Market NA
 - Moved by Bill, seconded by Anna
 - Passed
- Above and Beyond the Call of Duty award
 - Ken MacKenzie, for data selection and sifting
 - Chris Kagen, for Secretary performance
 - Moved by Bill: Award to both. No second.
 - Passed

8:25pm Neighborhood Services

- Don presenting
- Future use of the [Houghton Village](#) property
 - The City has purchased the Houghton Village Shopping Center to support a variety of potential public purposes, such as affordable housing, school space, non-profit program space, arts and cultural space, and City recreational program space
 - The Council is considering the potential to create a master plan as allowed by the current zoning to create a five-story mixed use building to accomplish these public purposes
 - One public meeting has been held
 - Two upcoming small-group meetings: 3/14, 3/27
 - Register at the [city site](#)
 - The meetings will not be recorded; summations are presented in a memo to Council
 - Example from first meeting: concern for the aesthetic of the building (appearance), and community use of a facility (“third space” for community groups)
 - Council has allotted two years to decide how to develop the property
 - The discussion can include interim uses of the property
 - We have a civic responsibility to design and manage public property
- [Bill] What's cooking in City Council?
 - These topics tonight—Houghton Village, Park Lane—are taking up a lot of consideration right now

- State of the City
 - Expect Mayor Sweet and City Manager Triplett at the next KAN meeting

8:30pm Roundtable

- Everest (Anna)
 - Next meeting is March 28, by Zoom
 - Brought a hardcopy newsletter for display
 - Volunteers deliver them
 - Brand new resident was astonished to see it
 - Walter Jacard (spelling?) will be new KAN representative
- Finn Hill (Scott)
 - Hoping to engage people on the Comprehensive Plan process
 - Planning trail tours through the neighborhood, focused on fauna and flora
 - Discussion enhancing trail signs in O.O. Denny Park and St. Edwards State Park, in partnership with U.W.
 - DennyFest planning underway
 - Dog Show/Parade
 - Possible magician (seeking a sponsor)
 - Kid activities
 - The Finn Hillbillies band
- Juanita (Jennifer)
 - Continuing to advocate for the Juanita walking trail
 - Welcome event in September
 - Want to schedule a clean-up party, seeking a place that has lots of trash to pick up and having trouble finding one
 - Took down holiday lights
- Market (Ken)
 - Meeting next Wednesday, with usual full slate of spring stuff
 - Neighborhood garage sale in April or May
 - Park Funding Exploratory Committee discussion
 - Aquatic/Recreation center consideration:
 - Rehab the North Kirkland Community Center
 - Build out at Houghton Park & Ride site
 - No consensus on location, facility, or cost ... but some good discussion and discovery of ideas
- Evergreen (Johanna)
 - City has announced a ribbon cutting on April 1, but doubtful that most work will be done, though she didn't get direct notice
- Lakeview (Aaron)
 - Will need a new KAN rep, if he's becoming co-chair
- Norkirk
- SRH/BT (Chris)
 - NERTS taking up a lot of discussion these days
 - Wondering what the City will do now that Google has backed out of their 85th St. campus
 - Active forwarding of position statements to our mailing list

- Houghton (Lisa)
 - New leadership coming online
 - Houghton Village is a big topic
- Highlands (Launa)
 - Easter egg hunt upcoming
 - Seeking more residents to get involved
 - Some neighborhoods are back to in-person
 - [Chris] We had clear feedback from residents that we should return to in-person only if we can provide hybrid option
- Moss Bay (Jeanne Large)
 - Park Lane is on the agenda for our next neighborhood meeting
 - Lake Washington Schools Foundation fundraiser is on March 23
- Totem Lake (Prossy)
 - (Bill is lobbying Prossy to become a KAN rep ...)
 - Construction on 120th street is a mess

9:00pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:01pm
- Next meeting April 12, 2023