

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
June 12, 2024 Hybrid meeting: [online](#) and Peter Kirk room

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

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Gary Greenberg
Everest	Walter Jaccard
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	Bill Blanchard (KAN chair)
Highlands	Gary Bustinduy
Juanita Neighborhoods	Margaret Bouniol
Lakeview	
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Liz Hunt
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Deirdre Johnson, Jim Hoff, Chris Kagen (KAN secretary)

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
- Daniel Lazo, Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator
- Jim Lopez, Deputy City Manager
- Jay Arnold, City Council

Guests:

- None

7:04pm Introduction

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

7:06pm Public comment

- None

7:06pm Homelessness

- Jim Lopez presenting
- [Resolution R-5631](#) addressing homelessness
 - Preparing for issues before they happen
 - Want to be prepared in the case that we have issues similar to other cities in the Seattle area
 - Today, if Kirkland experience what Tukwila or Burien is experiencing, staff do not have resources, policy direction, or existing procedures to

- timely resolve the situation in a way staff anticipate Kirkland community would expect
 - Homelessness in Kirkland today: some encampment, some long-term parking
- Draft community engagement plan
 - Comprehensive engagement effort
 - Holistic learning and dialogue
 - Diverse feedback collection methods: field interviews, focus groups, community meetings, online engagement
 - Interdepartmental team
 - Adapt able and flexible
 - Staff recommendation: approve fiscal note to implement the R-5631 community engagement plan
- Timeline
 - Foundation, Discovery, Diplomacy, Decision, Follow-up
 - Currently entering Discovery: want opinions, public input
- Organizing event in July (might have more than one)
 - “World Café” style: discussion at tables
 - Each table has a staff member or councilmember
 - Rotate to tables with specific topics
 - KAN and neighborhood associations can help drive attendance, get the most interested parties into the room
- Town hall
 - Present the draft plan
 - Public comment
 - KAN and NAs can help drive attendance
- Q&A
 - [Gary B] Is there a single reference for the laws related to homelessness?
 - We do have some material on the landing page, especially in the [FAQ](#)
 - [Liz] The city is already doing a lot to address homelessness: crisis care, community resources. What percentage are we toward a robust solution? 5%? 20%?
 - I like that you’re asking about the whole system. The Homeless Assistance and Resources Team (HART) team and other resources are underway, but we’ll see more investment by the county and the city in the coming years. The crisis care center, for example, is a private entity that answers to King County.
 - [Bea] Thank you for asking KAN to help mobilize the community. When do you expect to have a calendar of the events?
 - We’ll stay close with you on that. We should have the July organizing event details soon. We should prepare a packet for distribution.
 - [Bill] What would be the ideal role of KAN and NAs?

- Amplification of the message. And help with your own input as a group and as individuals. This issue will touch and galvanize people in every neighborhood of the city.

7:40pm Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB)

- Daniel Lazo and Erika Mascorro presenting
- Introduction: Erika
 - Self-identifies as Chicana (Mexican-American)
 - Background in intergovernmental work around environment, transportation, etc.
- The complexity of DEI work
 - Many city departments deal strongly with facts
 - DEI work often plays on thoughts, beliefs, feelings
 - We need to have conversations in a safe space; speak up and we'll work through in a spirit of safety and sensitivity
 - [Gary B.] Are we adding complexity to city functions, where it may not be necessary?
 - Yes, it adds effort to bring community around the table, and add tasks to how we get things done.
 - This room of KAN community leaders is one of privilege, and not representing the demographics of this city.
 - [Gary B.] I find the assumption that a white male is prejudiced to be offensive.
 - [Joanna] I can use help with engaging people with diverse cultural heritage and practices. We're not trying to exclude people, but we don't necessarily know how to include them.
 - [Margaret] What groups are considered as needing to be engaged? Is it about race, culture, gender, ...? (Answer: All of the above and more. We will discuss "priority populations" including BIPOC, LGBTQI+, seniors, youth, people experiencing homelessness, renters, people with accessibility challenges, immigrants, multimodal travelers.
 - [Gary G.] The city council is just as non-diverse as KAN. How do we all move forward from that?
 - [Bea] This KAN room used to be almost entirely white males. That has improved. We in this room bring a lot of diversity that isn't readily visible. I feel that some of the wordsmithing we're doing in the Comp Plan verges on silly, like trying to eliminate the words "neighborhood" and "single-family home."
 - [Deirdre and Jim H.] I'd like to see Kirkland move to city council positions by geographical districts, to increase representation across the city and perhaps boost opportunity for diverse candidates. We see a changing population that is not being represented. In SRH/BT, we have a history of recruiting people to our NA and board, but the more "priority population" folks tend to

drop away after a short time. We need help and training in how to recruit and retain people.

- Kirkland's DEIB goals and work
 - The Kirkland Initiative
 - Cultivate civic engagement
 - 20 participants per cohort, 8-week duration, 3hrs/week
 - Recruiting for boards, commissions, KAN, NAs, other leadership roles
 - [Jay] Everyone in KAN knows how to make their voices heard. Many other people don't. We want to increase opportunity and access for people who we're not hearing from today.
 - [Erika] The Kirkland Initiative is open to all, and we also want to strongly encourage people of the priority populations to engage. That could ultimately drive more diversity into committees, boards, and the council.
 - City values
 - Driven by city council, through community conversations
 - Developing a community where everyone feels valued, heard, included, belonging
 - Resolutions have been passed to define Kirkland as a welcoming community, included specifically addressing black community
 - Roadmap
 - We have a [roadmap](#) for action and improvement
 - Goal IV, Community Partnerships
 - Directive 11.3: Diversity Representation on Neighborhood Association Boards and General Membership
 - Guidance to develop a plan for implementation, including measures of success
 - DEIB training
 - Who do you see in your respective neighborhood groups taking such training? Is the training for KAN, NA officers, NA boards, NA membership?
 - What's the right container? Small, neighborhood-specific groups? Large virtual meetings?
 - [Bea] Some people have historically responded poorly to opportunities phrased as "education" or "training"; maybe position opportunities as engagement in other terms

8:33pm Planning Commission public hearing

- [Ken] The May 23 hearing was the last opportunity for public in-person comment on changes to the neighborhood plans as they are being folded into the Comprehensive Plan
 - Written feedback is still open through July
 - Ken's written feedback seemed to disappear into nowhere. Liz and Margaret said the same.

- [Liz] That May hearing was difficult. We had only a few days to go through the hundreds of pages and prepare. The hearing was taken up mostly with Juanita.
- [Ken] This Comp Plan update is huge, compared to previous cycles. It's a massive revision. While some neighborhood sections may look like they got minor revision, the big changes are in places like the all-new Land Use section.
- Adam Weinstein had said to KAN that there would be a process for getting neighborhood feedback and amendment requests addressed. It didn't happen.
 - Jim Lopez to connect Bill, Ken, Liz, and anyone else with Adam and/or other staff to discuss the process

8:45pm Upcoming State of the City

- Bill Blanchard presenting
- Erika provided availability dates for the mayor
 - Mid-September is the target
 - Historically delivered to Chamber of Commerce and then separately to KAN
 - Chamber of Commerce delivery has already been done: May 2, 2024
 - September delivery would be an update
 - September collides with back-to-school, other busy calendar
- Should we make this an event?
 - KAN as sponsor/organizer for a larger audience invitation?
 - Provide a meal?
 - It's usually attached to a regular KAN meeting ...
- Possibility: Next year, turn this into a city event, perhaps at the KPC
 - KAN could be a sponsor, help to fill the house

8:55pm Roundtable

- Everest (Walter)
 - Planning to try social functions, as Finn Hill does
- Evergreen Hill (Joanna)
 - Many of our smaller neighborhood groups do their own picnics, so we typically don't do one
 - People identify more with their HOAs than with the neighborhood association
- Finn Hill
 - Planning DennyFest this summer
 - Working on the Green Loop development; getting funds from King County as well
- Highlands (Gary B.)
 - Eager for support and materials for engaging diverse community
 - Planning a summer picnic
- Houghton (Gary G.)
 - Good public mtg: homelessness, the PCC site, traffic
 - Planning the "Summer Soiree" (picnic) at NW University campus

- Juanita (Margaret)
 - Where do you find the online permit for a neighborhood picnic?
 - Aaron sent out the KAN demographics survey; **Bill to add to next mtg agenda**
- Lakeview
- Market
 - Good neighborhood mtg, with police presenting
 - Tons of sewer work tearing up our neighborhood
 - Kirkland is shrinking! Latest census shows 1% decline from year 2000, and decline in registered voters
- Moss Bay (Bea)
 - The pedestrian scramble is now open again to cars (ped improvements not quite done yet)
 - More changes coming to the I-405/3rd St. interchange
- Norkirk (Janet)
 - We haven't been on top of the Comp Plan changes, need to catch up
 - Planning summer picnic
 - Thinking of writing a newsletter to hand out at the picnic
- North Rose Hill
- South Rose Hill//BT (Jim H.)
 - Would love to have city support in mailings to the neighborhood, as it's awfully expensive
 - Hoping to participate in an opening event in August for the short-term use of the Houghton Park & Ride
 - Good board recruitment lately, with three new members (two non-white, two young)
- Totem Lake

9:07pm Closing

- Introduction of Daniel Lazo
 - New Sr. Community Engagement Coordinator
 - Moved here 30 days ago, into Moss Bay neighborhood
 - Background in graphic design
 - “Often the youngest, brownest, queerest person in the room”
- Adjourned at 9:10pm
- Next meeting is September 11, 2024
 - Typically, no KAN mtgs in July/Aug