

MINUTES

Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods

October 9, 2024

In attendance: Deirdre Johnson (SRH/BT Alt), Janet Pruitt (Norkirk), Walter Taccard (Everest), Ken Mackenzie (Market), Bea Nahon (Moss Bay), Leo Gilbert (Juanita), Margaret Bouniol (Juanita), Dietmar Schimmel (Houghton – alt), Gary Greenberg (Houghton), Bill Blanchard (Finn Hill), Gary Bustinduy (Highlands), Jim Hoff - virtually (?), Jim Lopez (City of Kirkland), Daniel Lazo (City of Kirkland), Lt. Troy Knafla (Kirkland PD)

Not in attendance:

Meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Blanchard at 7:10p

Introductions and Public Comment: There was no public comment

City Updates: Daniel Lazo provided updates on a variety of events.

“A Town Called Houghton” interpretative sign dedication ceremony – occurred 10/8. Marker has been placed on the CKC just above Terrace Park.

There was a brief discussion of City Hall 4 All. Ideas on what worked and what could use improvement for next year.

African Fashion Show on 10/12 at PKCC

Wheels and Reels Movie Series at Juanita Beach Park. Next up is 10/12, followed by 11/23, 2/22, 3/22, 4/12

Pee Wee Monster Bash at NKCC – 10/25. Volunteers are needed

Dia de los Muertos – PKCC on 10/26

Green Kirkland Week. 6 volunteer events throughout the city between 10/18 – 10/26

AED ribbon cutting at Crestwoods Park. Brief discussion on the potential for vandalism, theft of these devices. Jim Lopez said he’d look into it.

Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE) Certification Series. Sessions on 11/12 and 12/4.

Neighborhood Safety Program Kick off on 10/22 from 6p-7p in Peter Kirk Room. Each NA needs to send at least one representative

COMP Plan: Discussion on what points we’d like to present to city council. A full KAN consensus would be beneficial, but there’s a good chance that not all neighborhoods will come to agreement on all points.

Bea spoke to Mayor Curtis’ statement during public comment at a recent council meeting, indicating those who are “pro growth” and “no growth”. At the following Council meeting, the Mayor apologized for using those terms and acknowledged that the comp plan process has been

dividing our city and that we need to work towards seeing each other as neighbors first, and find a way to have a more neighborly way of doing business. Comp Plan process has created level of trust issues, which has been painful. Neighborhood Associations and KAN have agreed to work at helping to put things back together.

KAN created a list of 5 potential Comp Plan topics to address with Council, with the idea to pare the list down to 3. Outline of the 5 topics:

1. **Eliminate/modify the grocery store urban growth concept.** Discussion surrounded around how vague this is. Is a grocery store an appropriate target to be shooting for? While “transit corridors” have been removed, the grocery store concept now appears to include even more of the city. Is this exactly what the city is after?
2. **Eliminate the reference to cutting costs for construction – continue the use of setbacks, lot size, established zoning, etc.** Concern that this isn’t a comp plan discussion but belongs in zoning code. Also edits neighborhood plans.
3. **Shift the comp plan to direct the growth areas to downtown, 85th St corridor and the Totem Lake Urban Center.** Concern voiced that all neighborhoods should take a certain amount of growth, but focus should be on those that are already dense; places where infrastructure and transit exist. We can meet forecasted goals with today’s zoning. How was the 13,200 additional housing units arrived at? The need for housing and less traffic congestion, as well as an inclusive community. Focus on taking away vagueness and the details that will be studied.
4. **Eliminate the reference to the city using surplus land.** The city has agreed to remove parks from the discussion. Thus, this has been eliminated as a potential request.
5. **Reinstate the neighborhood planning process to promote community awareness, diversity, involvement, inclusion and belonging.** Disappointment that the city took it upon themselves to generally remove the inclusive planning process that’s been in place.

With further discussion necessary on these issues, it was decided to take back up the conversation via Zoom call on Friday October 11 at 2:00pm.

Neighborhood Round Table: Ran out of time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03p

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Greenberg