

Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN) Meeting Minutes
4/13/16
Justice Center
7:00 pm

NOTE: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell (Chair) (KAN Co-Chair)
Everest – Brian Marshall
Evergreen Hill – Johanna Palmer (Chair)
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Jon Pascal
Highlands – Karen Story (Chair) (KAN Secretary)
Juanita Neighborhoods – Doug Rough
Market – Doug Sollitt
Moss Bay – Bea Nahon (KAN Co-Chair)
Norkirk – Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill – Margaret Carnegie
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails – Jim McElwee

City Staff Attending:

Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
Rob Jammerman, Public Works
Councilmember Dave Asher

Co-Chair Lisa McConnell convened the meeting at 7 pm.

After introductions we unanimously ratified the March meeting minutes.

Street Standards – Rob Jammerman, Public Works Development Engineering Mgr

- Street standards affect street widths, sidewalks, and parking. They also affect neighborhood plans. As properties redevelop, how does the city decide how wide the street will be, whether sidewalks will be built, and how parking will be affected?
- Rob's presentation is available here; **please share with your neighborhood:**
<http://www.kirklandkan.org/uploads/4/9/4/4/49441039/streetstandards.pdf>

Summary of Rob's presentation

- Street improvements include installation of curbs, landscape strips with street trees, sidewalks, and surface water collection
 - All new development is required to install street improvements.
 - Large remodel/additions over \$200K valuation (currently calculated at \$110 per sq ft) also must install street improvements.
- Residential streets are 20, 24, or 28 feet wide (some wider exceptions occur). See the presentation link for an explanation of how the street width is determined.
- Streets used to be wider. Narrower streets have the following benefits:
 - Traffic calming. Narrow streets cause people to drive slower.
 - Reduced impervious surface = less surface water impact on our storm system, streams, and lakes.
 - Reduction in long-term maintenance such as asphalt restoration, street sweeping.

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- Sometimes it doesn't make sense to install sidewalks in certain locations due to steep slopes, safety hazards, or environmental concerns (trees, streams, wetlands). The Construction-in-lieu program gives developers the option to build needed walkways elsewhere in the neighborhood instead. (See presentation link for details.)
- In some cases, neighborhoods can vote to modify or waive street improvement requirements.

Q&A

- Streets less than 200 feet long don't require a cul-de-sac type turnaround because the fire department trucks can back out that distance
- Some new homes have driveways so steep as to be unusable, so people park on the street. Developers are now required to show that the driveway will be functional.
- Adjacent property owners are responsible for maintaining the landscape strip between the curb and sidewalk.
- Don't hesitate to contact Rob with any questions about street standards, or if you have questions about development in your neighborhood: (425) 587-3845
RJammerman@kirklandwa.gov

Public Comments

- Sharon Riddle, from Save Our Trail, urged us to fill out the ST3 survey, and to reject the environmental study and the proposed Bellevue to South Kirkland Park and Ride light rail pieces of the draft plan.

Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Discussion, continued

- Lisa asked if there is value in KAN writing a letter. What would it say?
- Jim said that his South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails neighbors feel there is nothing in the draft plan that benefits them.
- Bea noted that KAN members represent their neighborhoods, and there is not enough time for us to get their input before the draft plan comment period ends April 29. So she thinks KAN's role should instead be to encourage residents to respond to the ST3 survey, without taking a position on the draft plan.
- Karen agrees, and thinks we should include a plan summary in our email to residents, because the survey can be confusing and the draft plan is not clearly described. Also mention that all survey questions are optional, so folks can skip to just the comments at the end, for example. It's important to provide your zip code. ST3 can't pass without Kirkland's support, and if ST sees a lot of 98033 and 98034 feedback, it could have an impact.
- There's an ST3 Open House on Wednesday, April 27, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Presentation at 6:00 p.m. Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.
- No one understands how Metro service fits into the ST3 plan. Janet said **Stephen Padua, Public Works Transportation Planner, spoke at the Norkirk meeting about Metro plans, and it was an excellent presentation. She recommends inviting him to a meeting.**
- Lisa thinks it's important that all neighborhoods provide input, even if the ST3 plan doesn't appear to directly affect them, because good transit helps everyone, and bad transit hurts everyone, and we all have to pay for it.
- Bea feels that Kirkland gets very little in ST3, compared to other cities, and that this will adversely impact Kirkland's economic viability.
- People wonder about the cost per household, but there are currently too many unknowns in the plan to calculate the cost.
- We all agreed that KAN will not write a letter to ST3.

- Please send the survey and information to your neighborhoods and encourage people to give their input: <http://soundtransit3.org/>

Neighborhood Services – Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

- The Neighborhood Safety projects for 2016 have been chosen. A handout of the map and projects was passed out. Kari will be meeting with the Transportation Commission, and City Department Directors to review the list, and will present to City Council on May 17. **Please attend to show your support for this important program!** Costs are conservative because of escalating bids from a competitive bid market and actual costs of 2014/2015 projects. Best case scenario is we might be able to add Best case scenario is we might be able to add another project if things come in under budget.
- The school walk route ideas submitted by neighborhoods are being reviewed and prioritized for grant and city funding. Kari will keep us informed.
- The city is looking for ways to share picnic supplies (based on the fact that Central Houghton may be surplus their supplies). **We need a neighborhood to step up to store the supplies and create a check out process to track reservations and use.**
- Council will be considering an ordinance to prohibit parking in marked bike lanes. Affected property owners have been notified. Contact Christian Knight if you have questions about the notice, or who it was sent to: cknight@kirklandwa.gov.
- The city received a copy of a letter sent to one of the Neighborhoods from the Secretary of State saying that this neighborhood association may be in violation of charitable laws if they don't pay taxes on donations. However, upon further sleuthing by Jeannie (no easy feat figuring out who to call), she discovered that if neighborhood associations have no paid officers and receive less than \$50k per year in contributions, they don't have to pay taxes on contributions.
- **Submit your picnic dates to Jeannie ASAP, otherwise the park may not be available on the date you want it!**

Liaison Reports

Transportation Commission – Lisa

- Discussing street standards.

Planning Commission – Lisa

- Nothing to report.

City Council Committees – Bea

Note: Council committee meetings are now open to the public (the public can observe but not speak). It would be great if KAN could have a rep at each of these meetings. Please let Bea know if you are interested in attending any of these meetings. Or you can simply attend and then report anything of interest to the next KAN meeting. For more information about the committees see <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/council/Meetings/Committees.htm>

Planning and Economic Development Committee:

- Discussed the following proposed updates to the sign ordinances:
<http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/City+Council/Committees/PED/Meeting+Packets/Planning+and+Economic+Development+Committee+04-11-16+Packet.pdf>

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- A recent Supreme Court ruling requires “content neutrality” in signage, and the ordinances need to be updated to comply
- The city will also be looking more broadly at sign regulations in general, and has promised to keep us informed about the process
- Many KAN members said they are unhappy with the increasing sign clutter throughout the city
- Karen has asked Council to engage a citizen committee to provide input on the proposed sign ordinance changes
- Several people commented that illuminated facades are also signage and should be regulated in the ordinances; this could be an issue at the new Totem Lake Mall
- Johanna mentioned that all areas of the city should have consistent signage regulations
- Bea noted that cities like Santa Fe have very restrictive signage regulations that make the city more attractive
- Dave Asher commented that the Planning Dept. is trying to move quickly on the ordinance changes, and he thinks they want to be done by summer. [Update: Paul Stewart from the Planning Dept. says they’re only trying to move quickly on “phase 1,” which address content neutrality. Phase 2 will take a broader look at the ordinances.]
- Please send pictures of sign clutter to Karen: karen@nwnative.us

Neighborhood Round Table

- Everest – They finally reclaimed access to their website. Brian cautioned neighborhoods to **make sure that more than one person has access and control for their website**, in case someone gets hit by a bus, and for succession planning.
- Juanita – Their “Welcome to Juanita” event was successful and well attended, and they’ve been asked about doing a “Welcome to Kirkland” event for immigrants city-wide. He wonders if any neighborhoods are interested in helping plan such an event. Lisa thought she could get some Houghton folks involved.
- Norkirk – Garage Sale April 30. More people are coming to meetings, and this may be due to Nextdoor getting the word out to more people. [**Be sure to put your neighborhood announcements on Nextdoor as well as your email list, website, etc.**]
- Market – Successful egg hunt at Crestwoods Park.
- Highlands –
 - Highlands History Happening at their next meeting. Local historian and author, Matt McCauley, will present, and then long time Highlands residents will share stories about how the neighborhood has changed over the years. They are collecting photos for a slide presentation.
 - Janet asked for sources for neighborhood history:
 - [Kirkland Heritage Society](#)
 - [Our Foundering Fathers](#), by Arline Ely
 - Library books:
 - A Look To The Past: Kirkland: From wilderness to high-tech - Kirkland history in 50 vignettes, by Matthew W McCauley
 - Lucile McDonald's Eastside Notebook: 101 Local History Vignettes By Lucile Saunders McDonald
 - Older residents
- South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails –They are concerned about a proposal to increase density for a development on the south edge of Bridle Trails State Park (Bridlestone Estates). The density is allowed in the city comprehensive plan, but not in the neighborhood plan. The

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neighborhood is being told that the city plan trumps the neighborhood plan, and that the neighborhood plan is too old and too vague.

- Lisa asked why we have neighborhood plans if they don't have teeth. If the plans don't have meaning, we're wasting our time creating them.
- Evergreen Hill – They are working with developers on a design for traffic and safety improvements at the intersection of NE 132nd St and 136th Ave NE.
- Houghton –
 - Houghton no longer needs its picnic supplies and is looking for a new home for them. Lisa will send a list. Neighborhoods could potentially share them.
 - Northwest University master plan update is big: new dorms, expansions to existing facilities, six tennis courts, etc. Parking and traffic are concerns. NWU is doing a good job of outreach to the neighborhood.
 - The Houghton business center plan will be looked at in the summer, which is tough timing for citizen input. There will also be a transportation study.

Other Important Items of Note

- Remember to file your 990N forms online before May 15! Jeannie will send out a link.
- If you want a Sound Transit speaker to come to your meeting, let Kari know asap.
- The 2014 and 2015 Neighborhood Safety projects are almost all done! We should discuss a celebration of some sort.
- KAN elections at our May 11 meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:00

Next meeting is May 11 at Heritage Hall.

Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Summer meetings
- Sign ordinance updates
- Succession planning for neighborhood participation and leadership
- Neighborhood dog parks
- Common issues of PTA and Neighborhoods
- Parking survey #2 - solutions

Upcoming Events/Deadlines:

- Neighborhood Safety Program presentation to Council May 17.
- LWSD bond ballots due April 26. Free drop boxes at City Hall (see dates and times in your ballot).
- ST3 Open House Wednesday, April 27, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Presentation at 6:00 p.m. Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.
- ST3 draft plan input due by April 29: <http://soundtransit3.org/>