

**Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN) Meeting Minutes**  
**5/11/16**  
**Heritage Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

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

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell (Chair) (KAN Co-Chair)  
Everest – Anna Rising  
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Jon Pascal, Kurt Brunnenkant  
Highlands – Debbie Ohman; 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  
Shawn Friang, HR  
Councilmember Dave Asher

**Co-Chair Bea Nahon convened the meeting at 7 pm.**

After introductions we unanimously ratified the April meeting minutes.

**Accessible Kirkland – Mia Arends**

- Mia is a wheelchair-bound Juanita resident who is passionate about making Kirkland more accessible
- Mia has been working with city staff to identify and resolve existing accessibility issues such as uneven trails, potholes, and ADA parking. Some are maintenance issues that can be resolved quickly. Others are capital projects that require funding.
- She is asking the city to fund a questionnaire to help identify people who would need extra help in an emergency, as well as identify mobility needs around the city.
- Mia would like to network with other people who have accessibility concerns, to share ideas and make lists of needed improvements. Please have interested residents contact her at [miaarends@frontier.com](mailto:miaarends@frontier.com).

Comments:

- Accessibility benefits everyone
- Accessibility issues are also safety issues
- Could the city create a map of accessible parking stalls?
- Could there be additional signage regarding ADA stalls? Lisa will bring this up at the Transportation Commission
- Are pedestrian signals long enough to allow someone with mobility issues to cross?
- Should our 2017 Neighborhood Safety Program focus on accessibility? (There were mixed feelings about this.)

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- Could park maps include accessibility information? (Kari is looking into this.)
- The city's ADA committee does not have a wheelchair member. Mia has volunteered to participate. She feels you have to be in a wheelchair to know where the accessibility problems are.

### **Public Comments**

- Dave Asher announced that the annual Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 28 from 7 am to noon. Benefits Attain Housing. There will be entertainment. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the door.
- Eric Laliberte from the LWSD board announced that the recent bond measure passed with 66%, and thanked the neighborhoods who hosted speakers. He will be looking for neighborhood input regarding the construction of the new schools.

### **Message Board Kiosk Survey - Karen**

#### **Background**

- Message board kiosks are "weather proof" message boards used to display neighborhood information.
- Highlands wondered about relocating one of its kiosk to the CKC
- There are concerns about sign clutter on the CKC
- Do kiosks have enough value to justify the cost of installation and the "sign clutter" issue?
- Are kiosks relevant in a world of social media?

#### **Results**

- 10 NAs responded
- 5 have one or more NA message boards
- They are located near pedestrian traffic: in parks, shopping centers, or near busy sidewalks
- 6 respondents feel message boards have no value
- 4 respondents feel message boards have value if they are maintained and monitored.

#### **Comments**

- Location is critical; must be near pedestrian traffic; bus stops are good
- Helps new residents learn about the neighborhood association so they can sign up for electronic notices
- Some people aren't online
- If they aren't maintained they go stale and fill up with clutter
- Maintaining them can be a challenge
- Electronic social media such as Nextdoor and email lists can be more effective at disseminating information and reaching a large number of people
- Redmond has them in parks, but the city maintains
- They work well in neighborhood gathering places, and can be paired with Little Libraries, mutt mitt dispensers, etc.

#### **Conclusions**

- Kiosks may make sense if a neighborhood has the money to build them and the volunteers to maintain them
- Kiosks on the CKC might be a good idea, but the issues of maintenance and sign clutter would have to be figured out.

### **Sign Ordinances - Karen**

- Kirkland's sign ordinances control temporary and permanent signage throughout the city, including on buildings and city right of ways.

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- Recent state and federal court decisions require that sign regulations be “content neutral, “ so the [planning dept has proposed some “quick fixes” to bring the sign codes into compliance](#). They have promised to keep the neighborhood associations and interested parties informed and to put information on the Planning web page.
- City council also wants to look more broadly at sign regulations in general.
- Since the release of the court decisions, Kirkland has not enforced a Zoning Code prohibition on portable outdoor signs, because the code is not content neutral. Consequently, many businesses now commonly display sandwich board signs. If you drive on 85th St, you will see that it is a sea of signs, many of them placed right on top of the new landscaping. Some businesses have up to 10 signs alone.
- Many people are concerned about this sign clutter and feel it is unsightly, and will only get worse if new ordinances are not adopted.
- In a memo to Council, Kurt Triplett said, “It would be worth reflecting on whether we want to allow businesses to continue this practice or revert to the previous prohibition.”
- Review of the sign regulations in general will begin later in the year.
- This issue affects all neighborhoods and businesses in Kirkland.
- Is KAN in favor of inviting city staff to speak at a KAN meeting to bring us up to speed on the issues and proposals? The majority of people indicated agreement. Karen will invite staff to an upcoming meeting.

#### **Neighborhood Succession – Bea**

- Bea, Lisa, Karen, and Kari will meet with Kimberly Scott to discuss her offer to lead a pro bono KAN session about how to make our Neighborhood Associations, meetings, and communications strategies more effective and relevant.
- This session will be a special KAN meeting, hopefully in June.
- If there is anything you’d like mentioned at the initial planning meeting with Kimberly, please send it to Bea. (For example, how can we get input from younger people about how to make neighborhood associations more effective?)

#### **KAN Annual Elections – Bea**

- Bea thanked the outgoing officers and KAN members for making it a stronger and better organization; Lisa thanked Bea for her outstanding leadership and mentoring
- Jim McElwee nominated Jon Pascal and Janet Pruitt as KAN co-chairs; Lisa seconded; they were unanimously elected
- There were no nominations for Secretary, so we agreed to take turns. Each neighborhood should have to do it about once a year. Karen will help with technical stuff like uploading to the website.
- The KAN policies do not require a secretary
- Minutes are important for a historical record

#### **Summer Meetings – Bea**

- We agreed to not meet in July or August
- Our June 8 meeting will be back at City Hall

#### **Neighborhood Services – Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator**

- The 2016 Neighborhood Safety projects will be presented to City Council on May 17. The presentation will be late in the meeting, but comments from NSP reps can be given at the

beginning, during items from the audience. It's important to show council that this program is valuable. **Please let Kari know if you can speak.**

- All 2014 and 2015 NSP projects are completed except the Forbes Creek trail connection to the CKC (the city is trading emails with the property owner's lawyers); and the RFB crossing on Juanita Drive in Finn Hill.
- Lisa noted that there is an app to simulate a rapid flashing beacon on your phone, for crossing streets after dark (<http://pedsafe.net/>, for iPhone and Android, in Google store under Ped Safe)
- CKC expenses to date include \$6.4 million in city funds (includes \$5 mil for acquisition); \$3.2 million in grants; and \$3.2 million from SRM for Ferriton Spur. \$7 million in city funds are allocated for connections over the next couple of years, plus \$3.5 million in grants. That's a total of \$23 million in funding, almost half of which is grant money. And the CKC was only purchased 4 years ago.
- Kari passed out fliers for the [Old Friends Club](#), a non-profit day center for people with cognitive or communication issues such as Alzheimer's or aphasia.
- Kari passed out fliers for the new power line route that PSE will present to Council. See [http://pse.com/inyourcommunity/pse-projects/system-improvements/Pages/Sammamish-Juanita.aspx?WT.mc\\_id=1077](http://pse.com/inyourcommunity/pse-projects/system-improvements/Pages/Sammamish-Juanita.aspx?WT.mc_id=1077) for more info.
- No one feels it makes sense to pay to store the Houghton picnic supplies, so Houghton will be selling them. Lisa will let us know what is for sale and when. There are tables, chairs, BBQs, and games.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 2. Contact Police Resource Officer Audra Weber for more information: [AWeber@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:AWeber@kirklandwa.gov). It would be great to have something on the CKC, but someone would need to organize it.
- There was an emergency incident on the CKC recently (heatstroke), which prompted citizen questions regarding emergency access. The city will be sending out a Press Release explaining that emergency responders are allowed to drive on the CKC, they have maps, and they know where the connections are. You can call 911 when you are on the CKC. You need to know the cross street or nearest mileage marker.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **Transportation Commission – Lisa**

- Discussed climate change and greenhouse gasses, this year's Neighborhood Safety Program projects, concerns about Walkable Kirkland funding going away in 2020, the [Metro Long Range Plan](#), and ST3.

#### **Planning Commission – Lisa**

- Discussed the updates to [stream and wetlands regulations](#).

#### **Meeting with Mayor and Deputy Mayor – Bea**

- Bea and Lisa met with Mayor Walen and Deputy Mayor Arnold, who are very pleased with KAN and Neighborhood activities and involvement.

#### **Neighborhood Round Table**

- Juanita –
  - Meeting topics: ST3 and Save Our Trail.
  - CKC cleanup day with Rotary on May 14 at 9 am, meet at Crestwoods Park.

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- JNA picnic August 20 at Juanita Beach.
- Welcome to Juanita event first Sat in March.
- They passed a controversial bylaw amendment that allows people who live within 5 blocks of the Juanita boundary to be in the association or on the board. (Because the boundaries divide parts of the neighborhood.)
- Everest –
  - They feel that transit on 405 won't help them, and are unhappy about the ST3 draft plan.
  - Neighborhood center planning will start in the Fall.
- Norkirk –
  - Garage Sale made money
  - No resolution yet on Deru parking
- North Rose Hill –
  - Picnic banner pole on 124th Ave NE fell down a couple years ago and attendance has dropped since then. (City is talking to PSE about a new location for the banner.)
- South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails –
  - City Manager gave excellent talk about city work programs.
  - Elections: new President, Vice President (who is business owner), and two board members are younger folks
- Market –
  - ST3 presentation at meeting next week; hoping for better than the usual low turnout.
- Finn Hill –
  - Four new board members
  - Garage sale seen as something concrete the neighborhood association does for residents
  - Picnic Sept 17
  - Land acquisition efforts continue for 8 acres SE of Big Finn Hill Park, and land on the north side of Simonds Road
  - They got \$3K from Give Big (they are a different kind of non-profit than the rest of the neighborhoods)
- Highlands –
  - Next meeting will focus on neighborhood history, with a speaker, slide show, and reminiscences from longtime residents
- Houghton –
  - 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.
  - Coyotes an increasing problem. There is a den in Watershed Park. Dogs have been attacked on leashes, and in fenced yards with owners present. The bumper crop of bunnies has made the coyotes bigger and stronger. They can jump a 6-foot fence. Watch your animals, and send info to your residents.
- Moss Bay –
  - Meeting topics: ST3 and elections
  - New parking lot south of city hall will be for employees during the day, public evenings and weekends. Target opening is July 4. Neighborhood advisory group has met with city staff to address concerns about the site including traffic, lighting, and security. The process was successful and much was learned - it should be

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considered as a model for future developments (public or private) that about neighborhoods.

- Bea will meet with new Police Chief, Cherie Harris, and will report back to KAN; topics will include Neighborhood Traffic Control Program and public awareness about heroin/opioids. Please let Bea know if you have other general neighborhood issues you'd like her to raise at this meeting.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Two LWHS students have died from heroin overdoses in the past year. It's available in pill form now. How can KAN help with awareness?
  - PTSA Parent Ed presentation on May 18 at 7:30 pm at LWHS. Consider inviting speakers to NA meeting (Youth Eastside Services, Police Dept?).
  - The King County Heroin & Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force is sponsoring a [Community Conversation on Heroin and Prescription Opiate Overdose and Addiction](#) Tuesday, May 31 from 6:15 - 8:45 p.m. at the Renton Community Center.
- Remember to file your 990N forms online before May 15!
- If you have new KAN reps or officers, remember to send their names to Jeannie so they get the emails [jmcgovern@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:jmcgovern@kirklandwa.gov)

**Meeting adjourned 9:08**

**Next meeting is June 8 at City Hall.**

#### **Upcoming Agenda Items:**

- Sign ordinance updates
- Eastside Civic Incubator report
- Succession planning for neighborhood participation and leadership
- Stream and Wetland ordinance update
- Evergreen Hospital Board
- Bicycle lanes and parking
- Neighborhood dog parks
- Common issues of PTA and Neighborhoods
- Parking survey #2 - solutions

#### **Upcoming Events/Deadlines:**

- Presidential primary ballots due May 24.
- Neighborhood Safety Program presentation to Council May 17.
- June, ST3 Final Plan released. See [soundtransit3.org](http://soundtransit3.org)
- June 7-10 Cascadia Rising! Four day emergency preparedness exercise for The Big One. <http://www.kirklandcert.com/Cascadia-Rising-2016>