

KAN Meeting Minutes

1/14/15

Peter Kirk room, City Hall

7-9:10 pm

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell (KAN Co-Chair)
Everest – None
Evergreen Hill – None
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Jon Pascal, Kurt Brunnenkant
Highlands – Karen Story (Chair) (KAN Secretary)
Juanita Neighborhoods - Doug Rough (Co-Chair), Karen Lightfeldt
Lakeview Neighborhood - Chuck Pilcher (Co-Chair)
Market – Dawn Morse (Chair), Mark Nelson
Moss Bay – Bea Nahon (KAN Co-Chair)
Norkirk – Karen Edgerton
North Rose Hill –
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails – Jim McElwee
Totem Lake – none

City Staff Attending:

Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator
Kurt Triplett, City Manager
Dave Godfrey, Public Works Transportation Engineering Manager
Christian Knight, Public Works Neighborhood Services Outreach Coordinator
Rod Steitzer, Public Works Capital Projects Supervisor

Elected officials present:

Councilmember Dave Asher

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

After introductions we ratified the December meeting minutes.

Preliminary Downtown Parking Options and Next Steps (with Q/A)

Kurt Triplett, City Manager

Dave Godfrey, Public Works Transportation Engineering Manager

- Bea explained that Kurt and Dave would provide a brief overview of the topic, because KAN reps were expected to have read the KAN packet and watched the Council meeting, and the purpose of the discussion was mainly for Q&A.
- Kurt: We're not addressing big budget parking solutions yet. Are there some things we can just do now? City does not have a policy to stop overflow parking on neighborhood streets – for Metro bus riders or other excess parking needs.
- Dave briefly reviewed the slides (in KAN packet).
- Kurt T: Philly Hoshko, in Economic Development at the City, will handle the outreach effort. The outreach approach is still being developed.

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- Bea: Previously asked Council to consider KAN as a stakeholder. Asked Kurt and Dave, who are the stakeholders; in particular, who are “parkers”?
- Dave: Parking Advisory Group will give input. City might talk to folks in parking places.
- Chuck: We’re competing against free parking at Bellevue Square and other local shopping areas. Is there technology that allows free parking for the first 30 minutes (for example)?
- Dave: Yes, but it’s expensive to implement.
- Karen L: The study assumes that winter and summer are the same, but in fact Kirkland is two different cities. Boat owners in the summer, plus swimming pool, farmer’s market. The weather impacts how/where people want to park. We need seasonal signage.
- Jim: What are day/night differences in parking? Do businesses see a difference? What do parkers think?
- Lisa: Talk to Sound Transit and Metro: are there commute parkers downtown? What is the definition of “doable” (parking improvements)? What is the range (price and scale) for suggestions we can offer?
- Kurt T: Council wants things we can do this year.
- Lisa: The library garage west exit is a safety issue: blind exit with no pedestrian access.
- Jon: Said he likes the focus on short term vs. long term; long term picture is important for choosing short term options. It’s good to work now with future private parking developments like Parkplace to plan for coordinated branding. He likes the technology approach. He wants to see costs for the various options.
- Dave: Costs vary quite a bit because there are so many variables.
- Mark: We should measure any changes, like an experiment. We should discourage transit parkers. Signs are a cheap solution. We could use them to change the allowed parking time, for example.
- Dave: Downtown employees are encouraged to park out of the downtown core.
- Karen E: Did the consultant say how many spaces we need?
- Dave: No.
- Karen E: If transit parkers can’t park downtown they’ll move into neighborhoods. We need transit parking.
- Dave: There is no policy to prevent transit parking on surrounding streets. The purpose of the study is to provide more downtown parking.
- Chuck: We could survey bus 255 riders to ask where they park. This would give us an idea of the magnitude of the problem. It may be bigger or smaller than we think.
- Lisa: We can get info from Metro. ORCA card data shows where riders live and where they board.
- Kurt T. asked Dave to request the data.
- Karen L: Sunday parking in the summer is free all day so there is no turnover. This hurts merchants.
- Karen E: Why is Sunday parking different?
- Dave: Parking enforcement personnel have the day off.
- Bea: We need to know what we’re managing before spending big bucks, so it’s appealing to implement these cheaper solutions first. We need to approach pay parking carefully; merchants will have concerns.
- Dave: Merchant surveys will be done.
- Bea: If Parkplace is free but downtown is pay, will people avoid downtown in favor of Parkplace? How do other cities handle this dichotomy? Lake and Central lot: some have said that it is time to trade it for something that will give more parking value but that presupposes that the dollars will buy more spaces in a nearby location and that is not

supported. If Lake and Central is sold or redeveloped, the process must involve the community and its vision.

- Doug: Time spent looking for a parking place takes away from time spent shopping, so he supports technology that shows available parking. Signage is important so that people know about all parking options. Some places are poorly signed, so people don't know they're legal.
- Jim: Many people say they don't want to walk uphill to park at City Hall or Waverly, yet people are already parking in the neighborhoods, which are uphill.
- Dave: Parking Advisory Board did a survey to measure this.
- Kurt B: Loves free parking. Do more parking spots = more traffic? Could there be a shuttle from outlying lots?
- Dave: Shuttle has been considered. Expensive to operate. Inconvenient for users so only works if parking downtown is pay. Kirkland "doesn't feel right" about pay parking.
- Karen E: Pedestrian safety concern at library garage entrance. Could a blinking light be installed? Many people use Antique Mall lot as "Kiss and Ride" drop off lot. Will that go away? Can the city ensure that it stays?
- Dave: City can ask.
- Chuck: Are we sure people aren't willing to pay to park?
- Lisa: Is the Parking Board coming back?
- Dave: No.
- Karen S: Other cities have better shopping options in terms of variety and cost, so if we want to encourage people to shop here, pay parking hurts Kirkland.
- Kurt T: Do KAN members think that parking is the city's problem to solve?
- Karen E: Both the city and developers have a part.
- Mark: In Bellevue, on some streets no parking is allowed. (The city controls this.)
- Bea: This is a good topic to discuss when KAN is brought in as a stakeholder.
- Kurt: What more does KAN want from the city (in terms of being a stakeholder and providing input)?
- Bea: We want to give input on options.
- Doug: We don't want parking fed into neighborhoods.
- Mark: Maybe KAN should offer to provide our view of the role of stakeholders.
- Dave: KAN is a stakeholder. Can KAN tell the city what options they support and what they want to see?
- Mark: KAN should clearly state what we want. Mark offered to draft a report for KAN review.
- Dave: Don't give us feedback on the process; give us feedback on the options.
- Karen L: Is the city handling employee parking? This has always been the #1 problem.
- Chuck: Most people only need short-time parking.

2014 CIP Accomplishments

Christian Knight, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Rod Steitzer, Capital Projects Supervisor

Slides not in packet; will be uploaded to KAN website.

Christian gave a delightful and entertaining presentation. Said there have been "many big and transformative changes in 2014."

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- Park Lane remodel has begun. Will last about 4 months. “Embrace the construction vibe” and visit businesses during construction. Lots of fun to watch. Come see the elementary art project that will soon be unveiled!
- The following projects made Totem Lake mall more desirable to developers:
 - Flood control (underground storm water vaults)
 - Justice Center creates many new visitors/employees in Totem Lake (potential shoppers)
 - New street – NE 120th St. First new road built in 20 years. Built to green standards.
 - Cross Kirkland Corridor enhances Totem Lake and whole city.
- New utility infrastructure (water mains, etc.)
- NE 85th St. – overlay will happen next summer.
- Grants: a huge part of how city pays for projects.
 - Juanita Drive grant for bike lane, rapid flashing beacons, street lighting, other safety improvements. (Jon Pascal noted that WSDOT received 119 grant requests and Juanita Drive was one of the few that received funding.)
 - 100th Ave NE (132nd to 145th) received grant for design study.
- Jim: Where will construction money come from after 100th Ave design is completed?
- Christian: Construction elements will be prioritized and implemented as funds permit. Maybe grants, etc.

Public Comment

- Downtown resident Rob Brown. Has been involved in parking conversation for 10 years. Said we can't wait for long term solutions before moving forward. Parking investments bring in sales taxes, thus the city doesn't need to recoup that investment by charging for parking. Wayfinding is needed and does not exist yet. The city needs to enforce existing agreements, such as with the Heathman Hotel, whose employees park in the library garage, and not in the Heathman lot, as per their agreement.
- Downtown resident Glenn Peterson. Founding member of Parking Advisory Board. Said some fringe parking locations were not mentioned in the study. Suggested scattering parking meters around the city to test their usage. The biggest problem is employee parking and merchants who don't enforce it.

Right Size Parking (RSP)

- Bea: The Planning Commission has approved the RSP proposal and recommended it to Council. What should KAN's role and response be (content, method, timing)?
- Discrepancies were identified in the data: some were errors, some were estimates due to lack of contract time to collect actual data. (The Planning Commission was told by the consultant in June that the bedroom data would be based on estimates. . Even some commission members had forgotten this.) Jon Regala has recalculated using the new data and says the changes are immaterial and therefore the results don't change.
- Bea: However, a study which purports to prescribe numbers of parking stalls as a function of the distribution of units and bedrooms, one would expect to be based on actual bedroom distribution rather than an estimate.
- Karen S: Wants KAN to submit a statement to the city. KAN represents neighborhoods, and all residents are stakeholders. If city is looking for more downtown parking, it doesn't make

sense to reduce parking by approving RSP. She is discouraged that the Planning Commission seems to be ignoring a lot of input objecting to the proposal.

- Jim: Because there is uncertainty about future transit availability, and we need more parking downtown, and the study was based on estimated data, we should “do no harm” and not enact any permanent parking reductions that would be difficult or impossible to rescind.
- Chuck: The purpose of the study appears to be social engineering to force people out of their cars.
- Karen E: Apartments charge for stalls, and this pushes residents onto street parking. Does the RSP study address this?
- Bea: This is called “unbundling.” It is “well thought of” by some parking consultants, but it causes street parking as residents will look to save money on their rent if there are no time limits for nearby on-street parking.
- Mark: The city is working at cross purposes. It’s odd to ask how to increase parking and then ask to reduce it. Where is this coming from? What is the driving force?
- Kurt T: Started by King County, with Kirkland as pilot program. A few years ago, during downturn, cities were looking for ways to encourage development. Builders said that building parking was expensive and a deterrent to construction. But now there’s a building boom.
- Mark: Does RSP still make sense? Times have changed. Concerned about comment he heard at Planning Commission meeting: "We got overwhelming public comment against this, but that was public comment from people who do live here, not the ones who would be living here and trying to afford the rents or prices to buy these units."
- Mark: A planner submitted a last-minute change with no public input. This is not good process. There should have been public input.
- Lisa: We need a parking master plan, and one that encourages financial and environmental sustainability. KAN should ask the city to slow down, step back, look at the big picture.
- Karen E: How are residential (RSP) and commercial (downtown parking study) parking interconnected?
- Chuck: What do developers say is the highest and best use of Kirkland? How is their vision different than ours?
- Kurt T: They build whatever is best for them economically. The city has to tell them what we want.
- Bea: Our vision should trump developers’ vision. If RSP would bring down housing costs and increase the value of multi-family housing for all types of families, then it would make multi-family housing more attractive. But RSP does not do these things. It is not family friendly. It does not meet our goals for housing.
- Bea: A transit subsidy would increase rents. Developers pass all costs on to renters. Quoting from the 10/23/14 meeting, Commissioner Miller: *“If you really truly think that the owner developer of an apartment project isn’t building that into the rents you’re sorely mistaken because all those costs are built into the rent structure that they have. So the residents ultimately are paying whether you’re renting a unit or buying a unit. You’re paying for it, so that’s the same across the board.”* And he is absolutely correct by this statement.
- Doug: “All forecasts are wrong and some are useful.” The cost of underestimating parking needs far exceeds the costs of overestimating. Too few spaces is hard to fix; too many spaces isn’t (i.e. extra spaces can be converted later for other uses).
- Karen S: If KAN wants to make a statement, what is the process?
- Lisa: Suggested that KAN write a letter and speak at Council meetings. Not all council members are able to read everything they receive, so they also need to hear us speak.

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- Karen S., Lisa, and Bea will draft a letter for KAN member review and they will coordinate so that one of them will speak at Council meeting(s).

Neighborhood Services Report

Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

- Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC).
 - The final touches are being put on the interim trail.
 - The city will contract to pull the NE 124th St. rails in the spring.
 - Celebrations are being planned. Come to the Brown Bag lunch on Monday, January 26 to give input. Might have small event (soft launch) in late Jan and big launch in March/April.
- Make sure you are on the neighborhood listserv https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAKIRK/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAKIRK_3 to receive KAN and neighborhood info. Listservs are being consolidated; Kari is no longer using the KAN listserv.
- CERT will contact us to schedule a networking meeting. [**Meeting is Saturday Feb. 28 at 10 AM at Fire Station 22.**]
- Kari is working on planning the next City Council meetings with neighborhoods. For 2015 they include Juanita and Finn Hill in the spring and Lakeview and Moss Bay in the fall.
- NSP workshop is January 22 4:30-7:30 in the Peter Kirk Room.
- **2015-16 grant applications and 2013-14 final reports are due January 31.**
- Neighborhood Safety Program
 - The city has vetted all submitted projects. Kari handed out a spreadsheet and map showing the status. She will also send this to us electronically.
 - **Project applications are due Feb. 9.** Each neighborhood may submit a maximum of two projects that together do not total more than \$50,000.

Totem Lake Mall

- Kurt: Centercal (<http://centercal.com/>) is in the process of buying Totem Lake Mall (it has not closed yet).
- Jim: Is city money still on the table for the project? (Yes, as much as \$15M.)
- Jim: Are they still planning residential? (Yes)
- Bea: Centercal is tentatively scheduled to attend the Feb. KAN meeting.

Liaison Reports and Round Table

- Mark: Lake Washington School District redistricting information is in KAN packet.
- Doug: Park Board
 - Edith Moulton Park master plan pushed out to next year.
 - ARC: Virtual tour will be shown as if at Juanita Beach Park.
- Jim: Thanks to city for coordination of work at NE 80th St. Residents are happy and appreciative.
- Karen L: City will have a Habitat for Humanity project in Juanita, on Forbes Creek Drive. About 10 cottages will be built on donated land. Karen will provide pictures. Kirkland hasn't had a Habitat project in a long time.
- Jon: St. Edward St. Park proposal was released last week. (<http://www.parks.wa.gov/857/Saint-Edward-Planning--Seminary>). Bastyr College wants to purchase the seminary building for dorms and a conference center, and deed the forest to

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the State Park. [The next day we learned that Bastyr University has decided not to move forward on acquiring access to Saint Edward State Park facilities.]

- Chuck: Commended Bea for her leadership.
- Karen S: Reminder of **Neighborhood Communication Workshop Thursday, Jan. 29, 7-9 pm, Peter Kirk room**. Purpose of workshop is to show ideas for affordable, easy-to-use tools to help neighborhoods communicate effectively with residents (email, web, social media, etc.).
- Lisa:
 - Planning Commission
 - Dec. 11 meeting: Parkplace – public hearing is Jan. 29 (http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Development_Info/projects/Parkplace.htm); Council will hear recommendation on Feb. 17.
 - Jan. 8 meeting: Commission discussed the environmental element of the comprehensive plan (this part of the meeting is worth listening to). Also did initial review of Moss Bay Neighborhood Plan and discussed downtown citizen amendment requests (http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Boards_and_Commissions/Planning_Commission.htm).
 - Transportation Commission (Lisa is member)
 - Master plan goes to Council in Feb.
 - Central Houghton neighborhood is discussing their neighborhood center and invites all neighborhoods to participate. They propose joint meetings the first Wednesdays of April, June, and October. **Lisa requests that Moss Bay, Lakeview, and Everest reply to her if those meeting dates work**. All neighborhoods will be invited to attend as they will be discussing Neighborhood Center planning, something that other neighborhoods will have in future.
- Bea: Attended Planning Commission retreat. Commission has agreed to a joint meeting with KAN. The subject will be neighborhood plans.

Meeting adjourned 9:10.