

KAN Meeting Minutes

2/11/15

Peter Kirk room, City Hall

7-9:05 pm

NOTE: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell (KAN Co-Chair)
Everest – None
Evergreen Hill – None
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Kurt Brunnenkant
Highlands – Karen Story (Chair) (KAN Secretary), Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods - Doug Rough (Co-Chair), Karen Lightfeldt
Lakeview Neighborhood – Lori Isch (Chair)
Market – Mark Nelson
Moss Bay – Bea Nahon (KAN Co-Chair)
Norkirk – Birgitta Hughes (Chair), Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill – Milt Olson
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails – none
Totem Lake – none

City Staff Attending:

Philly Hoshko, Special Projects Coordinator

Elected officials present:

Councilmember Dave Asher

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

After introductions we unanimously ratified the January meeting minutes.

Items Before Council

Lisa McConnell

Parkplace

- Lisa explained that the Planning Commission approved the Parkplace amendments (see http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/planning/Development_Info/projects/Parkplace.htm).
- There will be a City Council hearing on Feb. 17 at 7:30 pm.
- Lisa encouraged neighborhood associations to look at the packet.
- Lori: Are there any red flags?
- Lisa: She heard the following from her neighborhood. Is there enough residential parking? Will we lose longterm Parkplace businesses? Is the new movie theater too big?
- Debbie Ohman: The Highlands is concerned about height, but knows that it's a done deal.
- Janet: Norkirk expressed concerns about traffic. She's also heard concern about the theater being closed for a long time during construction. Someone may start a petition asking Talon to keep the theater open during construction.

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- Birgitta: Due to the location of water and other services on the property, Talon may have no choice but to close the theater if they can't provide basic services to that portion of the property.
- Bea: The Planning Commission hearing was well attended. Most speakers were in favor, with suggestions. The suggestions were well received by the commission.
- Birgitta: She spoke with Bill Pollard (Talon) about her concerns regarding parking, traffic, and building height, and his answers reassured her. She feels it's important to understand the history of the project. She said Bill was happy to take the time to answer her questions. She feels that the scaled back size of the project is a big win.
- Milt: What is the Parkplace construction timeframe?
- Birgitta: If all goes well they will start in one year. Time to completion depends on economic factors.

Right Size Parking (RSP)

- KAN's letter to council and comments made at recent council meetings are available in the KAN packet.
- Council did value the public comments.
- At their RSP study session on Feb. 3, council indicated that parking is a complex issue that deserves further study.
- Council has not scheduled a date to discuss RSP further.

Aquatic and Recreation Center (ARC)

Karen Lightfeldt

- The city sent out an online virtual tour of the ARC (<http://kirklandarc.publicmeeting.info/>).
- The Juanita neighborhood (JNA) was disappointed with the information and the survey.
- JNA continues to be opposed to Juanita Beach Park (JBP) as an ARC site.
- JNA feels the city's statement that 83% of people support the ARC is misleading, since only 400 people were polled in a telephone survey.
- JNA feels that question 7 (about location preference) is loaded because it makes it sound like the non-JBP options would be too expensive.
- JNA is concerned that the many teen swimmers in the community, who want a new pool as soon as possible and may not understand the drawbacks to the JBP site, may "stack" the survey.
- JNA feels that it's not clear whether citizens want an ARC at all. The city feels that citizens do want an ARC.
- The ARC looks small on the JBP site rendering, but is in fact about the same size as Juanita Village.
- JNA has launched a website called SaveJuanitaBeach.org and a Facebook page called Save Juanita Beach Park.
- Janet Pruitt: What is the status of the Totem Lake site?
- Someone replied that the site may not be big enough, but it's not clear if they were referring to just the Yuppie Pawn property (which the city already owns) or the total available property the city might attempt to purchase.
- Mark Nelson: At the Parkplace environmental impact hearing he stated for the record that given a choice between paying for a parking garage or ARC, he would choose parking as a higher priority.
- Milt Olson: Would parking and the ARC be on the same ballot?
- Mark: He suggested that the city put them both on the same ballot.

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- Lisa M: She wonders if the [online survey](#) was well-worded regarding people's funding priorities.
- Karen L: There is a study session on March 17 with the City Council.
- Karen S: Does KAN want to take a position on this?
- Bea: Suggested that KAN weigh in on the ARC siting process.
- Janet: Can we ask Parks to do a rendering on another site so people can see an alternative?
- Lisa: They do have a North Kirkland Community Center block rendering.
- Karen S: They are looking for private sites, and until they have some candidates they wouldn't know which sites to create renderings for.
- Mark: Suggested that we listen to the study session and send the results to our neighborhoods for their input before KAN takes a position.
- Lisa: Agreed, and suggested that each neighborhood could do a survey to gauge community opinion before taking a KAN position. Each neighborhood could ask the same questions (for consistency). She wants to know how her neighborhood feels before taking a position.
- Milt: The ARC website shows a dot on Mark Twain Elementary as a possible site; the dot should be on Mark Twain Park. He thinks it wouldn't be difficult to do a block rendering for each of the existing sites being considered.
- Kurt: The city still hasn't found a site for the Finn Hill fire station. What is the process for finding sites? Is it public?
- Lisa: Good questions. She will find out.
- Mark: Let's think about ARC siting a little more before taking a position.
- Bea: Because it's a long process to find a site, KAN has time. In summary: let's **attend or watch the study session**, do a survey of our neighborhoods, then come up with a KAN position.
- Lisa: **Be thinking about survey questions.**
- Karen L: McAuliffe Park is a possibility, although she doesn't want to lose that park either.
- Doug: KAN should encourage the city to purchase the hotel property at Totem Lake, whether or not it's used for ARC.
- Dave Asher: That purchase is not in the Totem Lake park master plan.
- Mark: Totem Lake is a perfect location for ARC: near the CKC, etc. The city should buy the hotel property.

Downtown Parking Study

Mark Nelson

- Background information is in the KAN packet.
- The purpose of the [Downtown Parking Study](#) was to look for cheap, easy, quick ways to provide additional downtown parking capacity until more expensive, longer term options can be put in place.
- Philly Hoshko, City of Kirkland Special Projects Coordinator, has been tasked with conducting outreach to collect stakeholder input and will be holding four facilitated meetings on Feb. 25 and 26 and March 2 and 4. (See http://www.kirklandwa.gov/NewsRoom/NRDowntownParkingDiscussions_s3_p10251.htm.)
- Mark feels that the study and conclusions are flawed, incomplete, inaccurate.
- **He suggests that everyone review the [study](#) before going to one of the meetings.**

Philly Hoshko

- This is a draft study with options, not recommendations.

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- The city does want input from stakeholders.
- She is the “info sponge” collecting the feedback.
- The city is looking for “bite-sized” parking improvements; these will not solve the whole parking problem.
- The city wants feedback on all options, not just the ones in the study.
- The facilitated meetings will focus on discussing each option.
- The goal of the meetings is to come up with “next steps.”
- Mark: Where can the options suggested by city council be viewed?
- Philly: They will be presented at the meetings.
- Mark: He told Philly that the council options are called out in the KAN packet and she is welcome to use that list. He feels that meeting attendees should know about the options before they attend a meeting. He says that Kurt Triplett said the council options would be included in the options communicated to citizens.
- Philly: She is collecting all input, ongoing. She’ll explore the possibility of using the city’s ideas forum to collect input, so it becomes a “real time” conversation (and everyone can see all the comments).
- Bea: She would also like the council suggestions to be more visible. How is the city reaching out to ALL stakeholders?
- Philly: Press releases, listservs, door-to-door and electronically with merchants, contacting neighborhood and condo associations. She would like a list of condo associations. Bea indicated that she could help with this and asked Philly to contact her after the meeting.
- Mark: How will people know about specific suggestions that aren’t in the packet?
- Philly: At the meetings, she will address feedback on all options listed in the study, plus present all subsequent ideas and suggestions she has collected.
- Lisa: Can the city include the council options in the list of core options sent out in the emails announcing the meetings? Draft studies can be hard to understand. The parking study doesn’t present the options in an easy-to-digest way. An executive summary would be nice.
- Philly: The meetings will walk through the study options and the council options. She doesn’t expect people to understand the options before they attend. **There is an [online survey regarding the study](#).** The council options are on the survey. One reason she’s asking people to RSVP for the meetings is so that she can make sure they have links to information ahead of time.
- Lori: Make it clear that these are short term ideas vs. a long term vision. Clarify the higher level goals.
- Philly: Acknowledged.

Public Comment

- None.

Liaison Reports

Communication Workshop Summary

Karen Story

- 10 neighborhoods and about 20 people attended.
- Discussed tools to help neighborhoods improve communication.
- The top priority communication tool is email. Neighborhoods should use a listserv that does not live on someone’s computer.

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- The workshop also covered websites, social media, how to choose tools, and how to collect more email addresses.
- The workshop materials are available online at:
<http://kirklanhighlands.org/CommunicationsWorkshop/WorkshopSummary.doc>
- The presenters are all available to help. Their contact info is available in the above link.
- The group expressed their appreciation to Karen Story for organizing this and then documenting it in detail afterward; this is a valuable resource for neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Services Report

Lisa McConnell for Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP)

If you did not sign the paper at the KAN meeting, please let Kari Page know who your neighborhood NSP rep is. Reps must attend the following meetings:

Wednesday, March 11, 5-7 pm

Wednesday, March 25, 5-7 pm

Peter Kirk Room; food provided.

Cross Kirkland Corridor

- About 100 people attended the “Trail Great” party to celebrate the opening of the interim trail.
- The police have purchased two electric UTVs (Urban Terrain Vehicles) to use in patrolling the trail.

State of the City Address

- KAN is sponsoring a State of the City address for citizens on Feb. 25 at 7 pm at City Hall.
- Bea: The meeting is on the Reporter website and the city calendar and will go out on listservs. **Please send the announcement to your neighborhoods.** (Reporter link: <http://www.kirklandreporter.com/news/291561421.html>.)

Tourism

- Karen L.: Kirkland Tourism Development hired a consultant to do a waterfront activities study. We should follow this because it’s tied in with parking and other issues.
 - Bea: Asked Karen L. to get back to KAN with information.

Neighborhood Round Table

- Moss Bay (Bea):
 - **IRS Form 990s (non-profit registration) are due by May 15.**
 - The Planning Commission is reviewing neighborhood comprehensive plans and citizen amendment requests. Be sure to send comments when your neighborhood is on the agenda. (See <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/Planning/Planning+PDFs/Planning+Commission/Joint+Meeting+with+City+Council+Discussion+Topics+PC+02122015+Web.pdf> for a chart listing the dates of these meetings.)
 - The city is reluctant to put extra KAN items on their website, beyond ratified minutes and agendas. Should KAN have its own website? (See discussion later.)

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- Tracey Dunlap has been named an additional deputy city manager (along with Marilynne Beard).
- Lakeview (Lori):
 - Wonders if Kirkland Views could help KAN with surveys and web hosting.
 - She participated in two city telephone surveys and felt the questions were biased. She has concerns about the consultants. She wonders if KAN could have input on the survey itself before a survey is conducted.
- Market (Mark):
 - Parking has been their major focus.
 - Waverly Park renovation is getting close.
 - He suggests that we check the General sections of the city comprehensive plan because there are some newly added items that affect neighborhoods. He wonders if KAN should ask for a list of these items.
- Norkirk (Janet):
 - Introduced Birgitta Hughes, the new Norkirk chair. Norkirk has six new board members. Janet thinks that the Neighborhood Safety Program and the marijuana zoning generated the interest that got more people to participate.
- Juanita (Doug):
 - There are bike connections from Juanita to the Burke Gilman. He would like to see a connection from Juanita to the Cross Kirkland Corridor. He presented several options and asked for KAN input.
 - Lisa suggested bringing his ideas to the Transportation Commission and to Kari Page.
- North Rose Hill: Pass
- Finn Hill (Kurt):
 - Their garage sale will be April 25. Would any other neighborhoods like to hold theirs on the same day, potentially generating a larger turnout? Let him know.
- Central Houghton (Lisa):
 - All neighborhoods are invited to their meeting on April 1 at Fire Station 22. They will be providing background info about the Neighborhood Center planning process, and brainstorming issues for future discussions.
- Highlands (Karen):
 - Has trouble finding topics for neighborhood meetings. Kari will help by listing topics on KAN agendas. Karen requested that we send each other ideas as well.

Miscellaneous

- Dave Asher:
 - Reminded everyone that Feb. 12 was the deadline to apply for boards and commissions, and encouraged neighborhood leaders to apply.
 - If an NSP project doesn't get funded, submit it as a Capital Improvement project (CIP) because the CIP program is being reviewed this year.
 - He asked Lori to chat with him about her experience regarding the telephone surveys. He says the city needs to hear about it
- Bea asked Glenn Peterson (Planning Commission chair and present as a member of the public) for an update on the scheduling of the joint KAN/Planning Commission meeting that was discussed at the Planning Commission retreat. Glenn suggested that she contact Paul Stewart, who does the scheduling.
- KAN website:

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- Karen Story thinks KAN should have its own website because we could post whatever we wanted, multiple people could have posting permission, and we would no longer give the appearance of being a city board or commission. We're an association of neighborhood associations. Each NA has their own website; why not KAN? Websites are cheap.
- Bea: Agrees. We could also upload the packet and email out the link instead of emailing the packets themselves (which can be large).
- Mark: Agrees. Thinks it's important to be able to post what we want. He's willing to help.
- Karen S: Maybe the city would cover the cost.
- Lisa: At our next meeting, let's discuss adding another officer (webmaster) and adopting guidelines for the site.
- Mark: Yes, we should get it written down.
- 405 tolling:
 - Birgitta: On Feb. 17, 6-8 pm (online) and Feb. 19 and Mar. 18, 5:30-8 pm at City Hall there will be meetings for public input regarding tolling rates and carpool size. (See <http://wstc.wa.gov/HighwayTolling/I-405ExpressTollLanes.htm> for meeting details.)
 - Mark: WSDOT will come to NA meetings.
- CERT meeting:
 - Karen L: What is the Feb. 28 CERT meeting about? (At Fire Station 22; see email sent to KAN on Feb. 12.)

Next meeting is March 11.

Meeting adjourned 9:05.