

KAN Meeting Minutes

4/8/15

Peter Kirk room, City Hall

7:00-9:00 pm

NOTE: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – none
Everest – none
Evergreen Hill – none
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Kurt Brunnenkant
Highlands – Karen Story (Chair) (KAN Secretary), Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods – Karen Lightfeldt
Lakeview Neighborhood – Chuck Pilcher
Market – Doug Sollitt
Moss Bay – Bea Nahon (KAN Co-Chair)
Norkirk – Birgitta Hughes (Chair)
North Rose Hill – Milt Olson
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails – Jim McElwee
Totem Lake – none

City Staff Attending:

Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Tracey Dunlap, Deputy City Manager

Elected officials present:

Councilmember Dave Asher
Councilmember Doreen Marchione
Councilmember Jay Arnold

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

After introductions we unanimously ratified the March meeting minutes.

Kirkland Parks Foundation (KPF)

Sally Otten, Tom Neir

- KPF is a 501c3
- Purpose of foundation is to raise money for park improvements. Their mission statement: The Kirkland Parks Foundation works with the community to conceptualize, plan, fund and implement park improvements and activities that enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Kirkland.
- kirklandparksfoundation.org is live
- Using a kickstarter/crowdfunding model to raise money for specific projects
- 100% of donation goes to project
- Current project is a picnic shelter at Waverly Beach Park
 - Total cost \$150,000
 - Rotary is donating \$50,000

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- City will match \$50,000
- Parks Foundation looking to raise remaining \$50,000 by end of June
- Donations can be made on kirklandparksfoundation.org website
- Project categories include community, environment, education, art
- Submit project ideas at kirklandparksfoundation.org
- You'll be able to sort projects by neighborhood or type of project
- There is a volunteer link
- Goal is to be self-sufficient in two years; if not they may disband
- They are not replacing any function of the city, just helping to raise funds for projects approved by the city
- The model is based on Seattle Parks Foundation, who provided advice
- They are looking for board members, particularly from the newly annexed areas, and young people
- Contact: SallyOtten@kirklandparksfoundation.org
- How can KAN help?
 - Invite Sally to speak at your neighborhood meeting before the end of June
 - When you receive info about the foundation, forward it to your email list

Council Conversations

Councilmembers Doreen Marchione, Jay Arnold

- Doreen
 - On Council since 2010
 - Committees: Finance and Admin, Planning and Economic Development, Legislative
 - On KPC (Kirkland Performance Center) board
- Jay
 - On Council since 2014
 - Committees: Finance and Admin, Planning and Economic Development
 - Planning and Economic Development is handling the parking recommendations
- Questions
 - Since committee meetings are closed to the public, and the parking discussions will thus be behind closed doors, how can stakeholders continue to provide input?
 - Jay:
 - The committee especially welcomes input from organized groups such as KAN.
 - The Chamber of Commerce has sent a letter requesting paid parking downtown at all times.
 - The committee recommendations will be sent to Council.
 - How much input does the city have with regard to decisions made by state agencies, such as DOT? (405 projects affect Kirkland.)
 - Doreen: The city's relationship with the DOT is limited. They don't ask the city for input except as part of the regular formal input process.
 - Jay: Kirkland is a member of the Eastside Transportation Board, in which input is collected from all Eastside cities.

- Who approves development exceptions, such as allowing building in wetlands?
 - Doreen: The council can only address policy, not individual exemption requests.
 - Jay: Land use exceptions go through the hearing examiner.
- What determines the planning vision for the city?
 - Doreen/Jay:
 - The comprehensive plan defines character, land use, economic development.
 - The challenge is to balance the small town feel with business viability.
- Is it the responsibility of the city or the council to ensure that downtown property owners don't lose money?
 - Doreen: It is not the city's responsibility, but the city can help ensure that businesses can afford to locate downtown, or to upgrade unsafe buildings, by making fees more reasonable.
 - Jay: The city can also work with developers to ensure that they include certain public benefits (such as a grocery store or affordable housing) in exchange for things like zoning variances.
- Why does the Chamber want pay parking? It seems that this would discourage shopping.
 - Jay has asked them for more information, but his current understanding is that they feel it would encourage parking circulation, and would reduce employee parking downtown.
- Does council feel that they have done a good job of integrating the new neighborhoods post-annexation, and what are the plans for continuing to reach out to new neighborhoods?
 - Doreen: Feels they've done a good job of expanding services. Adding people from the annexation areas to boards and commissions prior to annexation was a good idea. She would like to see the parks in annexed areas upgraded more quickly.
 - Jay: Feels they are learning to communicate more effectively, and to think bigger picture, for example, the siting of a new fire station on Finn Hill affects more than just Finn Hill.
- How can KAN be a more effective resource in working with the Planning Commission (we will have a joint meeting with them in the fall)?
 - Doreen:
 - Push to get neighborhood plans out; use a template so plans can be done more quickly and more often.
 - Jay:
 - Suggest updating the plans every 16 years.
 - Neighborhoods will be grouped for plan reviews; KAN can suggest how the neighborhoods are grouped.

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- How can KAN be a more effective resource for ARC siting and the ballot measure?
 - Doreen: Follow the process, and keep giving input.
 - Can we look at all of the neighborhood centers together?
 - Jay: While there are similarities between them, there are also differences. So it's also important to look at individual neighborhoods.
 - How realistic and viable are neighborhood plans? Do they accomplish anything?
 - Jay: The plans define the vision, but the city can't force the vision to be implemented.
- Doreen mentioned that the council is "on the Path" to opening up its committee meetings to the public.

Metropolitan Park Districts (MPDs)

Tracey Dunlap, Deputy City Manager

The council is considering a ballot measure for ARC funding that would create a Metropolitan Park District (MPD). Tracey explained what this means. (See her memo on page 8: <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/Assets/Parks/Parks+PDFs/ParkBoard/0+KIRKLAND+PARK+BOARD+Packet+April+8+2015+web.pdf>)

- MPD vote requires only a simple majority vs. an Excess Levy (Bond) which requires a super majority and higher voter turnout.
- An MPD is more flexible than a Bond in terms of how much it can collect, for how long, and for what purposes.
- An MPD can levy any amount up to 75 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value. (Which would generate over \$13 million per year.)
- The ballot does not have to specify the exact amount that would be collected, and the amount can vary over time.
- The timing of the election determines when the city can start collecting the tax revenue. For example, if a ballot measure passed in the fall of 2015, the city could start collecting in January of 2017.
- Because there is usually a better turnout at a general election, the council hopes the measure can be on this coming fall's ballot.
- Funding would be used for the ARC and potentially for CKC enhancements later.
- The City of Kirkland met with the City of Redmond to discuss possibly partnering on an MPD for ARC funding, but Redmond's timeline does not mesh with Kirkland's (they are still a few years out from looking at funding for an ARC).
- An MPD can be dissolved by a majority vote of the members of the board. The vote can be called for by petition from 10% of voters who voted in the last general election.

Public Comments

None

ARC Update: Next steps for KAN

Deferred to May meeting.

KAN Website

Karen gave an update on the KAN website, and thanked Brian Staples for his efforts in creating it.

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- The website is at <http://www.kirklandkan.org/>. Please send corrections or suggestions to karen@nwnative.us.
- An anonymous donor has paid for the domain name for 10 years!
- Another anonymous donor has paid for the hosting for one year! After this, NAs will take turns paying for the site (as agreed to at our March meeting).
- We are hosting with Weebly. It costs \$48 per year. It is very easy to use.
- Please put a link to the site on your neighborhood website.

Neighborhood Services Report

Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

- Neighborhood Safety Program – overview of process and projects
 - The panel voted on and prioritized the projects; Kari will send a list
 - Please try to attend the April 21 council meeting to show your support for the projects
 - There was \$350,000 available: \$150K from the streets levy and \$200K from the walkable Kirkland initiative
- Council meetings with neighborhoods
 - Juanita April 13
 - Finn Hill May 27
- Jeannie sent out a picnic email; please confirm that the info is correct for your neighborhood
- The south end of Lake Washington Blvd. will close for 30 days(!) this summer for culvert replacement.

Neighborhood Round Table

- Juanita (Karen L.):
 - A large private boat dock is being proposed next to Juanita Beach Park, and the neighborhood is working to prevent this.
- South Rose Hill Bridle Trails (Jim M.):
 - Keeping an eye on Bridle Trails shopping center plans
- Market (Doug):
 - Fire Dept. came to Egg Hunt
 - Encouraged all neighborhood websites to link to the KAN website
 - They continue to have concerns about parking on Market St.
- Norkirk (Birgitte):
 - Asked for advice on how to get more people to come to meetings.
 - Bea suggested that we make this an agenda item for a future meeting, since this is an issue that many neighborhoods struggle with.
- Moss Bay (Bea):
 - Excited for Chainline Brewing to open April 25 (first “CKC” business).
 - Excited to learn more about Antique Mall plans for mixed retail/apartments.
 - 990-N forms for all neighborhoods are due May 15. It’s quick! It’s easy! It’s important!

Next meeting is May 13.

Meeting adjourned 8:58.