

KAN Meeting Minutes

5/13/15

Peter Kirk room, City Hall

7:00-9:00 pm

NOTE: Action items are highlighted in yellow.

Neighborhood Reps Attending:

Central Houghton – Lisa McConnell
Everest – Anna Rising
Evergreen Hill – Joanna Palmer
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance – Kurt Brunnenkant
Highlands – Karen Story (Chair) (KAN Secretary), Debbie Ohman
Juanita Neighborhoods – Karen Lightfeldt, Elaine Darling
Lakeview Neighborhood – Lori Isch (Chair), Chuck Pilcher
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 – Jim McElwee
Totem Lake – none

City Staff Attending:

Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Elected officials present:

Councilmember Dave Asher

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

After introductions we unanimously ratified the April meeting minutes.

Elections

Unanimously re-elected for one year:

Bea Nahon Co-Chair

Lisa McConnell Co-Chair

Karen Story Secretary

Jim said “As former chair of KAN, I love what you guys are doing.”

Lisa suggested that we review KAN’s structure and approach in the fall to see if we want to make any changes.

Downtown Parking

- Mark Nelson first thanked the KAN officers for creating an “effective organization.”
- He gave some background and overview of the downtown parking initiative.
- His notes are appended to these minutes.
- He reminded everyone that downtown parking is not right size parking.

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- Some Chamber members he has spoken with believe that enforcing employee parking would alleviate much of the downtown parking shortage.

Comments:

- Council members have suggested that KAN form a task force to give the city input on downtown parking.
- Everest spillover parking: employees are not the concern, it's transit riders. Anna suggested engaging Metro in these discussions. Do we need more Park and Rides?
- Time-limited street parking in the neighborhoods might make sense, but we should first have more data.
- What is "permit parking"?
- This has not been determined.
- Be careful with time limits in one neighborhood area because this can push parking into adjacent neighborhood areas.
- Where should employees park? This needs to be made clear. It varies per business center.
- Mark has done numerous counts in the library garage on various days, times of day, and weather, and has always found at least 50 vacant spaces, and often more than 100. However, the library garage can feel unsafe, so he understands why people may be reluctant to use it.
- The Council did approve changes to the library garage.
- Is there technology to figure out where parked cars are from?
- Yes, it is used in Olympia today, for example.
- Could there be a shuttle into downtown Kirkland from local Park and Rides?
- A recent city staff member at a KAN meeting explained why this was not feasible, but no one could remember exactly why.
- Lisa summarized the comments, and then asked if we all felt that KAN should be involved in working on the short-term parking issues or also the long-term.
- Bea feels it should be both, and not just downtown, but city-wide.
- Can the city use license plate information to collect data about where parkers are coming from?
- As long as privacy is protected.
- Mark proposed that Bea email everyone to ask if they are interested in being on the task force, which would give them time to think about it. If not enough people volunteer, she could try appointing.
- Each neighborhood has different needs, so would a task force work?
- Yes, each neighborhood is unique, but there are also commonalities.
- Juanita's problem is employee parking because no employee parking was provided by the developer.
- Lisa asked for and received head nods in agreement to forming a task force.
- Bea will send an email with a task force "job description" and a request for task force volunteers. Please think about whether you would like to participate.

Planning Commission Joint Meeting

Lisa summarized that we are thinking of a joint meeting with the Planning Commission in the fall, at a regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting. We would likely have one hour at most, which is not a lot of time, so we'd have to narrow our focus and come prepared.

The general idea is to discuss neighborhood plans, but what specifically do we want to discuss? What are our priorities?

Comments:

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- The neighborhood-specific elements of the plans are important, but so are the general elements.
- Does the Planning Commission determine the schedule for updates to, and the contents of, the neighborhood plans?
- No, but they are tasked with making a recommendation to Council regarding any changes to the neighborhood plans and process.
- Haven't there been issues with neighborhoods not having adequate notification about developments and projects in their neighborhoods? Is this something we would want to discuss with the Planning Commission?
- Can the Planning Dept. send notices to NA reps about development plans. [Editor note: Kari does send out regular CIP updates with this information.]
- The recent "interim plan updates" were confusing to many people, who thought it was a regular full update and couldn't understand why it was so cursory. Many agreed that there had been confusion.
- Why is the plan process so lengthy and expensive? The city is spending \$45K for consultants for the Finn Hill plan and the Finn Hill neighborhood is spending an additional \$5K for their own consultant to help them through the process.
- The process itself and the public role need to be better defined for citizens. Many people don't understand the purpose of the plans.
- The time between plan updates is too long, because the process itself takes so long. How can it be more efficient? One suggestion has been to use templates, but would a template be able to reflect the uniqueness of each neighborhood?
- Are there elements in individual plans that should be in all plans? For example, the Highlands plan states "Establish building and site design standards that apply to all new, expanded, or remodeled multifamily buildings consistent with City-wide policies." However, there are no city-wide policies. There should be, and this statement should be in all plans.
- Email additional ideas about our joint Planning Commission to Lisa and we will continue this discussion at a future KAN meeting.

ARC Updates

- Juanita Beach Park is no longer being considered as an ARC site.
- Christ Church, across from the Justice Center in Totem Lake, is considering selling their property.
- If there is no MPD (Metropolitan Park District) created, would we lose the option of purchasing the land?
- There has been some discussion of a possible Christ Church land swap with the city.
- Redmond is not interested in partnering with Kirkland.
- Bellevue has some interest.
- Mark spoke with the YMCA, who is very interested in partnering with Kirkland.
- Birgitta once asked Jenny about a partnership with the Y, and at that time Jenny expressed some concerns.
- Chuck feels that the sense of urgency created by the planned closure of the Juanita HS pool is detrimental to the process and that the process would go more smoothly if we don't rush it.

Public Comments

Dave Asher announced the Kiwanis Pancake breakfast to support Attain Housing (formerly KITH) on May 23 at the Peter Kirk Community Center.

How to Increase Participation at Neighborhood Meetings

Bea asked what approach we should take to discussing this topic. At a KAN meeting? At Neighborhood U? She has some ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) contacts who would be willing to do a short session with us pro bono. The Pew survey materials she included in our agenda packet were just to get us thinking about the demographics of who attends meetings and why.

Comments:

- Lisa suggested a pre-KAN meeting study session.
- Let's invite two people per neighborhood instead of just one.
- The lack of participation by young people affects government too, not just associations like ours.
- We should make better use of social media, which could help make it easier and more likely for younger people to participate.
- Everest is holding their next meeting at Chainline and will let us know how that affects attendance.
- Lots of young families on Finn Hill attend events but can't help out due to lack of time (with kids and jobs).
- Young people may not be as invested in their physical location; their community is often more virtual and less physical.
- Could we have a class on how to use social media?
- What does "participation" in the neighborhood mean? It may not necessarily mean bodies at meetings.
- Bea will follow up with her ASAE contacts for possible dates.

Summer Meeting Schedule

We all agreed to not meet in July and August.

If there is anything urgent, we can meet via email or convene an interim meeting.

Someone asked if we could try a virtual meeting. If anyone knows of a good tool for this, please speak up.

Month of Concern for the Hungry

- For many years, KAN has been conducting an annual food drive at local grocery stores in Sept/Oct.
- We need a team of 2-3 people to plan (pick dates and contact grocery stores for permission).
- Lisa and Debbie volunteered. If you would like to help, contact Kari Page KPage@kirklandwa.gov.
- We will avoid Husky home game days because shoppers are in too big a hurry to help.

Neighborhood Services Report – Kari Page

- Council approved the NSP (Neighborhood Safety Program) projects on April 21
 - Mark requested next year's NSP schedule as soon as possible so that neighborhoods can begin preparing
 - Joanna: Citizens often aren't aware of the other options for safety project funding besides NSP – suggestion that the city publicize these more / mention them in press releases.
 - Lisa: Yes, let's increase the awareness of "how things get done in the city."

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- Kari will email KAN reps and NSP panel asking for feedback about this year's NSP.
- If funding can be found to implement it, the city would like to update the Suggest-a-project list to include follow-up information.
- CIP Projects:
 - Cochran Springs (Lake WA Blvd closure at Yarrow Bay) is being deferred because the cost came in too high
 - NE 85th:
 - North sidewalks will be done by end of May; south side will then take a couple months
 - Overlay will be in the fall; should it be done at night?
 - Many people said yes, but expressed concerns about noise (beeping, grinding) and smell
 - Park Lane is on schedule to be done by May 29
 - Kari gave a CKC update to Council on April 21; Council expressed a desire to have the CKC be open at night for commuters, etc.
 - Joanna: some sections feel less safe than others
 - Jim: walking the CKC is safer when one is tipsy than walking on roads (he referenced a recent car/tipsy pedestrian accident)
 - Kari: Police will start patrolling the CKC in their UTVs in about a month
 - Lisa: Because the interim has limited lighting and other safety features, perhaps it should remain closed at night for now, but phase in as businesses come online and begin to orient more toward the Corridor. Lighting should remain on during business hours.
 - Karen: It should be open all night, but everyone should use it at their own discretion. The police don't need a "closed at night" rule to give them the ability to arrest bad guys.
 - Kari: One of several reason it's currently closed at night is because the city was concerned about the lack of lighting at intersections.
- Finn Hill meeting with City Council on May 27
- The Planning and Building Departments are to be merged in tandem with the city hall remodel. This merge was suggested by consultants. Kari passed around the new org charts (available online [here](#)).

Liaison Reports

[Planning Commission April 23](#) (Lisa)

- "Neighborhood scale" -- what does this mean
- Totem Lake plan
- Discussion of possible mixed use in Parmac zone

[Transportation Commission April 22](#) (Lisa, commissioner)

- Bike lane guidelines
- 6-year transportation CIP
- Metro long range plans (<http://www.kcmetrovision.org/>)
- Transportation Master Plan (public hearing June 16)

PSE Energize Eastside (Jim)

- Jim attended EIS scoping open house in Bellevue
- There will be an EIS scoping meeting in Kirkland on May 26

- [Energize Eastside website](#)

LWSD Facility Planning Task Force (Mark)

- The task force is discussing another possible ballot measure for facility funding

Kirkland Parks Foundation (Karen)

Recap of KPF mission from April meeting, since many reps were not able to attend

- Purpose of foundation is to raise money for park improvements.
- 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
 - Donations can be made on kirklandparksfoundation.org website
- Project categories include community, environment, education, art
- 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

Neighborhood Round Table

- Lakeview (Lori):
 - Repaved southern section of Lake WA Blvd looks nice.
- Everest (Anna):
 - Looking for board members, finds the best way is personal asks.
 - Thinking of changing their picnic time to noon (instead of 2 pm).
- Market (Mark):
 - May 16 garage sale.
 - Working on picnic planning.
 - Focusing on spillover parking issues.
- Norkirk (Birgitta):
 - August 29 picnic with Highlands.
 - Cannery presentation at their next meeting.
 - Garage sale was successful.
- Finn Hill (Kurt):
 - Their garage sale increases involvement. Board members visit sales and pass out brochures.
 - They are a 501c3 and used Give Big to raise \$4500 this year.
 - They have created a separate Green Space Preservation fund and hope to purchase parcels of land to preserve.
- Evergreen Hill (Joanna):
 - Amazed at how much was accomplished on their recent adopt-a-road cleanup.
- South Rose Hill Bridle Trails (Jim):

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- Kurt Triplett attended their meeting and gave an update on what's happening in the city.
- Christian Knight presented CIP updates.
- They had a discussion about installing speed cameras in school zones.
- Noted that the 7 Hills bike ride on Memorial Day weekend will impact almost every neighborhood.
- North Rose Hill (Milt):
 - Upcoming annual 124th road cleanup (from 85th to 116th).
- Highlands (Karen S./Debbie):
 - Recent crime wave; officer will attend meeting next week.
 - Frustrated that so many people still have non-locking mailboxes.
 - Will be sending requests for volunteers to help construct the 116th stair connection to the CKC (NSP project) starting in June.
- Juanita (Karen L.):
 - Their picnic will include dogs and dog activities.
- Moss Bay (Bea):
 - Penny Sweet will give a city update at their meeting.
 - Thanks to all neighborhoods for submitting their 990-N forms!
 - She thanked all KAN members for helping to make it an ever more effective organization.
- Houghton (Lisa):
 - They'll be hosting a second joint meeting of 4 neighborhoods on June 3 at 7 pm at the Houghton fire station to discuss neighborhood business centers. Everyone is invited.
 - They are wondering what can be done via surveys and what requires discussion.
 - They are considering setting up tables at Met Market and PCC to get wider community input.

Next meeting is June 17.

Meeting adjourned 9:15.