**Juanita Neighborhoods Association**

***General Meeting Notes***

Monday, January 9, 2023, 7 - 9pm

**Location: Zoom**

**View the Zoom meeting link here:**

Approximately 15 people in attendance including board members Doug Rough, Rob Scarber, Leo Gilbert, Jennifer Salem, Margaret Bouniol, Susan Kantor

Also in attendance: Ingrid Salmon, Karen Lightfeldt, Heidi Schor, Jon Pascal, Jim Knibb, and others.

Doug Rough welcomed those in attendance and reviewed the purpose of the Juanita Neighborhoods Association. Some of the accomplishments of the JNA include events, the monthly Student Community Service Award, park clean up, graffiti removal from private property, historical signage, public safety projects and the Juanita Village holiday lights.

Doug proposed the next General Meeting in person at the Kirkland Justice Center behind Fred Meyer. Ingrid advocated for Zoom due to its convenience. Others replied similarly. Holding a hybrid meeting was also discussed, but we were not sure we had the technical know-how to conduct a hybrid meeting. A vote was taken, we voted to approve continuing with Zoom meetings.

* **Student Community Service award** - **Nikita Shukanov. Nikita did not attend.**
* **Ingrid Salmon presented about open space and invasive vegetation. Ingrid has lived in Kirkland for 30+ years. She is an authorized volunteer for My Backyard. There is a ravine near her home east of Safeway. She has noticed that there are a lot of invasive plants. She wants to make us aware that there are unmanaged greenspaces. Ingrid has a boots-on-the-ground approach, often taking pruning shears to the ivy. The places that are managed (removing ivy, blackberries, etc) are parks. The area of her focus is near Safeway on 100th. She referenced the Kirkland Parks Natural Areas Restoration Map\*. She mentioned that the city is working in Edith Moulton to eradicate invasive plants. You can see work done there, and work still needed. Ivy is the main culprit, as it becomes invasive, climbs trees, eventually choking and killing them. Green Kirkland is working on parks, not other open spaces. There were numerous ferns in the open space near Ingrid’s home 30 years ago, but no longer. Jon Pascal added that, when Kirkland annexed Finn Hill (June 2011), some areas were under Parks, some were Public Works. This includes parks, annual streams, and seasonal streams. Jon appreciated the feedback, as the city manages limited budgets, and needs this kind of feedback. Margaret stated that she was a planner, and planning would put in place protective easements. There were concerns with private property owners who were doing more harm than good with their invasive species mitigation. Then a code enforcement officer would have to visit their property, and sometimes fine them. Heidi said that by encouraging the use of areas via trails, it improves public visibility, and the desire to maintain and improve these areas. Ingrid has a concern that there are some people who prefer to take the trees down. Jennifer suggested that Boy Scouts and JHS may be sources for volunteers to help maintain these spaces.**
* **Heidi Schor presented about trails and an Aquatic Center. Part 1 - Heidi talked about an exploratory committee she sits on (Parks Funding Exploratory Committee, or, PFEC)\*\* PFEC explores options for the November ballot. Their aims are: 1- to work with the committee for viable ballot entries for open spaces, and 2- for citizen feedback on the top project, which is the Aquatic Center for Kirkland. Juanita Beach Park and Peter Kirk Park didn’t make the cut. NKCC and Houghton P&R are the two under consideration for an aquatic park. The measure will only be passed if there is citizen interest. Looking at different scales of aquatic center. NKCC supports a medium to small center, Houghton supports a large center. Jim asked how the pool at JHS fits into the discussion. Heidi said it has not been discussed to remove the JHS pool\*\*\*. Doug mentioned that during the JHS renovation, it was discussed either removing or overhauling the pool, adding a splash feature, party area. This didn’t come to pass. The pool at Peter Kirk Park is expensive, and only operates 4 months per year. An indoor pool is more desirable. The costs to design, build, and maintain a public indoor pool are significant. Ingrid supports a pool at NKCC, as it is a desirable community asset. Susan says that her family uses the wave aquatics at JHS. She supports the Houghton proposal. WSDOT is vacating the Houghton P&R, making it available for an Aquatic Center. Jim shared the pool at Bothell McMenamins\*\*\*\*.**
* **Part 2: Working with the Finn Hill Association. The project she presented is the North Juanita Heights Forest Connector Trail. Parks, and Bikes and Greenways, were both in favor of building trails in this area (NW of Juanita Beach Park). It ties in with the Finn Hill Green Loop. Her group lost momentum before, and are now trying to build it again. There is a strip of undeveloped land running N to S where they would like to build their trail (called Juanita Slope). The proposed trail would add access to Juanita Neighborhood in multiple access points. One property owner has agreed to grant an access easement, but only when they are ready to develop. This brings in the Green Loop, promoted by Finn Hill. It would connect Big Finn Hill, Denny Woodlands, Juanita Heights Park, and others. The importance of this trail is getting a connector to Juanita Beach. A challenge is that much of this proposed area is private property. Heidi’s group is reaching out to property owners to start a conversation.** HS@HeidiSchor.com **and** me@DanielWinkler.com **Jon is supportive of some of these ideas, including pulling down ivy. He also said the city has the Green Loop Master Plan funded, it’s an action plan for trails, properties, tax incentives across native growth protection easements. He added that it is disappointing that it has been delayed due to staffing shortages. Heidi wants to know how hard to push this project; Jon’s advice is to not try to make it about a neighborhood, but that if it can be about open space preservation and more trail connections, the city can make the case that this is where funds should be allocated. The space directly south of Juanita Heights Park is private property, the homeowner may want to develop up to 15 or so homes\*\*\*\*\*. Link to Mayor/City council resolution about protecting Juanita Heights Park from development\*\*\*\*\*\*.**
* **Doug Rough will discuss the Juanita Public Path\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*. A logical path for people to go to and from work. The most important aspect of the JPP (from Doug’s perspective as a career insurance professional) is that repeat insurance claims tend to increase rates and ultimately cancel policies. Because there have been two JHS students killed on their way to school, if another student is killed, the insurance will skyrocket, and will be paid by all Kirkland residents. Doug described the JPP: Section A – CKC to Heronfield Park to NE 124th St (there is no way for a student to get from SE JHS to southern points including nearly 100 businesses/employers in W Totem Lake, without traveling along busy roads). Section B – connects Section A to to PSEs substation then to Edith Moulton Park to NE 140th St; Section C – Edith Moulton to Windsor Vista to NE 145th St (north edge of Kirkland). Section D – 145th St, along land owned by Sound Transit to the Brickyard P&E. Link to the city’s adopted active transportation plan\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Betty asked how many miles the JPP is, Doug said it's about 4 miles, with no significant elevation change. Kirkland Greenways link\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***
* **Rob told the attendees that the city wants the holiday lights at Juanita village taken down by the end of January. The J**uanita Village Holiday Lights takedown will be Saturday, January 28th from 10am to 12pm. Bring gloves and scissors or something to cut zip ties, we will supply ladders. Starbuck’s coffee and Top Pot Doughnuts will be provided.
* **Other business:** Open forum for Q&A, please limit to 2 minutes per inquiry.Nobody had additional business to discuss.
* **Meetings:** Board meetings are the first Monday of the month (except July), general meetings are the second Monday of odd months (except July)
* **Next JNA General Meeting** - Monday, March 13th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Zoom)
* **Next JNA Board Meeting** - Monday, February 6th from 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
* The meeting concluded at 8:40pm

**\*** [**https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Green-Kirkland-Partnership/Resource-Page/Kirkland-Parks-Natural-Areas-Restoration-Map**](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Green-Kirkland-Partnership/Resource-Page/Kirkland-Parks-Natural-Areas-Restoration-Map)

**\*\*** [**https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Parks-2023-Ballot-Measure**](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Parks-2023-Ballot-Measure)

**\*\*\*** [**https://www.waveaquatics.org/public-swim**](https://www.waveaquatics.org/public-swim)

**\*\*\*\*https://www.mcmenamins.com/anderson-school/north-shore-lagoon-swimming-pool**

**\*\*\*\*\*https://mygoathill.blogspot.com/2022/06/juanita-heights-park-and-adjacent\_12.html**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*https://kirkland.granicus.com/player/clip/4632?meta\_id=194534&redirect=true&h=c75898f466a311b3463461af029aae23**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/public-works/transportation/plans-and-studies/active-transportation-plan-2022/final\_atp\_2022.pdf**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*https://kirklandgreenways.org/**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*https://juanitaneighborhoods.weebly.com/jpp.html**