



Juanita Neighborhoods Association

General Meeting Notes

Monday, March 14th, 2022, 7 - 9pm

Location: Zoom

Approximately 16 people in attendance including board members Doug Rough, Rob Scarber, Leo Gilbert, Jennifer Salem, Brian Magee, Margaret Bouniol. Also in attendance: Austin Picinich, Mike Wert, Karen Lightfeldt, Blair Daly and Amanda Judd from the City of Kirkland, 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.

- **Student Community Service award** – the student didn't join our meeting. As Doug has stated before, the student must attend our meeting to receive the award and check.
- Doug made introductions with all of the attendees
- **Amanda Judd – COK Park Board rep for Juanita Neighborhood.** Please feel to reach out with any questions or feedback. ajudd@kirklandwa.gov
- **Community Van/Community Ride Presentation by Blair Daly – COK Transportation division of Public Works.**
- **Community Ride** is a pilot transportation service operated by Hopelink and brought to you by King County Metro. Community Ride – bringing the bus to you on your schedule. Refer to Metro website: [Metro Community Ride](#). It gets you to shopping, errands, other P&Rs. There are two service areas, including Juanita and Sammamish. The van includes a bike rack and is ADA compliant. Schedule by app or phone. Services anywhere to anywhere within the service area, during operating hours. It operates 7am-7pm weekdays, no weekends. Payment is via Orca Card, Transit GO Ticket, and cash. Ingrid asked if it's appropriate for students to use the service often, Blair said that's fine, but depends on their scheduling needs. Scheduling is On Demand, no advance scheduling. Ridership has plateaued, due to wait times. Being reviewed to go from pilot mode to full time. Considered Ride Share. Mike asked if the van is wheelchair accessible, Blair said "yes it is."
- **Community Van** – not 20 passenger, but mini-vans (2) or 12 passenger van (1) which have wheelchair lifts [Kirkland Kenmore Community Van](#) Use of the vans requires 2 riders or more, and can travel up to a 2 hour radius, weekdays and weekends. The van has to be returned each night. It is not limited by destinations within the service area, like the airport, errands, outings, school, church, shopping, etc. They are still recruiting volunteer drivers, and currently have 30. Steps to apply are on the website. They require 48 hours' notice to find a driver. One 12-passenger van is located at the NKCC. It has a sign that says "Use This Van". Gas and insurance are paid for from the fares. Payment is with Transit Go App, or ORCA card (with restrictions, see the website). The Kenmore van is under-utilized. One round-trip fare is \$2.75. Please send referrals for riders and volunteer drivers to Blair.



- **Austin Picinich – Save Our Salmon Mural.** The size of Austin’s mural has grown from 62’ to 112’! There will be two plaques. There will be t-shirts for all community paint day volunteers. There will also be stickers. He is partnering with [Urban ArtWorks](#). Should be 160-165 available spots, 194 have already expressed interest on his online interest form. He is planning paint day to be Saturday, April 2nd from 9am-5pm, with 20 volunteers/hour, x 8 hours. Drawing on the wall is to begin March 21st. JNA is providing \$100 for snacks, \$100 for Midnight Cookie’s, and Fred Meyer is donating \$100 gift card. Spud will provide chowder, coffee, donuts, and fountain drinks. On April 2nd Evening Magazine will be on site to cover the story, and interview Austin the next day. \$1000 to the plaque and other materials. Signups will be open this Thursday, March 17th.
<https://www.austinsart.net/salmonmural>.
- Doug added one more topic: **Actively helping refugees** – from Afghanistan, Syria, Armenia, Guatemala, Ukraine, and other countries and regions throughout the world. The JNA doesn’t ask for or receive donations, but we can connect refugees with services like housing, food, transportation, education, medical, and social services. We can advertise this via Social Media, MailChimp, etc. What will this look like? If someone contacts JNA with a need, then we will reply with a connection. Doug asked for a vote, the vote was approved. Implementation is to be discussed.
- **Other business:** Open forum for Q&A, please limit to 2 minutes per inquiry.
- **Mike Wert** – this week the city is starting construction for a road project, a right-hand turn lane at 132nd and 108th. Taking down trees, to complete in November. then a turn lane into JHS, eastbound.
- **Leo –Neighborhood Picnic**, September 17th, 12-3pm at Juanita Beach Park. KAN meeting:
 - a. Jim Lopez deputy city manager, Jim Lopez, Deputy City Manager:
 - b. James Lopez <JLopez@kirklandwa.gov> the city is looking into the **La Quinta Inn**. This is part of the [Health Through Housing Initiative](#). Kirkland is the second city to participate in this initiative. It’s a permanent home, residents have the same rights as homeowners. Pairing residents with job, education services. Eligibility: to have some type of disability, or 4 episodes of homelessness in the prior 3 years. They met with parents of the nearby school students. Comprehensive site safety plan. There will be strict compliance with sex offender laws. Leo thinks it will happen, but there is still time for community input.
 - c. Jim Lopez spoke about 5-year DEI road map. Looking at areas of leadership, budgets, policies, community partnerships, education, facility and systems improvements.
 - d. Google project at NE 85th Interchange, Lee Johnson site. Met with mayor Sweet and city manager Triplett. There are mixed feelings from KAN members, like building heights. Leo is the JNA contact at KAN. The city wants to wait until the BRT has been approved and funded before approving zoning/permitting for the Google expansion, transit and road improvements, and LWSD (LWHS), do we need another high school, etc.? Parks, ballfields, etc.
- **Margaret** – Governor Inslee signed the sunset for the [Houghton Community Council](#), [HB 1769](#). Also eliminates East Bellevue Community Council.
- **Brian** – Safety Program. Still on pause. There was a tent setup today to discuss the 132nd interchange.



- **Ingrid Salmon** – (to Leo), she is a volunteer steward for open spaces. Like Finn Hill, where trees need ivy cut away.
- **Mike Wert** - Tuesday night's City Council meeting will have a discussion on the Active Transportation Plan Update regarding pedestrian and bicycle project priorities in the City. The special session starts at 5:30 pm.
- **Amanda Judd** - If anyone would like to comment or provide feedback for Kirkland's PROS plan (Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan) please check out this site:
<https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Government/Departments/Parks-and-Community-Services/Park-Planning-and-Development/Parks-Recreation-and-Open-Space-Plan>
- **Doug** invited attendees to join the JNA board, but alas, they were unable to commit.
- **Meetings:** Board meetings are the first Monday of the month, general meetings are the second Monday of odd months
- **Next JNA General Meeting** - Monday, May 9th, 2022, 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Zoom) – Google, WSDOT 132nd/405 project
- **Next JNA Board Meeting** - Monday, April 4th, 2022 from 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
- **The meeting concluded at 8:24**