**Juanita Neighborhoods Association**

***General Meeting Notes***

Monday, May 8th, 2023, 7 - 9pm

**Location: Zoom**

Approximately 19 people in attendance, including board members Doug Rough, Rob Scarber, Leo Gilbert, Jennifer Salem, Margaret Bouniol, and Susan Kantor

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** – **Olivia Dann. Senior at JHS. Olivia will attend Whitworth next fall, majoring in Elementary Education. She wants to be a teacher, and has done lots of volunteering. She has participated in Teachers Education Academy at JHS for the 2 years. She works every week with kindergartners. She is the Captain of the JHS volleyball team, and is a member of the National Honors Society. She volunteers for the non-profit Young Life, where she has worked banquets, concessions, golf games, and food drives. She worked 2 months in 2021 and 2022 at summer camps at Young Life in Canada, doing housecleaning; and Oregon 1 month, at the dining hall doing service for campers. Leo asked about Young Life. It’s a youth group, working with kids to find faith. Ingrid offered that Olivia consider Kirkland Parks for employment.**
* **Police Chief Cheri Harris will be at our May General Meeting, regarding the effect of the mental crisis center, and La Quinta.** Crisis Center – located near the police station. Working with police in Tucson. 5 cities, Kirkland, Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline**.** For someone in substance crisis, and families too. We also have medical professionals who work with KPD. If they have committed a crime, decide if they go to jail or the hospital. Evergreen Hospital is often overwhelmed with patients in crisis. Will accept anyone. If someone voluntarily wants help, they will be taken to the hospital. Will be operational in 2024. Start planning on the means as soon as the person walks in the door. Also, Fairfax, but you can’t just walk into Fairfax, needs insurance or a court order. Ingrid: people under 18? No juveniles. They go to Children’s Hospital. That is another need we have. La Quinta. Recently a signed agreement with City Council for conduct and vendors. Lots of information on the city website. Looking for vendors to begin a renovation at the property, none selected yet. When a vendor is identified, KPD will work with them on a safety plan, and enforcement. There will be a percentage reserved for Kirkland residents. One is a woman who has lived in her car for 4 years in the KPD parking lot. Some are due to divorce, family issues, who have become unhoused. Margaret: didn’t neighbors file lawsuits. Yes, but no details. Ingrid: Funding mechanism, and comment she heard about homeless persons, moving them together in that community that can be effective. Cheri didn’t want to comment and get it wrong. Friends of Youth has a well-run shelter, and transitional housing. Will it be families? No, individuals. Leo: concerned members of the community who have reservations, they still exist, would we rather they are housed or under overpasses, etc. Jack: there is car camping at Methodist Church, some people at Attain Housing, Imagine Housing, so COK has a continuum from the street/car, to shelter, to housing. Cheri: every one of these orgs are helpful. Rob: any wrap around services provided? Eventually there will be full wrap around services.
* **PSE will present on upgrades at Juanita substation. We will ask them about JPP at the substation and PSE's right-of-way. Mary MacKie** and **Ryan Wieder**. Juanita 115kV transmission line project. Why? To improve capacity and reliability from Sammamish substation to Juanita substation. Will improve for 61,000 customers in Redmond and Kirkland. Loops the Totem Lake substation, adds 5 miles of new and upgraded transmission line. Upgrades equipment at Sammamish and Totem Lake substations. **Ryan:** Sammamish Willows to NE 124th St, west to Totem, to Juanita. Construction begins June 2023 in Redmond. **Doug:** we are proposing the JPP to connect to the CKK, very close to the Juanita substation. Heron Field Park, past the substation, and hope to go through the substation, as there are paths at other substations; there is a fence to protect equipment. The JPP would continue through 2 more parks to the Brickyard P&R. **Ryan:** for the Juanita substation, JPP would not be allowed due to safety. Underneath transmission lines is okay, as it’s public right of way **Ingrid** (via chat): Juanita Public Pathway is on east side of Juanita High School - that is the corridor through which this new upgrade for PSE goes through. What is PSE (owned by Shareholders not a public entity) doing for the community benefit relative to active transportation such as walking, biking, etc? Are these lines going to be buried or elevated (a fire hazard)? Lots of questions. **iPhone:** the substation was proposed to the public about 2 years ago. Has there been any update to the plan in the last 2 years? **Ryan:** can’t speak to that. Overhead transmission line is more cost effective. Other places where there is a transmission line over 405? Yes, Renton, over I-5 multiple crossings. Road closures? No traffic permits as yet. When will construction impacts be available? As they prepare for construction, the properties directly impacted, the GC will go to those properties to make them aware. COK can provide permitting information. **Mary:** can keep our group updated. **Doug:** for Seattle City Light – power outages don’t go away when lines are underground; overhead, outages usually in hours, but underground in weeks. Underground much more expensive. If an earthquake, underground could take much longer to restore power.
* **City Parks will present on proposed tax for parks. We will ask them to add the JPP to the proposal. Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks & Community Services.** Dive In Now – ballot measure exploratory process. Part of Open Space Plan. Over 4700 interactions with community. Community Needs: most important were parks and open space, trails, restrooms, lifeguards, community gardens. Programs: adaptive/special needs, afterschool camps, special interest. Most important improvements? Indoor aquatic center, parks in north, free or non-fee activities. Anything to improve the system: Restrooms, recreation, better lighting, improved communications, more parking, more facilities and amenities. City Council heard the results, developed Parks Funding Exploratory Committee, 2022. Chaired by Kelly Curtis, Heidi Shore rep for Juanita Neighborhood. Studies have been done, 5 facility sizes considered at NKCC (smaller options), Houghton P&R (larger options). Different sizes correlate to different features offered. NKCC – 80K sf is as large as possible. **Ingrid** (via chat): Please for any Kirkland facility designer: no more grass and no more lifeless bushes plus no more large concrete sidewalks plus no more huge car drive up capability. Plant native plants (no green lawn grass); install bird friendly glass and windows, put up trees for shade (rather than expensive HVAC). KTUB. Operations include drop in teen center 7 days a week, at risk BIPOC youth. **Ingrid:** can COK partner with LWSD, due to geographical distance from DT Kirkland? Doesn’t sound like it. Margaret: What happened to the Senior Center? It’s a community center, camp at Peter Kirk Community Center. iPhone: did LWSD say that KTUB is duplicative of services already provided? The only other place in Kirkland with similar services is Boys and Girls Club. Green Loop Trail Segments. Beach Lifeguards & Water Safety Program, due to community demand. Loaner life vests. Other elements: Park Board reviewed all the same info, agreed with PFEC, might take one or Park Rangers to add safety and security, convert sports fields to synthetic fields, add dog parks. JPP – much overlap between Parks and Public Works. CKC is under Transportation Division. JPP is under Transportation as well. JPP also includes parks, so there is overlap. City Manager said it could be included in the 6 year CIP. Study is funded, assigned to a planner, to begin this fall. May 16 – Council Study Session with community survey results, must be filed with King County by August. Community Survey <https://cityofkirkland.research.net/r/SurveyKirklandParks>
* **More info & the video available at https://www.kirklandwa.gov/Parks2023ballot**
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* **Doug:** is it a Transportation Plan, so excluded from the Park Survey? **Lynn:** Not included in the ballot measure, not presented during the parks plan process. Anything outside of parks is handled by Transportation Dept. Also involves Neighborhood Safety Plan. **Ingrid:** there are few dog parks. Lynn: we purchased property for pop up parks, like at Snyder’s Corner. Very popular, asked to put it back up and keep it up. Didn’t rise to level of a priority. Susan: excited to hear about year-round restrooms. **Lynn:** 3 parks will be updated to year-round restrooms. 6 others will be winterized and offered year-round. **Calvin:** sounds like a ballot proposal. When was master plan last updated? Last year, approved by council last month. Next time it comes up will be in 6 years.
* **Official vote on Juanita Neighborhoods Association board.** We elect Board Members in May for the coming year. Doug, Jennifer, Leo, Rob, Margaret, and Susan. We took a vote, all members were renewed for another year.
* **Mentions of 132nd road work, Welcome event, maybe lights, maybe cleanup?**Next Monday scheduled to reopen 116th. Daylighting Juanita Creek for several hundred yards from underneath 405. Our contact at Juanita Village, a little unclear about who will reinstall the lights. Leo thinks we can give her the lights, and businesses will put up lights. Leo, if they want to put them up, they can take the lead. Jennifer is willing to help if needed. Can lights be put up on exterior as well? No, only interior per the city. Cleanup, Margaret pointed out that Juanita is actually pretty clean. Litter Lady, Susan Vossler. Ingrid: much litter along Juanita Creek, behind buildings, Margaret put in for a code violation (behind Fairfax?)
* **Possible vote for next general meeting Sept. 11: zoom or in-person? If in-person, then we'll have to** **get someone to reserve the Police's public room.** Jennifer and Rob vote for zoom, Margaret says several neighborhoods are holding hybrid. Susan, if meeting is before the welcome event, could be a good place to plug the event. Voted 5-1 in favor of Zoom.
* **Welcome Event is the 3rd Saturday in September.** Food, entertainment, and games are figured out.
* **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, September 11th, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Zoom)
* **Next JNA Board Meeting** - Monday, June 5th, from 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
* The meeting concluded at 8:45 pm