



## **Juanita Neighborhoods Association**

### ***General Meeting Minutes***

Monday, January 13, 2020, 7 pm

**Location: Kirkland Justice Center**

Approximately 10 people in attendance (low attendance due to snow), including board members Doug Rough, Antonio Skokos, Leo Gilbert and Jennifer Salem.

Doug Rough, welcomed those in attendance and reviewed the purpose of the Juanita Neighborhood 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. The Welcome event will be in September again this year and volunteers are welcome.

Rahm, a 10-plus year Juanita resident and entrepreneur, presented an overview of his startup, Connected Citizen, which facilitates democratic participation in government by allowing online exchange between representatives and their constituents. It would allow an elected official to poll constituents to assess how to best represent them on issues. It would also allow citizens to voice concerns and communicate with elected officials. He hopes to market it to governments. A question and answer period followed the presentation. Some of the concerns broached in the discussion were that it uses voter information for a commercial venture, that it possibly doesn't add to existing communication channels, that it targets a tech savvy segment of the population and may not be a fair representation of the entire community, and that controls would be needed to keep it from devolving into partisan bickering or trolling. Rahm said he had researched the use of voter information and that there was not a conflict. He felt that it would be an enhancement to existing communication and that the community could be trained to use it as a positive tool.

Rosalie Wessels with the City of Kirkland Park Board provided an update on current projects. She presented an overview of the Juanita Beach Bath House which will include two picnic shelter, an all-inclusive play area, the bath house and bathrooms. It was funded by a levy which was approved in 2012. The project also includes artwork of steel cutouts of historical images which was paid for by the 1% for Art initiative.

The used play equipment from the Juanita Beach Bath House project will be installed at Windsor Vista Park, as the Juanita Neighborhood Association had requested. Windsor Vista is a park property that the Juanita Neighborhood Association has been trying to have improved and the transfer of the play equipment will greatly help this effort, as there is currently no equipment at the site.

Rosalie Wessels continued with an update on the North Kirkland Community Center park which will have new play equipment installed this year. A theme will be chosen this week from these four options: Train, Circus, Dinosaur, and Space Exploration. There will be an Open House March 3<sup>rd</sup> with three



layouts of the chosen theme, followed by online voting. The park will be closed for two weeks in May for installation of the equipment.

The Park Department is also seeking input on where to spend \$50,000 on active amenities for Kirkland parks. Some ideas were Peter Kirk Park tennis court resurfacing (\$15,000), Windsor Vista Park improvements (\$20,000), cement checker/chess tables or replacing the horseshoe area with bocce ball at Juanita Beach Park. Contact the Kirkland Parks Department with ideas.

Totem Lake Park will go out for bid by March with construction in early spring.

The 132<sup>nd</sup> Square Park is in the design phase. There will be an Open House before the next board meeting at the 30% design phase. The Open House will be Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 5:00-6:30 pm, in the Council Chambers. City council has fully funded the project and it will be completed by summer of 2021.

There was a reminder that 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE between NE 132<sup>nd</sup> and NE 145<sup>th</sup> will be closed in August for one month for road construction and to replace a pipe under the road.

Joe Dobner, a citizen of the community, is organizing a signature gathering drive to try to replace Puget Sound Energy, a for-profit company, with a Public Utility District having an elected board. He said this would increase reliability, and lead to use of cleaner energy, as the voters could push the board toward choosing cleaner energy sources. The required signatures would need to be collected and sent in by July 3<sup>rd</sup> to have the initiative on the ballot by November of this year (this needs to be done in an even numbered year). Commissioners would be on the same ballot. For additional information, or to volunteer to gather signatures, refer to the website: [www.ekc-pud.org](http://www.ekc-pud.org) The presentation was followed by a discussion with questions about how the change would effect service, what energy source possibilities exist for the area, and who owns the current infrastructure and how that would transition under the plan.

Volunteers are welcome to help take down the Holiday Lights at Juanita Village in February on a date TBD.

Doug Rough announced that the next general JNA meeting will be March 9, 7:00 pm at the Kirkland Justice Center.

Meeting adjourned.