

Market Neighborhood Association (MNA) Meeting: May 21st, 2014

With City Council, City Manager, and City Staff Attendance

Meeting held at Heritage Hall

Meeting Topics:

- Introductory Comments
- City Introductions
- Marijuana Zoning
- Traffic and Pedestrian Safety
- Parking
- Neighborhood Plans and Zoning
- Cross-Kirkland Corridor
- Economic Development
- Capital Improvement Program

Introductory Comments:

- Mayor Walen kicked off the meeting
- Intros (Michelle Sailor introduced MNA board)
- Dawn Morse garage sale overview. 16 homes signed up.
- Easter Egg: 2,000 easter eggs. Small and big kid hunts. Easter bunny left by boat!
- Next meeting in September
- Michelle Sailor giving advance notice that neighborhood picnic will be happening in fall
- Block captain announcement. Letter/cookies/WoM Moms/get connected with the neighborhood. Reach out to the board if you'd like to be a block captain and we can get you the letter.

City Council Discussion and Q&A:

- Mayor Walen referenced paper with answers to the submitted questions
- City intros (Kirk Triplett plus council). Jim Lopez. Kevin Nalder. Office Audra Weber. Tracey Dunlap. Robin Jenkinson. City videographer. Eric Shields. Jon Haslip (Police). Kari Page.
- Council member introductions and backgrounds
 - **Jay Arnold:** Recently elected. <home location redacted>
 - **Shelley Kloba:** Been on the council around a year. Appointed April, then elected in November. Chair of Public Works, Parks, and Human Services. Council rep for Eastside Human Services (?). King Count domestic violence initiative. Alternate on public issues committee. She served four year term on the park district. <neighborhood location and family details redacted>
 - **Toby Nixon:** Been on council a little over two years. Chair tourism and development committee. Serve on public safety committee and public works parks and human services committee. He and Shelley serve on the disability claims committee. Other

responsibilities as well. Previously served in the state legislature for 2 ½ terms, and served as fire commissioner before serving on the council. President of Washington Coalition for Open Government. <neighborhood location detail redacted>

- **Penny Sweet:** Market neighborhood resident for 21 years. Day job is at Grape Choice. Owned it for almost 30 years. On Council for 4-5 years (second term). Serve as chair of public safety committee. Serves on planning, housing, and economic development committee. Emergency management. Alternate for Puget Sound regional council executive board. Thinks Market neighborhood is the most engaged neighborhood in the City.
- **Doreen Marchione:** Lived in Kirkland for 22 years <neighborhood redacted>. Chair of finance committee. Also, economic development and planning committee. 5 years on council. Prior to council, Mayor of Redmond for 8 years. CEO of Hopelink for 15(?) years. Retired for 3 years, then ran for City Council. Working on 10 year plan for homelessness. Other responsibilities.
- **Dave Asher:** Lived in Kirkland for over 20 years <neighborhood redacted>. Retired from Army and University of Washington. Chair of legislative committee. Public Service, Parks, and Human Resources committee. Eastside Transportation Partnership committee. Regional transit committee. Oversight committee for mental illness and drug dependency (alternatives to jail). Eastside Time Bank, Time Banks of Puget Sound. A time bank is an exchange of services among neighbors. Other responsibility(ies).
- **Amy Walen:** Husband and her at Ford of Kirkland (own?) Finance and administration. Transportation policy board. Other responsibilities. Mentioned that the council is a part-time job.

Discussion Topics:

Marijuana zoning

Kirk Triplett. Two main issues: (1) state regs (e.g. 1,000 feet from schools, etc...). (2) Kirkland zoning, where we would allow retail locations. Discussion on Market street locations. Interim zoning ordinance adopted based on Kirkland school walk routes. Took MSC Zone off the list of locations as a result. Allowed light industrial and Totem Lake locations. Interim ordinance expires end of September. Looking to probably extend the interim ordinance and have the planning commission take up the issue in January.

Resident: Thanked council for how they addressed the issue. Recommended task force to address the issue. Concerned that the task force hasn't come to fruition yet. Doesn't want to wait 6-12 months for this.

Mayor Walen concerned that new task force takes resources away from other resources; may be inefficient and prefers neighborhood associations as effective mechanism to engage on this issue. Norkirk neighborhood is concerned as well.

Dave Asher: Approach will be very public with lots of opportunities for engagement. Sign up for the email list for notification on Marijuana updates.

Resident: Wants to encourage dialogue on this by bringing people together.

Toby Nixon: Need to have community conversations. Tried to align exclusions with federal law (have 502 align with federal drug-free school law). In actual application, best locations are excluded. Potentially take recommendations to legislature to modify 502 to address issues. He is looking for input from everybody on how the law can be changed.

Penny Sweet: Thinks the neighborhood responded appropriately and the right thing happened for Market neighborhood. Supports KAN as the vehicle for engaging on this issue.

Adam White late intro as Chair of parks board.

Jay Arnold: Reinforcing that legislative change is important. Could give Kirkland more control on siting.

Shelley Kloba: Market and NorKirk feedback as examples of the importance of neighborhood feedback. Late June – yearly conference with panel discussion on Marijuana implementation around the state. She is very interested in learning what other cities are finding as challenging and what solutions they have implemented.

Resident: Wants to hear the council listening more and the residents speaking more. We have an issue right now where property values are being negatively impacted because there is no finality on the marijuana issue. He wants the door shut now. Losing sales. Example of New York relocation house hunter that was concerned about market marijuana retail location.

Resident: Zoning rights question. Tobacco/liquor store question. Smoke shop on Market street. Wanted to understand consistency (or not) with zoning laws. Eric Shields addressing. From a zoning perspective, the City does not call out alcohol or tobacco as a prohibited product.

Resident: Heard today on NPR, heard that Marysville just banned Marijuana. How is it that Marysville can do that? Doreen Marchione response. State AG will allow banning, but Kirkland doesn't want to do that. Council can't just declare it won't be on Market right now (apparently referencing a process). Resident wants a clear signal that this is not going to happen. Dave Asher: It's worth looking at if we can give a message that this won't happen on Market. Thinks Council would support that statement.

Traffic and pedestrian safety.

Resident: Market street is too busy. About twice a week, hard or dangerous to merge into Market street. Amy Walen asking Council to capture the feedback. Penny Sweet says it's a huge problem for about an hour and a half each day, but not the whole day. Answer may be in residents helping to give space in the traffic flow. Resident concerned that a light may lead people to bypass through the neighborhood. Resident recommended light at the top of the hill. Resident concerned about crosswalk at Market and Central. People who aren't residents might not know it's there and it could be unsafe location for crosswalk.

Parking

Resident: How do we prevent downtown parking from overflowing into the neighborhood?

Kirk Triplett: Parking downtown has been an issue for years. How can we bring capacity on quickly for a lot less money? City is going to look at Waverly Way and Lake Ave W., and City Hall block lower section, inclusive of rental houses that have reached the end of their useful life. How can we let people know that City Hall is an allowable parking option after hours? Considering signage that tells people how many parking spaces are available and shows drivers how to get to parking. Current policy of the City is that the streets belong to everyone.

Resident: Against parking on Lake Ave W., unsafe for traffic. Also against Waverly and parking on both sides. The neighborhood already has commercial parking and boat trailer parking.

Resident: Concerned about parking formula for new development. Eric Shields addressed parking study for multi-family developments. May result in consideration of changes in regulations.

Resident: Concerned about Park and Ride (which one?) parking. Another issue w/ a development on Central that will drive more parking on the streets. Thinks we are headed for a permit parking situation. Wants to look at reversing special dispensations to developers for smaller units with limited parking.

Jay Arnold: Residential Suites. Project on Central. Market-tested new form of housing. Developer has to check in with the City regularly to confirm the assumptions being made are accurate. Spaces are designed for 20-somethings that don't want to drive. Disagreement on this point from resident.

Resident: How can we be proactive to engage in parking study? Kirk Triplett said email him. Contact Kari Page as well. We'll make sure you are on the list as different iterations of the report come out.

Resident: Plenty of illegal parking going on on Sunday because people know the parking enforcement is not there on Sunday. Has seen a fire truck have to back up to get from Lake Ave W. back to Market Street because they can't turn around. Could limit response times when leaving Lake Ave W. to address another issue.

Neighborhood plans and zoning

Resident: Has run into issues on code items. Wants to speak to someone so he can give feedback on conflicts and how he can address issues.

Resident: There is a comprehensive plan but sees constraints where a developer asks for more than is allowed and then negotiates from there. Does the City now have a reputation for allowing/encouraging this behavior? Developer responded that the City has a good relationship with developers and described the process of working with the City as working within parameters to find what is allowable.

Mayor Walen: Amendment requests are typical in cities. Dave Asher: We can't control what people ask for, but we can pretty much control what we allow. Potola in particular being appealed.

Resident: Communicating concern about affordable housing abuse (using the umbrella to build what would otherwise not be allowed).

Penny Sweet: We don't have affordable housing in the neighborhood. Anything affordable in Market neighborhood is going to get knocked down and rebuilt. Important to find a balance of housing in the community.

Resident: Interested to know what options are offered to business looking to expand (?) mentioned the triangle property off of Market and how the zoning would work to develop that property given the setbacks. Shelley Kloba – younger folks and the elderly should be able to live in Kirkland.

Resident: When he thinks of affordable housing, he thinks of a willing buyer and a willing seller.

Cross Kirkland Corridor

Kari Page

Solar flashing beacon for crosswalks. Some cases will have a traffic/refuge island (e.g. 6th street). Construction in June/July. Free up as much of the trail as possible as we construct through the summer. Fine, compact gravel.

Resident: Will it be paved in the future, like Burke Gilman? Master plan vision would be \$6-8M, thus interim trail will be there for awhile, but ultimately there will be a paved trail.

Resident: Getting through Totem Lake on trail is very tough. Toby Nixon: The plan is to have a bridge over that area (describing a plan that would cost \$11M).

Doreen Marchione: There really is a Totem Lake lake, but no one can see it. They are focusing on making this more accessible.

Kari Page: Also in design for pedestrian bridge at 108th, which will help cross-Kirkland corridor integrate.

Resident: Question on Woodinville trail planning.

Toby Nixon: We are a part of a regional planning process. Renton to Woodinville. Wants Kirkland to buy the rest of the trail in our City (over by Willows).

Economic Development

No questions

Capital Improvement Program

Kari Page: Be sure to pick up a slurry seal flyer, as this work will be underway in the neighborhood.

Kirk Triplett: Slurry seal extends live for 7-10 years. Resident commented that the north end of market was done last year.

Toby Nixon recommended going to the web site to submit a capital projects request.

Jay Arnold: June 20th is deadline to submit zoning changes. Eric Shields: First step is to get the applications in before deadline, then evaluated and community discussion next year (if application proceeds).

Resident: Waverly Way in need of repaving. Kirk Triplett and Kari Page will add this issue and take a look at timing.

Resident: Questioning if we really need so many crosswalks, as it slows down traffic. Council: Every corner is a legal crossing area. Resident focused on traffic flow.

Finn Hill Resident: Lives on Finn Hill. Joking that people don't know that Finn Hill is a part of Kirkland. Wants to see meaningful work put into helping Finn Hill get access to the cross-Kirkland corridor. Most of the Market street issues start on Juanita Drive, rather than drivers taking 405. Cross-Kirkland corridor won't help that.

Toby Nixon: Plan to improve Juanita Drive. Master plan for Corridor includes connectivity to Forbes Creek area. Dave Asher: We can't move the corridor to Finn Hill.

Comment on need for Market street median maintenance needs (tall weeds, dead trees, branches). Wants Public Works to "do their job".

Kirk Triplett: On median maintenance comment, roads levy is focused on streets and sidewalks. Thus budget issues for this median maintenance work. During recession, median maintenance work was deprioritized for budget issues. Now readdressing this issue. Definitely going to make it a focus.

Resident: Frustration is that volunteers get involved and then no plan afterwards. Should we spray? Wrong material in the medians? Kirk Triplett: City is considering changing out the medians with more appropriate material/plantings. Resident: Compared to Redmond, our medians are embarrassing.

Resident: Can we install a pedestrian crosswalk that synchronizes with the traffic stoplight so you don't have a green light but cars can't move because of the crosswalk?

Resident: Can we have consistent speed limits on Market street? Resident: Average speed on Market heading towards downtown is 38 MPH. Resident agreeing that goal would be to slow down traffic.

Resident: Bikes are supposed to act like cars, but only when they feel like it. Pedestrians grab flags and walk into traffic without sufficiently looking. Do the Police need to get out there to warn people to encourage predictability in the system? Dave Asher: We have had stings in the past for pedestrians to encourage the right behavior.

END OF MEETING