

Market Neighborhood Association (MNA) Meeting

January 15, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Chairperson: Michelle Sailor (MNA Board Chairperson)

7:10 PM – Meeting called to order, Introductions of board & attendees

7:15 PM – Downtown Development: Ellen Miller Wolfe, Economic Development Manager; Duncan Malloy, Business Retention Consultant

- Focus is on business retention & recruitment
- Survey every 2 years to evaluate Kirkland's competitiveness
- Working with businesses on permitting and parking issues/questions
- Kirkland is also part of a 15 city tech alliance to further tech innovation in business retention & recruitment
- Tourism: funded by hotel & motel 1% tax, used for PR, Explore Kirkland website, etc.
- Department uses 25% of their business for events that bring visitors to Kirkland
- New initiative is to not require a "per head" tax in their first year if they are under 10 employees
- Part of the issue downtown is that many different building owners are causing many different operating (i.e. store hours) rhythms
- Some of the upcoming growth catalysts are:
 - McLeod building around Hectors
 - Park Place (although with the recent Prudential purchase, it might be 1 year before progress is made)
- Duncan Malloy
 - Devoted 20 hours/week to Kirkland business retention & recruitment
 - Partners with businesses to get through planning, marketing, securing office space
 - Creates awareness through permitting process flyers and City of Kirkland website

7:55PM – City of Kirkland Police Update

- Representatives were from traffic patrol
- DUIs up around the "Market Corridor"
- Will inquire about status of mail thefts

8:05 PM – Transportation & Safety Update: David Godfrey, Transportation Engineering Manager

- Update on 2007 Market Street Study
 - Suggested Priority 1 Initiatives:
 - Signal timing at Forbes Creek - Completed
 - No-parking zones (7th St. W, 18th Ave. W., 14th Ave. W, 10th Ave. W, Lake Ave. W) - Completed
 - 6th Street W turn restrictions - Completed
 - 18th Ave W u-turn restrictions - Completed
 - Education/Courtesy Campaign – Completed
 - Suggested Priority 2 Initiatives:
 - Gateway treatment north of Market on 98th Ave

- Enhanced crosswalks
 - Radar sign – Completed
 - Traffic signal at Lake/Market
- Evaluating putting the timing gap back on Forbes Creek light as it was taken out
- Ideas that came from audience:
 - Less median
 - No bike lane going downhill
 - Buffered bike lane
- Discussion about transportation plan in connection with 2030 plan.
- New Grant Process has just began and is about neighborhoods winning \$50k to spend on safety. Michelle and Joie will continue to learn about this and bring the details back to the next meeting.

8:30 PM – Potential Marijuana Retail Location on Market St – Kurt Triplett,

- City's position does not reflect disinterest in the marijuana retail locations.
- Residents wanting the city to take a more proactive stance in looking at where these businesses will be located and the impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and traffic.
- Concerns and angst that many of the residents have about locating marijuana businesses so close to their homes and families
- Just about all of us bought homes here without ever thinking that we would have to worry about this kind of business opening right next to us.
- While there is support for the recent legalization of marijuana legislation that passed, most thought that it would be in a commercial zone. Market St. cuts right through Market and Norkirk Neighborhoods and the adjacent neighborhoods are mainly residential. Many of the concerns raised were:
 - Concerns at having a marijuana retail, processing, distribution center within school bus routes.
 - Impact on children and teens seeing this kind of business on a daily basis in their neighborhood.
 - Traffic impact on an already busy corridor through Kirkland.
 - Lack of any restrictions on this business for hours of operation.
 - Criminal activity that could arise from this type of business. It was an illegal business until recently and the many issues that plagued drug dealers do not go away just because the state has said it is now legal (theft, robbery, car prowls, tax evasion).
 - Mainly Cash business (see above).
 - Negative impact on the home values.
 - Second hand smoke in apartments and condos.
 - Increase in drug use at our neighborhood parks due to proximity of marijuana business.
 - Burden placed on KPD and us (and city budget) to report and respond to increase in drug use in our parks and car prowls, etc.

9:40 PM – Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Recorded by Jason Hofmann (with supplemental minutes provided by Michelle Sailor and Wendy Alston) – MNA Board Secretary