

Dear Neighbors,

The goal of this newsletter is to raise awareness of neighborhood related issues and to disseminate information regarding our bi-monthly meetings. The newsletter will be distributed bi-monthly. A copy will also be posted on our website under Meeting Minutes. If you have any information that you would like included or have any feedback, we encourage you to let us know! Please feel free to forward to your neighbors and invite them to “Join Our Mailing List” using link in the left column.

Market Minutes

March 17, 2010

BOARD MEETING

Roll Call: Michelle Sailor, Janis Rabuchin, Denise Campbell, Joie Goodwin, Dawn Morse

Call to order: 7:00 pm by Michelle Sailor, Chairman

Finance:

The Board approved the following allocation of funds:

- \$200 for the MNA Website
- \$200 for the MNA Picnic
- \$200 for administration and other events

General Meeting

Introduction of Board Members

Introduction of Michelle Sailor, Chairperson; Janis Rabuchin and Denise Campbell, Co-Vice Chairpersons; Joie Goodwin and Dawn Morse, Co-Secretaries.

Followed by presentations on the Downtown Economic Development, Update of McLeod Project, BN/ Eastside Corridor

Discussion and new business

Downtown Economic Development

Update on Downtown Economic Development - Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager, City of Kirkland.

As you have no doubt noticed, we have about 25% rate for vacant retail space and a comparable percentage for vacant office space. However, this is primarily due to the recession. Commercial real estate all over the region is struggling - not just Kirkland. But, Kirkland does have some unique challenges - parking, high lease rates (comparable to adjacent cities) for older space, and seasonal traffic congestion. In addition, we have split camps - part of the community wants downtown to stay the same.. For example, developers want more density to justify their investments. What is the City doing to deal with these challenges? Ellen gave us an extensive list of initiatives, including, but not limited to: offering to be a guinea pig or beta test site for innovative ideas such as Google’s high speed internet community grant;

providing a business consultant (Duncan Milloy) at no cost to clients to help them start-up and flourish in Kirkland . Duncan has helped over 200 local businesses with concerns such as expansion and relocations, business plan development, and signs and other permitting issues. The City also has helped look into issues that impact more than one business such as parking at Juanita Village. A parking utilization study determined that there is enough parking in the Juanita Village core, but it does require people to walk a bit. The City has worked with the business impacted by the construction on Central and soon 85th to mitigate construction impacts. The City worked with diverse interests to create KirklandFirst.org, a buy local program as well as the Green Business Program, which recognizes businesses that implement strategies including energy efficiencies, green power purchases, recycling, etc. The Economic Development Program also helped to relocate our library to Park Place during the construction of the Kirkland Library. To make sure that Kirkland has a vital economy and downtown, the City funds and partners with the Kirkland Performance Center and the Downtown Association. If you have any questions, comments, ideas, etc. that you would like to share with Ellen - e-mail her at emwolfe@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

McLeod Project

Update on McLeod Project - Rick Chesmore, Chesmore/Buck Architecture

Armed with great conceptual designs, pictures, etc. Rick gave us insight to the thought process leading into the development currently underway. This project has three distinctive phases. The first phase spans the space from Hector's to Ben and Jerry's. McLeod has mirrored this space after a California location, Pepper Tree Lane, where they use older materials, awnings, colored umbrellas, etc. (a bit like Post Alley and the Virginia Inn in Seattle). Look for the first phase to be complete by summer of 2011.

BN/Eastside Corridor Discussion

BN/Eastside Tom Jones, TMJ

Promoting the simultaneous development of inter-urban commuter rail and trail on the BN corridor. The following comments were written and submitted by Tom Jones, TMJ. Now that the Burlington Railroad corridor is in public ownership, Kirkland will be deciding its position on the use of the BN corridor in the next few months. Some trail advocates want to tear out the rails and use the corridor for only a pedestrian and bike trail. We believe that would be a waste of a great and expensive right-of-way! The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and Sound Transit completed a study of the corridor and concluded;

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- “Operating passenger/commuter rail on the corridor is feasible”
- “The corridor has the potential for significant transit ridership” (over 6,000 per day)
- “The capital cost estimate for passenger rail is within the range for other lines in the US”
- “A pedestrian/bike trail could fit within the existing right-of-way throughout much of the corridor”

Rail Transit and bicycling should be, and are, two ecological, environmental and sustainable living partners! Citizens can walk and bike to transit, transit can provide them mobility when the weather prohibits the use of a trail. Kirkland and its citizens should support the development of both modes on the corridor that passes through the center of the city.

BN/Eastside Corridor - Eastside Trail Advocates

Promoting the vision of a paved continuous pathway that provides a safe public throughway on the Eastside Corridor. The following comments were written and submitted by Lisa McConnell:

The main benefits of a trail are:

- (1) safe connections between neighborhoods as part of a wider pedestrian and bicycle plan
- (2) increased revenue for local businesses
- (3) increased value to local residents.

Not only is the Eastside Connector Trail likely to have the same commuting potential as the Burk Gilman Trail (more riders/day than 173 metro bus routes), but it also winds safely through more than half of Kirkland neighborhoods and links four Kirkland schools with the communities they serve. People also tend to frequent businesses next to recreational areas, leading to millions in measurable, trail-attributed revenue in other pedestrian corridors. And access to a local trail is the #1 amenity sought by home purchasers. Adding a train-or more accurately under the current plan, planning for a train with a side-trail as an accessory-would introduce collision risk at 107 at-grade intersections, cut off schools from their communities, increase stoppage at high-traffic intersections, and disrupt current regional plans for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) along the I-405 corridor. Joint rail + trail is possible, and may eventually have benefits, but not under the current plan.

New Business

Other topics of discussion from the audience

- Check out the new Market Neighborhood website: <http://www.marketneighborhood.org>. Thank you to the team that volunteered to get this done ... and a special thanks to Cara Masciana, Webmaster, for getting it up and running!
- Easter Egg Hunt is April 3rd at 10:30 am at Heritage Park, Rain or Shine! Les Utley, General Manager of the Heathman Hotel will be doubling as the Easter Bunny. Come and enjoy neighborhood fun, prizes and raffle. Please provide one dozen filled plastic eggs per child. Egg fillers should be wrapped and age appropriate. Drop off eggs at 145 5th Ave W by April 1st with child's name and age marked on each bag. Don't forget your basket.
- Request to get an update on the annexation
- Request for an update on Evergreen Hospital
- Kirkland Wednesday market begins again on May 5th (2:00pm to 7:00pm) at the Marina
- Census Time - turn in your census right away. Delaying your return means the taxpayers have to pay for someone to come to your house to collect the census! By the way ... if you are interested in being a census taker, contact www.2010Censusjobs.gov or call toll free 866-861-2010.
- Come and welcome Dan Mayer on his appointment as Executive Director of the Kirkland Performance Center: March 20th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Champagne Toast/Remarks at 3:00 pm.

Next MNA Meeting

Next MNA Meeting - May 19th, 2010, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Please let Michelle Sailor know what topics you would like to discuss.
Please sent your ideas, comments or concerns to dawn.morse@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Joie Goodwin and Dawn Morse
MNA Co-Secretaries