

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)

Meeting Notes

Tuesday May 8, 2018, 7:00 PM

Fire Station 22 on 108th Avenue NE

1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience
2. Police Chief Harris Discussion and Q/A – Police Chief Cherie Harris joined our meeting to update us on the Police Department, safety issues in Kirkland and our neighborhood of Houghton and to answer any questions we may have. The Kirkland Police Department is almost fully staffed now with 98 officers. The Department now has enough staffing to have more traffic patrols, so there is now more emphasis on traffic violations. Watch your speeds and put down your phones!

Chief Harris also reported that although crime is low in Kirkland, property crimes remain a leading problem and stolen vehicles and car prowls are rising. The best way to help the Police Department is to report suspicious activity and any acts of vandalism or theft. Also, protect your garage door opener – they are stolen and used to access people's homes. Related to door-to-door solicitors, the previous protocol was to not answer the door. Chief Harris now says that it is good to let people know you are home and be assertive in telling them that you don't want what they say they are selling. Knocking on doors is sometimes used as a tactic to see if nobody is home and then they may try to break in.

The Police Department has had more success solving property crimes and burglaries with the help from the residents – if you see something that doesn't look right, Report It (911 if it's real recent or currently happening). The Online Reporting link is especially useful for reporting crimes that are not in progress. You'll find this at <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/PD/online-resources/onlinereporting.htm>. This is also a good place to report recurring traffic violations (Ex: you may always see people speeding through school zones on 108th Avenue in the afternoons. Or at 5:00 pm every day you notice cut-through traffic on your 25 mph residential street blasting along at about 40mph). If they get reports of problem areas, they can focus patrols.

She also discussed questions about having police in schools. They are currently primarily in the High Schools with some coverage in the Middle School. The City's Police Department is working to build relationships with students, faculty, and administrative staff. Chief Harris also suggested parents being proactive in knowing the social media and other connections that their children use – intervention works. If residents see a need for more police in schools, please contact the City Council and

School District Board members.

Also – don't forget that the police Department regularly holds "Coffee with a Cop" sessions around town; drop on by and ask questions, listen, and build relationships with the officers that serve our City.

3. 2018 – Houghton 50th Celebration Planning – Celebration is Thursday July 12th (5:00 to 9:00 pm) at Fire Station #22 Community Room. The main activity is a sharing of photos and stories from circa 1968, when the City of Houghton merged with the City of Kirkland. We are working on plans to have food and cake, games for the kids and a few other fun things. We would love all who have stories and pictures of "back in the day" to join us or if you are new, to come and learn about your new community and meet your neighbors. Look for more details as the date draws closer.

Check out an article from 1979 about a bit of history between Houghton and Kirkland as an appetizer for the summer celebration.

<http://www.houghtonlives.com/home/a-bit-of-houghton-history>

4. Other Announcements and Discussion Items

- a. Phyllis Needy Park Crosswalk – although this fell off our Neighborhood Safety Program grant application for Rapid Flashing Beacons, we will have Public Works trim back the tree branches to allow better illumination of the crosswalk. And this crosswalk will be our #1 project for the 2019 safety program.
- b. Other Development Projects – Northwest University Master Plan continues to be under review, waiting on a submission of a final mitigation plan.
- c. Future Meeting Topics – Larry suggested that we might want to tackle how our neighborhood might engage in tackling the homelessness crisis. You may not think of it as an issue in our neighborhood but it is and there are still things we might contribute to solutions for the overall issue.
- d. Transit Implementation Plan Open House **May 7th-June 11th** - The Kirkland Transit Implementation Plan (KTIP) is a tool to improve transit in Kirkland and to develop potential transit projects based on public input received to date. Input gathered through this online open house will be used to guide transit improvement priorities in Kirkland and to identify specific projects which transit service through the city. <https://ktip.participate.online/>

The City's web page for the KTIP is available at:

http://www.kirklandwa.gov/depart/Public_Works/Transportation_and_Traffic/KTIP.htm

5. CHNA Business Items

- a. Board Member Reports - None
- b. Election of Officers and Board Transition – Larry noted that Erika Somm is stepping down as treasurer and Brian Staples is stepping down as vice president. Thank you both for your time and energy on the CHNA Board. Larry Toedtli will remain President, Vice President is vacant, and Lisa McConnell will be temporary Treasurer and will continue as Secretary. Volunteers to help out on the Board are always welcome!!!
- c. State and Federal filings – both are completed
- d. Matching grant funds and in-kind hours – If you work on website, Houghton 50th Celebration or any other CHNA projects, please either keep track of dates and hours or let officers know so that we can keep track of matching hours for our grant.
- e. We discussed ideas for seeing how well CHNA is serving the neighborhood and how people engage with the information. If you have ideas for new approaches, please contact us (<mailto:centralhoughton@gmail.com>).
- f. Next Meeting – June 12 – Bike share (potential topic),
 - Finalize Houghton 50th celebration details
 - CHNA Planning for 2018/2019 (meeting topics, grant ideas, etc.)

Note: We do not have regularly scheduled meetings in July or August

**If you have any questions,
comments or suggestions,
please contact us at:
centralhoughton@gmail.com**

**Our web site is:
<http://www.houghtonlives.com/>**

***Potential future agenda items include – New City Council / Houghton Community Council members, Public Works – Transportation Programs and Implementation, Planning Staff – plan development and/or development review, Crossing Kirkland Event Participation, Fire Marshall/Emergency Services, Emergency Preparedness
Other Ideas?***