

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

Meeting Notes

1. **Introductions were made.** Over 20 people attended the Zoom format meeting. Larry Toedtli, CHNA president, welcomed everyone. He asked everyone to introduce themselves, where they live, and topics they were interested in, including topics not on the agenda.
2. **Former La Quinta Permanent Supportive Housing Public Hearing 1/17/23 and [Health through Housing Initiative](#).** Larry opened the discussion by reminding people that the public hearing on the project was scheduled for Tuesday January 17 at 7:30. He noted that the City Council packet, including instructions on how to provide testimony at the hearing would be available of the [City Council webpage](#) late Friday afternoon.

During the week of January 3, Greg Young asked CHNA to consider submitting a letter to the city as part of the public hearing as a follow-up to the December 6 CHNA special meeting with Deputy City Manager James Lopez and members of the Houghton and Lakeview neighborhoods. Greg summarized why he thought sending a letter was important to help close the loop on unanswered questions and concerns. A draft letter was prepared and sent out through the CHNA distribution list to seek comments and possible revisions to the draft letter, including whether such a letter should be sent.



Larry noted that, following distribution of the draft letter to members, the city provided more information on the project and agreement that addressed at least some of the questions and comments from our December 6 meeting. He noted that these would likely require modifying the letter to acknowledge that additional information. These materials are available on the [CHNA website](#) or the City's [Health Through Housing Initiative](#) webpage.

Discussion of the letter, both pro and con, followed. Some people voiced their desire for more information as previously requested, a better understanding of how on-site and off-site safety concerns are being addressed, and performance metrics/reporting as the project moves forward. Other attendees did not share those concerns and noted that they did not think the letter represented all views and, therefore, should not be sent. Rex Rempel, who has worked in the field of homeless services and housing, answered questions as part of the discussion. There was extensive discussion on how to balance people's concerns with other people's support for

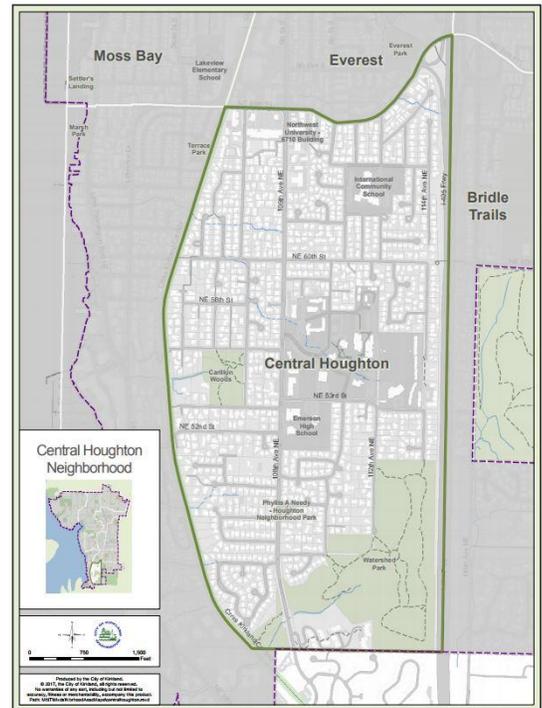
the PSH facility. Several members offered to help rewrite and edit the letter. Larry also urged attendees to write their own individual letters or provide oral testimony voicing their opinions, both pro and con, for the public hearing.

As a follow-up, the CHNA Board did submit a revised letter to the City Council and Mr. Lopez on January 17. The letter can be reviewed on our website – houghtonlives.com.

3. **Houghton Village (Old PCC Site):** Larry said that he talked to Deputy City Manager Jim Lopez about the status of a community engagement process for future redevelopment of the Houghton Village site which the city purchased last spring. Mr. Lopez said that the City Manager’s office would be leading the process and that they were starting work on the community engagement process. Larry noted that he will continue to follow up with the city. Larry suggested that attendees should voice their ideas for this project (types of businesses, housing, and design concerns) to the Kirkland Planning Commission and/or the Kirkland City Council. He requested that people also send ideas to CHNA via email – centralhoughton@gmail.com – so we can create a list of ideas in advance of the city process.
4. **Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station EIS Scoping.** Larry informed our members that the final EIS scoping meeting on the NERTS siting project was scheduled for January 11(6-8pm) at Lake Washington High School. He also noted that the cut-off for scoping comments would be Tuesday January 17. More information on the NERTS project can be found on the King County [NERTS web page](#).
5. **2023 Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP).** The primary safety project CHNA submitted to the City of Kirkland was for a flashing school zone flashing light on Northeast 52nd Street for cars traveling eastbound toward 108th Avenue NE. Schools in this area include Emerson School, Kirkland Seventh Day Adventist School, and the Kirkland Children’s School. City staff and neighborhood representatives will be evaluating project ideas from all the neighborhoods. Projects recommended for funding will be submitted to the City Council for approval in April. Please see the [NSP website](#) for more information and the schedule.



6. **Parks 2023 Ballot Measure Initiative ([website](#))**. Parks Funding Exploratory Committee Member Susan Harris reported that committee is looking at operating and capital projects to improve local parks, expand parks to underserved areas and explore the building of an Aquatic Center, possibility at the Houghton Park and Ride. Committee members are touring facilities in other communities as part of the process.
7. **Central Houghton Neighborhood Association Moving Forward**. CHNA will continue zoom meetings until the rebuild of Fire Station 22 is complete and is re-opened in the summer of 2023. Haris Husain, our vice president, discussed options for moving CHNA forward, especially after the sunset of the Houghton Community Council last summer. The group is continuing to more of an online presence with [Houghtonlives](#), [facebook](#) page and other social media to help get information out and possible discussion forums. He also identified a strategy to have different people participate in various elements of CHNA's activities based on their interests. These could include representatives from the various smaller neighborhoods that comprise CHNA. Other types of roles could include leading communications with different departments in the city, communications with the CHNA community, and communication with the broader Kirkland community. The group expects to be transitioning to a different structure in May as we elect new officers for our Board. Please email us at centralhoughton@gmail.com if you have ideas or are interested in assisting in the transition.



8. **Other Items:**

- a. **2044 Comprehensive Plan Visioning Meeting**. On January 11, the city was holding a virtual visioning event on the 2044 City Comprehensive Plan Update. Please see the City's website for more information on the Comp Plan update process and opportunities to participate in the planning process. You can sign up for email alerts on the project as well.
- b. **Transportation Benefit District (approved for 2024)**. Larry noted that the City Council approved a \$20 car tab fee starting in January 2024 to help accelerate funding for high priority pedestrian and bicycle improvements throughout the city. The only project in the priority list for CHNA is a rapid flashing beacon crosswalk improvement at the intersection of NE 68th Street/106th Avenue NE. This location is east of Lakeview Elementary.

- c. [Fire Station 22 Remodel](#) (scheduled to open summer, 2023). CHNA plans to meet in person at the fire station after it is reopened.

- d. **2023/2024 [City Matching Grant](#) Ideas.** The city is working to get the 2023 Matching Grant program started for the 2023/2024 grant period. We previously talked about a new logo for CHNA, flags/banners with a CHNA theme along major streets, providing a second name (Houghton Blvd) for 108th Avenue NE, and other similar ideas. Larry also noted that CHNA's website hosting, Zoom meetings, and foiling of state required reports have been covered by the Matching Grant in the past. Currently, we do not know what the schedule is. Please submit your ideas to us at centralhoughton@gmail.com so we can get a head start.

9. Board Items

Treasurers Report. Larry, as acting Treasurer reported that as of December 31, 2022, CHNA had \$2,298.24 in its US Bank checking account and no outstanding payables or debts. This compares to a balance of \$2,296.73 on January 1, 2022. The small increase was due to rounding reimbursements related to costs for the Labor Day Celebration event.

State Annual Report. Larry stated that the Washington State required Annual Report for our non-profit due on February 28 has been submitted. The cost for the filing was \$20.

Next meeting, March 14. Please [email](#) us your ideas for topics for the March meeting, or other future meetings.