

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)

Tuesday May 11, 2021, 7:00 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting Notes

1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience

Larry Toedtli opened the meeting and introduced himself. He noted that the agenda included election of the CHNA Board and that we need more people to get involved if the Association is going to be able to continue to support the community.

2. 108th Avenue NE Sewer and Water Main Project – [Web Page](#)

The final phase of the project will start on Monday, May 17th. The work will occur primarily between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The final phase includes repaving the street between NE 53rd Street and NE 68th Street, as well as repairing sidewalks, curbs, and curb ramps. The City will try to let people know ahead of time before lane closures.

Question: Would the median islands that were removed as part of the project be replaced? Answer: yes, everything should come back, including “C” curb in front of Puget Sound Adventist at intersection of NE 53rd Street and 108th Avenue NE. Following the CHNA meeting, Larry heard from the City that the current schedule for the project is estimated at 6 to 7 weeks (subject to weather).

3. Northwest University Update

John Jordan, CFO of Northwest University, provided an update on how the school year went and implementation of the NU Master Plan.

How did NU do with Covid?

NU in 2020 had in person and remote classes. Cases of covid: 25 employees, 99 students, not all of which were on campus. Last few weeks saw an uptick, so NU closed the campus the last 6 days of semester. NU plans to reopen with in person classes in fall 2021, and normal residency.

Master Plan Implementation:

- Prayer Chapel expansion on west side of existing building is targeted for a May 2022 groundbreaking and construction.
- The new Residence Hall proposed in Master Plan will not be moving forward in the near future due to reductions in high school graduations throughout the United States. The University is looking at remodeling/refreshing the existing residence halls (starting sometime 2022-2023, then one residence hall a year over a five-year period)
- What was going to be the Tennis Center (on the south side of campus) will now be an academic building focused on business and technology. The University will undertake preliminary design concept to help estimate costs to support a capital campaign. The initial work could possibly begin in 2023 but more likely in 2024. The building heights would be governed by the Master Plan – 30-foot average building

elevation (ABE) within 100 feet of NE 53rd Street with a 40-foot ABE allowed greater than 100-feet from NE 53rd Street. Due to the slope of the site, the building height would be higher on the west end and lower on the east end. (Larry noted that the allowed building heights for this location were not changed in the 2019 Master Plan approval.)

Question: The Master Plan allows for doubling the number of students, is that still anticipated? Answer: next 5 – 10 years, the expected number of students on campus will likely remain stable, not increasing, as all colleges and universities are seeing a downturn in enrollment due to decreases in high school graduates.

4. Neighborhood Safety Program 2021

Our project did not get funded. A couple of Rapid Flashing Beacons, which cost quite a bit, took up most of the NSP funding. The City's NSP team has discussed how to better accommodate lower cost projects that may not have as much technical data but can provide good benefits for the price.

We would like people to start thinking about potential safety issues and providing us ideas on safety program projects for the 2022 program as soon as possible. That will allow us to gather data and build support in advance of the application. The NSP application is usually in the winter, which is not the highest pedestrian travel season.

5. Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

At the January meeting we brainstormed ideas for future grant projects. Larry submitted CHNA's grant application and CHNA was approved for up to \$2,730 for 4 projects, listed below. The Matching Grant program requires approximately 4 hours of volunteer time for each \$100 in reimbursable expenses. We will need volunteers for these projects.

1. Website and non-profit registration

2. Communications and mailer. We began work on layout and design for the mailer in late 2019 and has since been on hold. The purpose of the mailer is to reintroduce/introduce CHNA to new people, either just moved here or those who have lived here but are not active on our mailing list or other social media. If you know anyone who has design layout or graphic expertise, we sure could use their help. Magnus said he would check on a possible resource and get back to Larry. Also, we are possibly looking to partner with the Lakeview Neighborhood Association, since they are pursuing a similar mailer.

3. Party/celebrate the neighborhood again. Something like the prior Houghtdown or Crossing Kirkland type event to celebrate and re-energize the community post-COVID. This will likely be targeted to 2022 but planning needs to start earlier. If you have any ideas or other ideas, please let us know. We would likely tie this party/event in with the mailer (project 2).

4. Central Houghton Sense of Place - What is iconic in Central Houghton? What represents Central Houghton? Let's make our own iconic statement. Bell, unique utility/manhole covers, old street names, flags.? The 2021/2022 grant will be used to come up with ideas and work with city to decide what can be considered (standards, maintenance, etc.)

6. NE 85th Street Station Area Plan – [City Web Page](#)

Draft EIS already out with 3 alternatives. One of the alternatives would allow up to 300-foot-high buildings near I-405. City Council has delayed the Final EIS until next year. KAN (Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods) is concerned that neighborhood plans are being ignored, as North and South Rose Hill just recently had their neighborhood plan updated and adopted in 2018. KAN also has requested the City to get more public interaction for the 85th Station Plan Area, via public hearing.

The City has set up a Virtual City Council Listening Session on May 26, 2021 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm via Zoom. To make sure the City Council hears from as many speakers as possible, comments will be limited to 2-3 minutes. Learn more about the project and watch for further event details on the project webpage: www.kirklandwa.gov/stationareaplan.

The Planning Commission will be briefed on the project at its June 10 meeting. The City Council is tentatively scheduled to revisit the Station Area Plan at its June 15 meeting, following the Planning Commission briefing.

7. Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Siting Project (King County) [King County Web Page](#)

In 2020, King County screened over 100 possible sites for a new modern Recycling and Transfer Station to serve Northeast King County. The new Recycling and Transfer Station would be fully enclosed, include expanded opportunities for recycling of large bulk items and hazardous materials, and include compaction to reduce the number of outbound truck loads to the landfill. In January 2021, the County had narrowed the alternative sites to four. Since then, the County has selected three of the four sites to move forward to a project level environmental review.

The three sites include two in Kirkland: 1) expansion of the existing Transfer Station site on NE 60th Street and 2) redevelopment of the existing Houghton park and ride lot at NE 70th Street/116th Avenue NE. The third site is in Woodinville on the west side of the valley, about a mile north of the north of Ste. Michelle winery. The environmental scoping process would likely begin in late summer/early fall 2021. The scoping process is used to solicit public input and comments on the proposed siting alternatives, impacts, and potential mitigation measures to study in the EIS. King County will then prepare a Draft EIS due out for public review and comment in early 2022.

8. City of Kirkland Tree Code ([Tree Code Web Page](#))

Larry briefed the group that the City Council would restart it's discussion/review of amendments to the City's Tree Code at its May 18 meeting. The Council's review of the tree code amendments was put on hold in 2020 as the pandemic started. The Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance has developed position papers calling for more strict requirements on developers and single-family neighborhood property owners to retain and increase the tree canopy in Kirkland.

Larry asked if CHNA have position on tree code options? The proposed new tree code will primarily affect single family residential areas. Please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com if you have thoughts on the tree code and/or would like to find out more about the amendments.

9. Houghton Community Council (HCC) November 2021 Election

The HCC voted to put continuation of the Houghton Municipal Corporation on the November 2021 ballot. If approved, the Houghton Municipal Corporation would continue for four more years starting January 1, 2022.

All seven Houghton Community Councilmember positions also will be on the ballot. If the Municipal Corporation is approved to be continued, then the seven council positions would be filled with those elected at that time.

Filing to be a candidate for the HCC will occur Monday May 17 through Friday May 21. For more information, please see the [King County Elections Information Web Site](#). There is no cost to file for an HCC position.

10. Other Topics

- a. Lake Washington Blvd Promenade and Lake Street Scramble intersection.

The City is considering a pilot study testing some temporary setups to evaluate the possible development of a promenade along the west side of Lake Washington Boulevard between Houghton Beach Park and downtown Kirkland. This would provide a wider pedestrian facility connecting the waterfront parks. The promenade would require removal of on-street parking. The temporary trial configuration would assist the City in deciding on moving forward with a promenade and possible design strategies.

The City is also preparing preliminary designs to modify the traffic signal at Kirkland Avenue/Lake Street to incorporate a pedestrian scramble phase. A pedestrian scramble phase would stop all traffic and allow pedestrians to cross all ways, including diagonally.

- b. Google/SRM – CKC Trail and Park –

The Cross Kirkland Corridor trail is closed adjacent to the new SRM/Google Building that is under construction just north of the existing Google campus. SRM/Google is building a park and trail upgrades during this summer. Detour routes for pedestrians via 5th Pl S are signed.

The project will also realign 5th Pl S, so it intersects 6th Street S closer to a 90-degree angle.



c. Missing Middle Housing

Larry noted the Planning Commission and Houghton Community Council were being briefed at a joint meeting on Thursday May 15 to get an update on the City's permit activity on Missing Middle Housing (MMH). MMH includes Accessory Dwelling Units, Cottages, and Duplex/Triplex units in single-family zoned areas of the City.

11. CHNA Business Items

- a. Elections were held for the 2021-2022 CHNA Board. Nominations were called for and the following people were elected to the CHNA Board:
 - i. President/Chair - Larry Toedtli
 - ii. Vice President
 - iii. Secretary – Lisa McConnell
 - iv. Treasurer Larry Toedtli as acting treasurer
- b. Federal Form 990 Filing – Larry noted that he filed the required IRS form for our non-profit corporation. There is no cost for this filing.
- c. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday Sept 14

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

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