

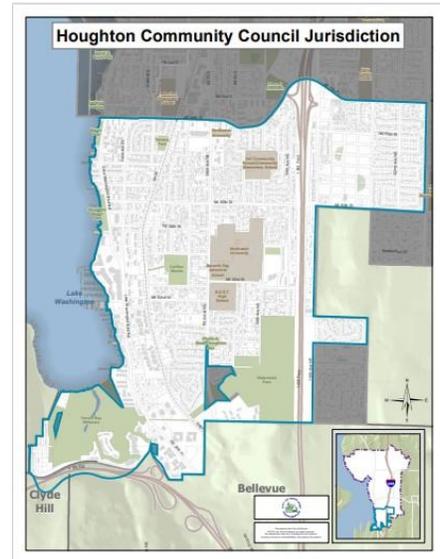
Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Tuesday January 11, 2022, 7:00 PM
Meeting Notes

1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience

Larry Toedtli, President of CHNA, introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and note the topics they were most interested in hearing about. Several people noted that they were interested in hearing more about the City Council’s Legislative Agenda to sunset the Houghton Community Council.

2. City Council Legislative Agenda on Sunsetting the Houghton Community Council

Larry provided an overview of the Kirkland City Council’s request to the Washington State Legislature to sunset the Houghton Community Council (HCC). The City initially included the request on a draft of its State Legislative Agenda in October 2021. This was while residents were still completing their ballots on Prop 1. Prop 1 asked voters in Houghton whether to continue or not to continue the HCC for four more years. (Continuance was approved with a 76% Yes vote).



Based on public comments and a request from the HCC at the Council’s November 3 meeting, the City Council voted to temporarily remove that line item from its Legislative Agenda. They also agreed to jointly meet with the HCC in the next few weeks. The joint meeting was held on [November 22](#) via Zoom. At its December 14 meeting, the Kirkland City Council unanimously voted to put sunsetting the Houghton Community Council back into its Legislative Agenda. You can hear their discussion from the [Council’s meeting video](#) starting at approximately the 1:53 time stamp. City Councilmembers stated that Kirkland would not be holding a public hearing on the proposal to sunset the HCC; they stated that the State Legislature would hold a public hearing if they moved forward with a bill to eliminate community councils.

Larry stated that a bill has been introduced at the State Legislature and was assigned to the House Local Government Committee. He then shared his screen and showed attendees how they can access and track the bill. HB 1769 can be reviewed [here](#). You can follow the bill by signing into the Washington state Legislature web site ([Legislature Home \(wa.gov\)](http://Legislature Home (wa.gov))) and search for HB 1769 and then ask for email or RSS notifications.

Larry also showed attendees how to access the House [Local Government Committee](#) web page. He noted that written comments on the bill (for or against) can be submitted to the committee members and their staff. You can also call them to share your comments.

The screenshot shows the Washington State Legislature website for Bill Information > HB 1769. The page features a search bar with the number 1769, a dropdown menu set to '2021-2022', and buttons for 'Bill' and 'Initiative'. The bill title is 'HB 1769 - 2021-22 Concerning community municipal corporations.' Sponsors listed are Duerr, Springer, Fitzgibbon, Gregerson, Walen, Macri, and Slatter. The 'Bill Status-at-a-Glance' section shows the current version as HB 1769 and the current status as HLocal Govt. A progress chart indicates the bill is currently in the House, with a green line showing progress from 'Introduced' to 'In Committee'. Other stages like 'On Floor Calendar' and 'Passed Chamber' are marked with empty circles. Below the chart are links for 'Go to documents...' and 'Go to videos...'.

He also illustrated how you can provide shorter (1000 characters max) written comments on the bill through this [link](#). He noted that this process only sends comments to the representatives and senator in your legislative district and not to the House Local Government Committee.

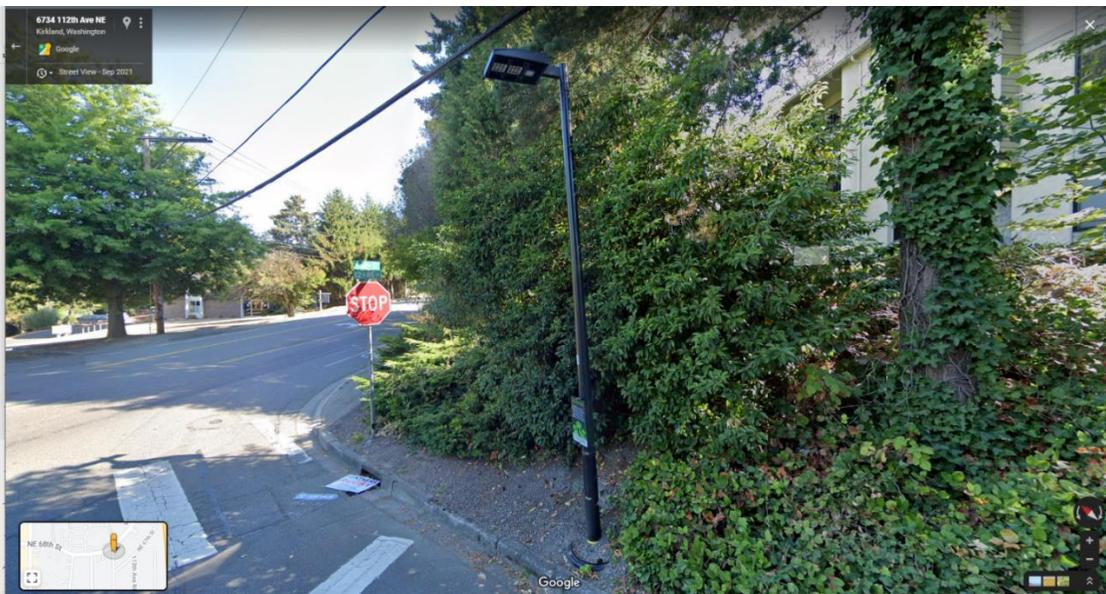
Larry noted that the House Local Government Committee has not yet scheduled a hearing on the bill (and still hasn't as of January 16).

If you want more information on the bill or the state process, such as how to make comments, please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com.

3. Neighborhood Safety Program 2022

The City informed the neighborhood associations that the 2022 Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) would be on hold for at least three months due to staffing issues. The NSP is a competitive program used to fund transportation safety projects in neighborhoods throughout the City. The recent focus of the program is related to pedestrian and bicycle improvements, including crosswalks and new/improved trail connections. A maximum allocation of \$50,000 per project is targeted. Rapid Flashing Beacons at major crosswalks have also been partially funded through the program even though they can cost well over \$100,000.

Larry noted that CHNA has been successful and the NSP program was used to fund the pedestrian light at the intersection of 112th Avenue NE / NE 68th Street (see photo), as well as new and improved connections to the Cross Kirkland Corridor. He noted that the Flashing Crosswalks on 108th Avenue NE north of NE 62nd Street and at Phyllis Needy Park were partially funded through the NSP.



Larry described the CHNA's proposed project to add school speed zone flashing signs on eastbound NE 52nd Street approaching 108th Avenue NE because of the number of schools in that area. The existing school zone signs/flashing lights are located on 108th Avenue NE. Drivers on NE 52nd Street approaching 108th Avenue NE are not aware if the school speed zones are actively operating. If funds allow, we also suggested adding signs on westbound NE 53rd Street on the northside of the Northstar campus.

For more information on the NSP please see – [Neighborhood Safety Program](#).

4. 2022 Brochure/ Mailer – Matching Grant

One of our first priorities from the 2021-2022 Neighborhood Matching Grant Program is the continued development of a postcard mailer to be sent to all addresses within the Central Houghton neighborhood boundaries. The purpose of the mailer is to re-introduce the Central Houghton Neighborhood Association and our mission and role working with the City to all our neighbors (new and old).

We have decided on a 6 by 9-inch postcard and are currently developing the layout and draft text and pictures. Hanna Christerson has been assisting us with this and is much appreciated. The postcard mailer also could be used to let people know of the Neighborhood Celebration (see next section).

5. Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

Larry provided background on these additional elements of our approved 2021-2022 Neighborhood Matching Grant. He said that the City grant money comes with a requirement of volunteer time or other matching funds. For example, every \$100 we use of City funds requires about four hours of volunteer time or other outside funding. A brainstorming session (via Zoom) was held on January 12, after our regular meeting.

If you have ideas for these items or would like to help plan and move these into reality, please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com

2022 Neighborhood Celebration –

An event for our broader neighborhood to come together for some fun, reconnect with each other, and re-introduce CHNA to existing and new residents and businesses.

Central Houghton Identifiers/Sense of Place Ideas –

Exploring and developing ideas for a possible historical marker or other way to identify that you are in the Central Houghton neighborhood.



6. Other Topics

- a. Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) – [Web Page](#)

Larry showed the PROS web page and noted that a community conversation was held on the plan update on December 15. The video of that meeting is available on the web page. Another community conversation is scheduled for March 9. The Parks Board is scheduled to review the updated PROS Plan at its April 13 meeting. At the April 13 meeting, the Parks Board also plans to make recommendations to the City Council.

- b. Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – [ATP Web Page](#)

Larry noted that staff presented the ATP at our October meeting and that Lisa McConnell and he met separately with staff to discuss some key pedestrian and bicycle safety projects in our community, especially those in the vicinity of NE 68th Street/108th Avenue NE.

He also showed the interactive map on bicycle projects in the [Story Map](#) link on the web site. He noted that the draft ATP should be available shortly and can be accessed via the [ATP Web Page](#).

Larry also directed people to check out the City's [Suggest a Project Web Page](#) that allows you to suggest projects to staff – maintenance and capital – throughout the City. These can range from fixing potholes, fixing sidewalks/curbs, parks issues, signs, or any other things that you believe should be reported and evaluated/fixed by the City.

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

Larry reported that the City Council directed staff to proceed with developing the Station Area Plan based on possible zoning to allow 200-foot tall buildings just east of I-405. If adopted with these heights, the SAP could accommodate up to 10 years of growth currently forecast for the entire City of Kirkland. He also said that the Supplement Final EIS was recently issued for the project. There are still major concerns about the plan including: schools, parks, transit, pedestrian/bicycle connections, and impacts on surrounding residential areas.

No meetings are currently scheduled. The longer-range schedule calls for the Draft Final Plan and Public Hearing in March 2022, with City Council adoption scheduled in April 2022.

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

After being on hold for over a year, staff re-started its update of the City's Tree Code. At the November 16 City Council meeting, staff presented changes that they referred to as minor amendments. The January 4 City Council meeting presentation and discussion focused on possible changes to what property owners can or cannot do with trees on their property without development. They also discussed proposals for requiring mitigation for removal of trees on private property.

The City Council will discuss amendments to the Tree Code associated with development of property at its January 18 meeting. The packet for that meeting can be accessed [here](#).

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

Nothing new to report on this project to replace/upgrade the existing Houghton Transfer Station. Three sites are to move forward into environmental review. Scoping for the environmental review is tentatively scheduled to begin in "early 2022" per the County's web site. Two of the sites are in Kirkland – the existing Houghton Transfer Station site and the Houghton Park and Ride Lot. The other site to be included in the environmental review is in Woodinville.

f. Bridal Trails Rezone/ Tech City Bowl

Larry reported that the City's Planning Commission was scheduled to get a presentation on the proposed rezone to allow redevelopment of the Tech City Bowl property in the Bridal Trails shopping center. The Planning Commission meeting was held on Thursday January 13 – the packet on the rezone can be reviewed [here](#).

7. CHNA Business Items

a Board Positions/ Bylaws Discussion

We discussed possible changes to our CHNA Bylaws related to membership. Larry said this review came about after Brandon Goodfried reached out to him. Brandon is the sophomore class president at Lake Washington High School and wanted to join our organization and seek to become a Board member. Our current Bylaws defines a member as an adult, which is typically defined as 18 years old and older. Larry checked with the City, and they had no concerns about changing our age requirement as it relates to our application for or use of City grants.

Larry noted that it would be great to get more interest and involvement of younger residents in the neighborhood association and this might be a great way to start. We have engaged with students in some of our activities, such as the 2019 Crossing Kirkland event.

Based on the discussion Larry will propose revised wording for our Bylaws for discussion and approval at our March 8 meeting.

We currently have two or the four Board positions unfilled. Elections for next year's Board will occur at our May 10, 2022, meeting.

Haris Hosain also wanted to connect with us to discuss how he could become more involved with CHNA, especially in fighting the proposal to sunset the HCC.

b Treasurer Report – 2021 Year End

We received reimbursement of \$175.14 from the City from the 2021-2022 Matching Grant. The reimbursement covered the renewal of our web site hosting platform and Zoom licenses for four months. After depositing the monies and distributions to cover costs, Larry reported that CHNA's checking account has \$2,296.73. This is the same amount as the beginning of 2021 after we were reimbursed for the 2019-2020 Matching Grant.

c Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday March 8

Please let us know if you have any topics to suggest for the March 2022 or future meetings. centralhoughton@gmail.com

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

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