

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Tuesday March 8, 2022, 7:00 PM
Meeting Notes

1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience

Larry Toedtli, President of CHNA, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced himself and noted that CHNA is seeking members to help lead the organization. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. Several attendees indicated that they were interested in the La Quinta Inn purchase by King County for permanent supportive housing and the State Legislature’s sunsetting of the Houghton Community Council.

John Jordan, CFO of Northwest University, provided a brief update on what’s happening at the University. He noted that he will be retiring on May 20 and that NU has hired his replacement. Ryan Porter, a pastor at Eastside Foursquare Church would be starting at the end of March, providing time for some overlap. John plans to introduce him to us at our May10 CHNA meeting. John stated that the University submitted for their permit for the chapel remodel and addition. He also reported that NU had no reported cases of Covid in February.

2. State Legislature Passed Bill Sunsetting the Houghton Community Council

Larry provided an overview of the State Legislative process and action on HB 1769 which will sunset the Houghton Community Council (HCC) and East Bellevue Community Council. He noted that the sponsors of the bill included Rep. Larry Springer (husband of Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet) and Rep. Amy Walen, a former Mayor of Kirkland. He summarized the Kirkland City Council’s legislative agenda that called for sunsetting the HCC even as the ballots for the November 2 election on whether to continue the HCC were being cast. He stated that the State House passed the bill on February 12. The bill was then fast tracked through the State



Senate committee. The bill passed the full Senate on March 1. Two amendments to the bill were considered but did not pass Senate floor votes. One of the amendments would have delayed sunseting the Community Council's until December 31, 2025, recognizing the results of the November 2, 2021, election. The other proposed amendment would have established a process for the geographic areas covered by the Community Council's to decide to become their own Cities.

Following our March 8 meeting, the bill was signed by the Governor. The Houghton Community Council will officially be sunset on or about July 9, 2022.

3. 2022 Brochure/ Mailer – Matching Grant

Larry shared a preliminary draft of the 6 by 9-inch postcard mailer that CHNA plans to send out to all addresses within our CHNA boundaries later this year. Thanks to Hanna Christerson for assisting us with the layout and design. The purpose of the mailer is to re-introduce the Neighborhood Association (NA) to residents and businesses within our boundaries. It also will serve as a welcome to the neighborhood for newer residents. The mailer also will be used as a “Save the Date” notice for the CHNA 2022 Celebration Event (see item 4 below). The mailer is being funded through the 2021/2022 City Matching Grant. We will be printing and mailing through the United States Postal Service’s Every Door Direct Mailer (EDDM).

We discussed when would be the best time to mail it out to help support the Celebration Event as well as the sunseting of the HCC. We also discussed possible changes to the text to enhance the message of getting people involved in the NA, especially since the HCC would no longer be a forum for discussion of key topics affecting our community.



We are looking for assistance in developing a final version of the postcard. Email us at centralhoughton@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

4. Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

2022 Neighborhood Celebration Event– Larry recapped where the planning committee is at for the 2022 CHNA Celebration Event. The purpose of the event is to reintroduce residents and businesses to CHNA and its role and to have some community fun. He noted that we are targeting Labor Day weekend for the event – hopefully Monday afternoon. Based on the type of permit that we are pursuing, the event can only be for people and businesses within the CHNA boundaries. We need to get key elements, such as location, date/time, activities, food, and set up defined by the end of May so we can submit our application to

Kirkland Parks by early June. We also will be looking for possible sponsors.



The committee will be meeting again at 7 PM on March 24 via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know at: centralhoughton@gmail.com.

Central Houghton Identifiers/Sense of Place Ideas – The same small committee working on the 2022 CHNA Celebration Event also brainstormed ideas for creating a CHNA identifier or sense of place. The top choice was creating a new logo (to replace the green bell symbol). The committee suggested that we reach out to local schools and engage students in digital design classes. During discussion at our March 8 meeting, Jennifer Loy suggested doing research on the origination of “Central Houghton” for the neighborhood association. We could even consider changing our name, if desired. We decided that the group needs to focus on the 2022 Celebration Event and reconnect on this topic during the fall.

5. National Night Out

National Night Out is a national event to promote partnership between community, law enforcement and fire/aid responders. It also helps neighbors connect with each other. The event is typically scheduled the first week of August. You can ask for police or fire fighters, City Council members or others to drop by your neighborhood event. Please see [Web Page](#) for more information.

6. Fire Station 22 Remodel [Web Page](#)

Larry summarized plans for the remodel and expansion of Fire Station 22 (on 108th Avenue NE). The project will allow for additional staffing and will provide a decontamination room separated from living quarters. The remodel is scheduled to start in Spring 2022 and be complete in Summer 2023.

While the remodel is in process, fire and aid units will be stationed during the day at the Longhouse offices located on NE 68th Street just east of the Shell service station. Overnight, fire/aid services will be stationed on NE 85th Street in Rose Hill.

7. La Quinta Homeless Housing and [Health Through Housing Initiative](#)

King County has purchased the La Quinta Inn on Northup Way to be converted into permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons. The Kirkland City Council has been very supportive of the proposed purchase. Members of the public have been very vocal about the project due to its location near several schools and businesses. The La Quinta is proposed to be a “low barrier” facility. Many people are upset that King County and the City of Kirkland have not been transparent about the proposal and had not held any public meetings, as required by King County’s adopted ordinance. The facility is planned to be open for permanent supportive housing in 2023.

On March 1, 2022 The Kirkland City Council adopted [Resolution 5522](#) which sets terms and conditions necessary to maintain City support of La Quinta Inn as a King County Health Through Housing site. A summary of the resolution can be found [here](#) on the City’s web site

8. Other Topics

- a. Neighborhood Safety Program 2022 - [NSP](#)

The NSP is still on hold for 2022 due to staffing shortages.

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

Larry noted that the Parks Board was to discuss the goals, objectives, executive Summary, and ADA Plan elements of the PROS Plan at its March 9 meeting. A Community Conversation on the PROS Plan is scheduled for April 13. The City Council could adopt the Plan at its May 17 meeting.

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

Larry reported that City 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. Public comments could be made online through March 11. The ATP includes a list of priority pedestrian crossings, intersection improvements and bicycle facilities. These projects then must be funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program or other funding programs.

We also discussed the addition of traffic speed cameras in school zones proposed near Lakeview Elementary.

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

Larry summarized the City Council proposal for the Station Area Plan based on possible zoning to allow 200-foot tall buildings just east of I-405. They are pushing the schedule so Google can complete its potential purchase of the Lee Johnson car dealer site. If adopted with these heights, the SAP could accommodate up to 10 years of growth currently forecast for the entire City. The community still has major concerns about the plan including schools, parks, transit, pedestrian/ bicycle connections, and impacts on surrounding residential areas.

The Planning Commission discussed the project at its March 10 meeting. City Council is tentatively scheduled to get a presentation on the plan at its May 3 meeting. A public hearing and possible adoption by City Council in June 2022.

e. 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. The City Council discussed the Tree Code amendment associated with property development at its February 15 meeting. Following our CHNA meeting, the City Council adopted the amendments at its March 15 meeting. The Council [packet](#) for the March 15 meeting and [Ordinance 4786](#) are available on the City's web site.

9. CHNA Business Items

a. Neighborhood Associations – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Larry noted that the City was working with the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN) on strategies for increasing the diversity of people involved in neighborhood associations. This comes as an action item from the City's equity consultant's report. KAN discussed the topic further at its March 10 meeting.

b. Board Positions/ Bylaws Discussion

Larry presented proposed changes to the CHNA Bylaws (which were also sent out with the meeting agenda). 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. 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, we tabled voting on any changes to the Bylaws to our May 10 meeting.

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

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

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

c. State Annual Report for 2022

Larry submitted the materials for renewing CHNA's State Annual Report. He noted that it could not be submitted online due to changes in the State website. He also said the cost was increased to \$20. He noted that the check had been cashed, but we were still showing as not filing on the web site. He will follow up.

d. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday May 10

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