

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Tuesday May 10, 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 he also serves as a Houghton Community Council (HCC) member. CHNA is seeking members to help lead the organization. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. Attendees said they were interested in the agenda item related to sunseting of the HCC and the La Quinta Inn purchase by King County for permanent supportive housing.

2. Police Lt. Troy Knafla

We welcomed Lt. Knafla. He said that he has been with the City of Kirkland for 24 years. He was recently promoted to lieutenant in the operations division. He updated us on the status of Proposition 1 which was passed in November 2018. Prop 1 included several components related to the Police Department: increased Student Resource Officers; a neighborhood resource officer; a mental health professional; and a ProAct unit.

Student Resource Officers (SRO) increased from 2 to 7 positions with the passage of Prop 1. (After some recent transfers, there are 5 currently on staff). The increase allows SROs at middle schools, as well as high schools in the city. To soften the look and feel of police officers on school campuses, they have recently modified SRO uniforms to include tan patrol pants, polo shirts, and changes to their vests. This change is in line with SRO uniforms being used in other communities. While SROs are assigned to specific schools, they also can be called to other schools to assist, as needed.

The Neighborhood Resource Officer serves as a liaison between the police department and the community. Duties of the neighborhood resource officer include attending neighborhood meetings, teaching children and adults about safety, conducting safety assessments of resident's property, assisting with homeless outreach, and coordinating events such as National Night Out and the Citizens Academy. They work closely with the mental health professional.

The addition of a mental health professional (MHP) allows other officers to leave a call that does not require them to be present any longer. The MHP would stay to continue to assist the person(s) as needed.

The ProAct unit works with similar units in adjacent cities on the Eastside. They can dig deeper into solving property or drug-related crimes. They go beyond just focusing on the

person that may be caught stealing something or using drugs. The multiagency ProAct teams search for who is buying stolen goods, who's dealing drugs, etc. The current "hot" topic is thefts of catalytic converters from cars. Catalytic converters take only about 60 seconds to be removed from a vehicle. New legislation that requires purchasers of catalytic converters to get and record identification from the person selling them (similar to laws for pawn shops).

In response to a question, Lt. Knafla noted that response times to the Houghton community are not really affected by the location of the Police station in the Totem Lake area. That's because the patrol officers spend most of their shifts out in the community.

3. Northwest University Report

John Jordan, retiring CFO of Northwest University, introduced Ryan Porter as the incoming CFO. Ryan was the executive pastor at Eastside Foursquare Church in Bothell/North Kirkland. We look forward to Ryan representing Northwest University at our CHNA meetings. Welcome Ryan!

John also provided us with a brief presentation on the University's proposed minor expansion of the Butterfield Chapel on campus. The permits have been submitted to the City and the University is awaiting approval of the permits. The remodel/expansion includes a new prayer center on the northside, a green room and storage on the south side, and a modified front entrance on the eastside of the building.



The modified front façade will cover up the HVAC system (see photo) and enlarge the lobby by enclosing some of existing covered entryway.

John noted that due to the small size of the expansion, construction traffic impacts should be minimal. Most of the dirt work which requires trucks should occur during the summer months which will help avoid impacts on nearby schools. Trucks will be directed to use 108th Avenue NE to access NE 53rd Street to reach the chapel site. Construction parking will be in the existing upper chapel parking lot.

John will stay on part-time with the University as the construction contact for the chapel project. If you have any questions or concerns during construction of the chapel expansion, you can contact him at:

John Jordan
425.889.7788
john.jordan@northwestu.edu.



4. Sunsetting the Houghton Community Council

Larry summarized that the state legislature passed HB 1769 to sunset the Houghton Community Council (and east Bellevue Community Council). The approved bill takes effect July 8, 2022.

The City Council will discuss the process options for enacting the sunsetting of the HCC at their May 17 meeting. The City Council packet for that topic can be found [here](#).

The City Council will consider the processes to change code that created the HCC and its authority and responsibilities. They also will discuss how they want to move forward with land use/zoning code provisions that are different within the HCC boundaries and the rest of the city. The HCC will be briefed on these at their May 23 meeting.



5. CHNA Business Items

a. IRS 990-N Form Submitted

As acting treasurer of CHNA, Larry reported that he filled IRS form 990-N. Form 990-N is a postcard-type online submittal for small revenue non-profit organizations.

b. Neighborhood Communications Program

Larry noted that CHNA continues to explore ways to engage with more residents and businesses within our neighborhood association boundaries. CHNA has been using it's Facebook page, website, and distribution email list to let people know of upcoming meetings or other information that may be of interest to the members.

As part of the sunsetting of the HCC and planning for the 2022 CHNA Celebration event, we started exploring additional options to expand our avenues of communication. Haris Husain, a resident in the northeast part of the CHNA boundaries has conducted some research of different tools and discussed them with residents in his immediate neighborhood.

Haris reported that Houghton is a pretty "sleepy" community, in that people primarily get engaged in community issues if there is a perceived or real direct impact on them, their family, or their property. Most people are not interested in attending in-person meetings (even virtually). Evenings fill up quickly with personal and family activities. Haris also notes that meetings may run long.

He noted that people are somewhat concerned about their email address(es) getting sent out and people would like assurances that their email address can be hidden. He noted that Google Groups could be a solution to that, but he wants to do more testing with a small group. Larry noted that several of the neighborhood associations, including Lakeview and Highlands, as well as the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN), use Google Groups. Larry noted that he cannot directly reply to the Lakeview Google Groups, but there is likely a setting to allow that since he can reply directly to KAN emails sent through Google Groups.

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

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

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CentralHoughton>

Haris is also evaluating use of the Nextdoor app and setting up boundaries that are contiguous with CHNA boundaries. This requires going through a community moderator which he is trying to connect with. That could allow CHNA to specifically send information to Nextdoor members within that boundary (unless they opt out). Another option with Nextdoor is to create a CHNA group and ask people to join it. This will require getting the word out on the group and will likely take more time and effort.

The group discussed how to get newer residents to identify with Houghton and why they should connect with us. They just don't have the history. A lot of people are interested in development (or redevelopment projects) and traffic/transportation issues and possible impacts.

We decided to keep exploring Google Groups and Nextdoor. We agreed that we will need to post to lots of different mediums if we are going to be able to reach more people. Some people may use Nextdoor or other apps, but not Facebook.

Haris will continue to coordinate with Larry in hopes to come to an approach in time to incorporate the options on our 2022 Mailer that we plan to send out by mid-July. If anyone has comments or ideas for us to consider, please email us at centralhoughton@gmail.com.

c. Board Positions/ Bylaws Changes

At our March meeting, the group discussed potential changes to the CHNA Bylaws to encourage more participation by youth residing within our neighborhood boundaries. Younger people would bring a different perspective to help broaden our reach and hopefully our effectiveness. This could be in the form of different community projects, school issues, recreation, and communication tools.

Larry presented some additional revisions that included a Youth Member Board position for 16- or 17-year-old residents residing within CHNA boundaries. He noted that this is similar to what the City's Transportation Commission has set up. The revised Bylaws require approval of the Youth Member by the other Board members.

The proposed revisions to the Bylaws were approved unanimously. A copy of the revised Bylaws will be posted to the corporation section of our web site. – [Bylaws](#).

d. Election of Officers

Elections for next year's Board (starting in June) were also conducted at our May 10, 2022, meeting. Larry noted that Lisa McConnell, current secretary and longtime CHNA Board member, will be leaving the area and therefore will not be able to continue to serve. He also noted that, if elected, this will be his last year serving as President. After motions, seconds, and voting, the results of the elections are:

- President – Larry Toedtli
- Vice President – Haris Husain
- Secretary – Susan Harris-Huether
- Acting Treasurer – Larry Toedtli
- Youth Member – open

We can fill any open or acting Board positions by an affirmative vote of the majority of the other officers at any future meeting. If you are interested (or know someone that may be interested) in joining our Board, please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com.

6. **2022 Neighborhood September 5, 2022 Celebration – Event Planning**

SAVE THAT DATE!!!

We reviewed the status of planning for the 2022 CHNA Celebration Event. The purpose of the event is to have some fun with your family, meet your neighbors, and reintroduce residents and businesses to CHNA and its role.

The event is being scheduled for Labor Day, Monday September 5 from 12 Noon to 3 PM. It will be held at the field at the Emerson/Northstar school campus at 108th Avenue NE/NE 53rd Street.



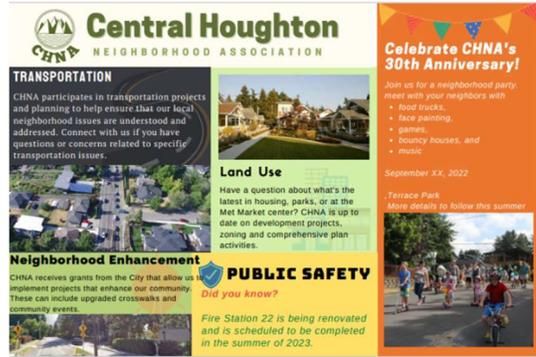
The Celebration Event will be a bring your own picnic; CHNA plans to provide some snacks and drinks. We are planning on having live music, family and children's activities (like a kid's challenge course and backyard-type games), as well as information and conversation stations. We are targeting submitting our application to the City Parks Department in early June. We will advertise the event through our mailer (see below) and other means.

We will be seeking additional volunteers to help with set-up and staffing event activities and clean-up. If you are available and in joining us, please let us know at: centralhoughton@gmail.com.

7. 2022 Mailer

Larry noted that changes will be required to our draft 6 by 9-inch postcard mailer that CHNA plans to send out to all addresses within our CHNA boundaries in July. The mailer will serve as an invite to our Labor Day Celebration (see above) and 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. We will be printing and mailing through the United States Postal Service's Every Door Direct Mailer (EDDM).

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



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

King County has purchased the La Quinta Inn on Northrup Way to be converted into permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons. The Kirkland City Council has been very supportive of the proposed purchase. 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. The facility is planned to be open for permanent supportive housing in 2023.

The City Council held a public Town Hall on May 9, 2022. That meeting was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

Our members discussed their concerns and hopes for the facility. Larry noted that the HCC is preparing a letter to the City Council with their recommendations on the project to help make the project successful.



9. Other Topics

a. 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 Tuesday 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.

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

Larry said that the City Council approved the contract for the remodel and expansion of Fire Station 22 (6602 - 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 soon 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.

c. Senior Council Art Show

The Kirkland Senior Council is hosting an art show at the downtown Kirkland Merrill Gardens from May 5-25. It is free and is a chance to take in some Senior Art, from quilts to photography to paintings. Drop on it and enjoy the work of our senior residents!

d. Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station (NERTS) Siting [KC Web Site](#)

Larry stated that King County was holding a public meeting on the NERTS project on May 12. In addition, the project Siting Advisory Committee (SAG) will be meeting on Thursday May 19 (6:00-8:30 PM) via Zoom.

Three sites will be selected for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to replace and enhance the existing Houghton Transfer Station. The existing transfer station and the Houghton park-and-Ride lot are the two Kirkland sites. A third site on SR 202 in Woodinville also will be studied in the EIS. Check out the County's [NERTS web site](#) for more information on the project and meetings.

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

The NE 85th Station Area Plan calls for buildings up to 200-feet tall, including tech offices, affordable housing, parks, schools, and transit and bicycle and pedestrian system improvements. Larry reported that the Planning Commission and City Council were holding a joint study session on the SAP on May 12. The video from that meeting can be viewed from the [City Council web site](#).

A public meeting on the proposal SAP will be held on May 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. More information on the project and meeting is available from the [project web page](#).

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

The City Council approved the Tree Code 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. The revised tree code is effective starting May 13. At its April 25 meeting, the Houghton Community Council used its disapproval authority, so the revised code does not currently apply within the HCC boundaries (therefore, the prior tree code is still in effect within the HCC boundaries). The HCC disapproval will likely be overturned by the City Council at some point after the July 8 sunset of the HCC.

- g. Bridle Trails Tech City Bowl Rezone – [Web Page](#)

The City Council approved a rezone of part of the Bridle Trails shopping center to allow 5 story mixed used development at the location of the existing Tech City Bowl bowling alley. Tech City Bowl announced that it will be closing and the "last pins will fall on October 2, 2022."

10. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday October 11, 2022

Our next regular meeting would usually be held in September. However, since CHNA is holding the 2022 Celebration on Monday September 5, we have decided to postpone the next meeting until Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 7 pm. The meeting will likely be held virtually since Fire Station 22 is being remodeled and we do not know what will be happening with Covid by then.

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