

*Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Tuesday November 9, 2021, 7:00 PM
Meeting Notes*

1. Introductions/ Comments from the Audience

Larry Toedtli, CHNA President, opened the meeting and introduced himself. The audience members, including our guest speakers, also introduced themselves and what they were interested in hearing about at the meeting.

2. Fire Station 22 Remodel and Temporary Station

Dave Vanvalkenburg, Deputy Fire Chief and Anneke Davis, Senior Project Engineer came to talk about the upcoming remodel of Fire Station 22 on 108th Avenue NE. The remodel is part of the bond measure passed in 2020.



Fire Station 22
NW Corner

Renovation should begin in April 2022. Renovation will include a better entrance, seismic upgrades, expanded staff capacity, and safe separation of fire gear from living quarters. The meeting room also will be upgraded to support training programs and public meetings.

Typically, 75-85% of calls for fire and aid cars occur between 9 AM and 8 PM. While the station is being remodeled, fire and medic vehicles and their crews will temporarily operate during these hours from the Longhouse building located behind Fire Station 22. Overnight, Fire Station 22 operations will be based at a temporary station located on NE 85th Street.

More information on the remodel and temporary fire station plan can be found on the City's web site – [Fire Station 22 remodel](#).

3. Kirkland Parks Board Representative Tessa Hansen

Tessa briefed us on the current update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan update. There will be a Community Conversation Findings Presentation December 15. You can get a link to the meeting, and more information on the PROS Plan update at the City's web site:

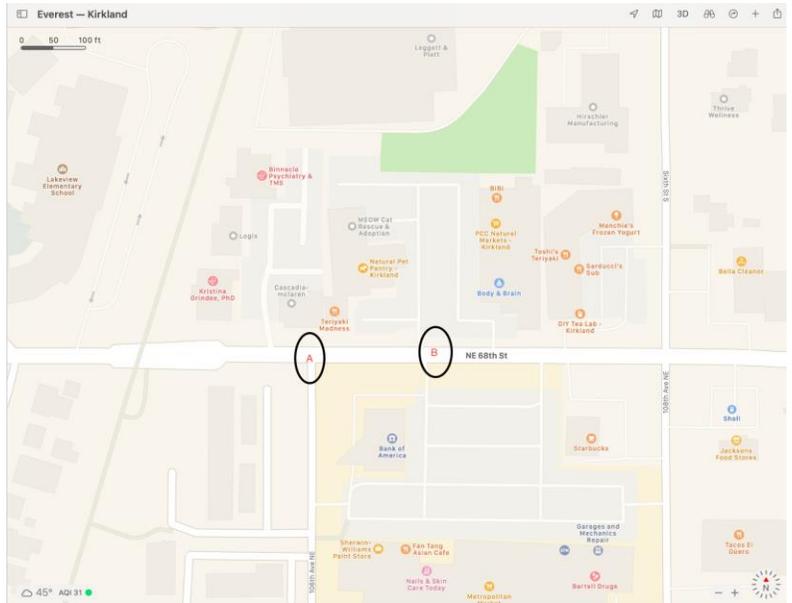
[PROS Plan Web Page](#)

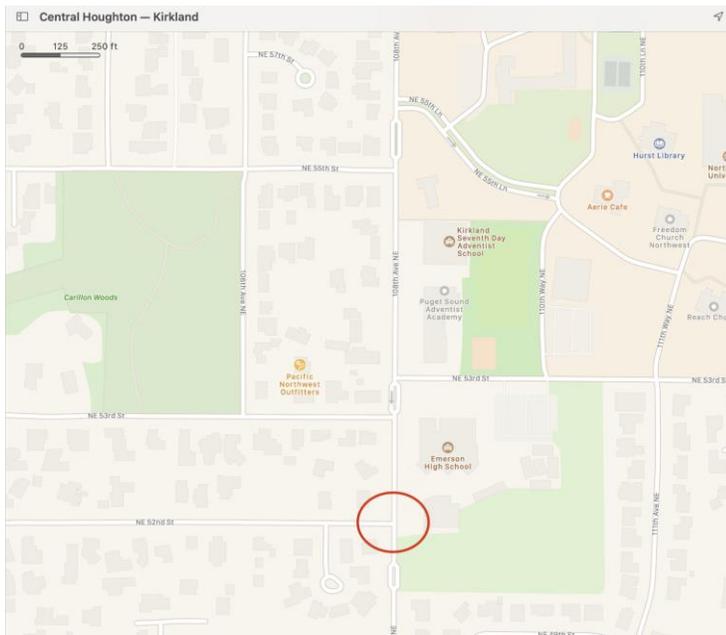
4. Neighborhood Safety Program 2022

The City is in the initial stages of the 2022 Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP). The NSP is used to fund transportation related safety projects in neighborhoods throughout the City. A recent focus of the program has been on pedestrian and bicycle improvements, including crosswalks and new/improved trail connections. A maximum allocation of \$50,000 per project is targeted. Neighborhood Associations were asked to submit ideas for potential NSP projects in their communities by December 3. The projects are then reviewed and refined, and ultimately ranked by City staff and neighborhood representatives.

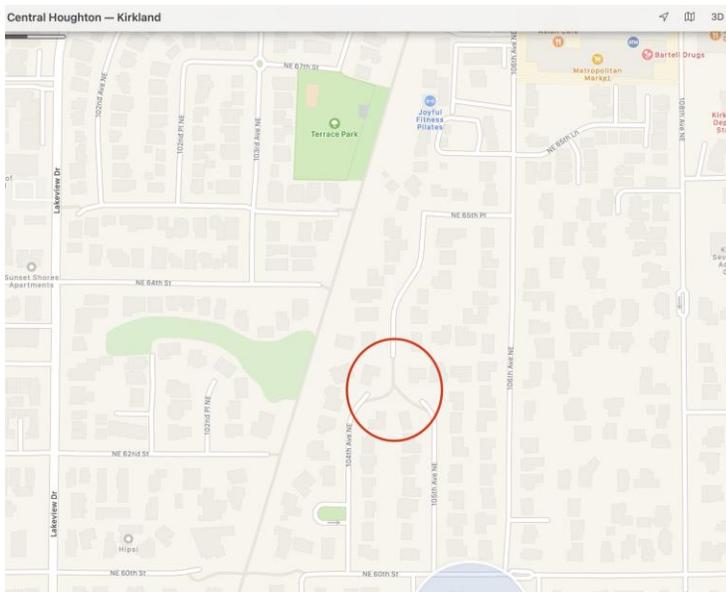
At our November 9 meeting, the Central Houghton Neighborhood Association discussed several potential safety projects for consideration in the 2022 NSP. These are discussed below.

Suggestion 1: Rapid flashing beacon at a crosswalk on NE 68th Street east of the bridge near Lakeview Elementary. The flashing beacon crosswalk could be at either the intersection of NE 68th /106th Avenue NE or midblock east of 106th Avenue NE.





Suggestion 2: Installing additional school zone speed limit flashing beacon on eastbound NE 52nd Street approaching 108th Avenue NE and possibly on westbound NE 53rd Street immediately north of the Emerson campus.



Suggestion 3: Repair/upgrade the asphalt walkways at the end of 105th Avenue NE in the parklet, located between NE 60th and NE 65th Streets. Project would consider how to address ADA compliance at curb and additional safety signage on the north end.

At the meeting, the attendees decided to pursue Suggestions 1 and 2, with Suggestion 2 being our priority project. We may get some support from the Everest, Moss Bay, and Lakeview Neighborhood Associations for Suggestion 1 as all four neighborhoods share this area. Application is due December 3rd and the NSP representative will be Lisa McConnell.

More information on the 2022 NSP process and schedule can be found here – [Neighborhood Safety Program](#).

5. Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

Brochure/ Mailer – We have been working on the development of a postcard mailer to re-introduce our neighbors (new and old) to the Central Houghton Neighborhood Association and our mission and role working with the City to enhance our neighborhood area. At our October meeting, we presented a preliminary design layout. Based on that concept we reached out to printing companies that are pre-approved by the Postal Service to assist with direct mailers to confirm range of costs. Larry reported that 6 by 9 inch, two-sided, color postcard mailers can be printed and mailed for approximately \$1,000 or less.

Based on that we decided to move forward with the design for a 6 by 9-inch postcard mailer. Larry noted that we will need to decide on graphics/photos and text. We will likely be looking to send out to all addresses within the CHNA boundaries in March or April 2022.

Post COVID Neighborhood Celebration and

Central Houghton Identifiers/Sense of Place Ideas – These two items included in our matching grant are focused on action in 2022. Larry noted that it would be good to have a brainstorming session in December or early January so we have more time to plan for and schedule specific action steps.

Larry will send out a request to identify people and dates/times for a brainstorming session covering both projects. **Please let us know if you have ideas and would like to help brainstorm these projects – without you being committed to helping with implementation.**

Contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com

6. Other Topics

a. **Neighborhood Sign Replacement** – The neighborhood monument signs throughout the City (including Central Houghton) are made of wood and are deteriorating and will be replaced. At its November 3 meeting, the City Council approved contracting for replacement of all the neighborhood and City monument signs. At this stage, we do not know what the new signs will be made or what the designs will be. Hopefully we will learn more soon. The Central Houghton sign at Fire Station 22 and the City of Kirkland sign on 108th Avenue NE near the south City limits will both be replaced.

b. **NE 85th Street Station Area Plan** – [City Web Page](#) Since our meeting in October, the City Council held a study session on October 26 and also held a public question and answer session on November 1 to receive comments. The summary of the November 1 Q and A session can be found [here](#). A Frequently Asked Questions Page has also been prepared by the City – [NE 85th SAP FAQ](#).

At the October 26 study session, the Council directed staff to move forward with developing a preferred option based on Alternative B. Alternative B would allow for buildings up to 15 to 20-stories in height near I-405. This alternative would allow for an additional 8,100 housing units and nearly 23,000 employees in this relatively small geographic area. This represents 10 to 12 years of growth forecast for ALL of Kirkland.

Larry noted that the City Council would also discuss the Station Area Plan at its November 16 meeting and the Planning Commission would also meet on it. (The City Council and Planning Commission held a joint meeting at the [November 16 City Council Study session](#).) The schedule calls for City Council to approve the Preferred Station Area Plan at its December 14 meeting. The Final Supplemental EIS is targeted to be finalized and published by the end of December.

c. **City of Kirkland Tree Code** ([Tree Code Web Page](#)). The City is continuing its prior work on updating the Tree Code. At its November 16 meeting, the City Council was briefed on proposed minor changes to the code. These include clarifications, definitions, and items that reflect their current practice. The November 16 Council packet for the tree code can be accessed [here](#).

More significant (moderate/major) changes will be taken up starting in early January. The major/moderate amendments will address potential changes to the number of trees that can be removed from a property with and without development. They also will address replanting requirements and other procedures related to implementation of the tree code.

d. **Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Siting Project** (King County) [King County Web Page](#). Larry reported that there was no new information on this project to replace/upgrade the Houghton Transfer Station. If you are interested in this project, you can sign up for the County's listserv which can be accessed using the above link.

e. **Active Transportation Plan** – Larry asked if people had attended the community input sessions on the Active Transportation Plan. He also noted he and Lisa attended a virtual meeting with Kimberly Scrivner (City Transportation Planner) to discuss key projects in CHNA, including those identified in the 6th Street Corridor Study.

Comments on projects are accepted until December 1 via this [comment form](#).

A draft of the Plan update is due at the end of December 2021 with City Council adoption in Spring 2022. More information can be found on the City's web page – [Active Transportation Plan](#).

7. **November 2, 2021, Election Results**

Proposition 1, to continue the Houghton Community Council passed with 76% of the vote. Bill Goggins, the only incumbent who ran opposed, kept his seat on the Council with 79% of the vote.

On November 22 a joint meeting of the City Council and the Houghton Community Council was held to discuss the Kirkland City Council's proposal to ask the State Legislature to sunset the HCC. The video of that joint meeting can be accessed here – [November 22 Joint KCC/HCC Meeting Video](#).

The City Council will address this topic again at its December 14 meeting.

8. **CHNA Business Items**

Board Positions - Larry noted that continuance of CHNA is dependent on getting more people involved - either as Board members (Treasure and Vice President positions are currently vacant) or as volunteers for grant or other projects.

Please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com to discuss what's involved. These positions do not take much time but adding new voices to the Association will add lots of value.

Treasurer Report – Larry reported that the only expense in the last several months was the renewal of our web hosting platform for \$110. These funds will be reimbursed through the City Matching Grant. Our balance is \$2,187.63.

Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday January 11

Our next meeting will be held virtually (via Zoom) at 7:00 PM on Tuesday January 11. We have been contacted by the Lake Washington School District to possibly have a briefing on the projects that will be undertaken with the passage of the recent bond measures.

If you have ideas for other topics, please contact us at centralhoughton@gmail.com