

Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA)
Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 7 PM
Meeting Notes

1. Introductions/Comments from the Audience

Larry Toedtli, President of CHNA, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were approximately 20 people attending the zoom event. Each attendee introduced themselves and how long they have lived in Central Houghton. Many noted that they were interested in the neighborhood association after the state sunsetting of the Houghton Community Council.

2. Police Lt. Phil Goguen

We welcomed Lt. Goguen to our meeting. Attendees voiced concern about the nighttime burglary and shots fired incident on NE 45th in Houghton on October 9 at 3:50 a.m. Lt. Goguen mentioned a sliding glass door was not locked and that the Kirkland Police Department (KPD) is still investigating the incident. Lt. Goguen noted that contrary to reports, the SWAT team was not deployed, just patrol officers with shields. KPD is coordinating with Bellevue Police as well. He encouraged anyone with possible camera footage to share it with KPD. He noted that people could follow Kirkland police on Twitter and other social media to stay informed on this and other police activities. Haris Hussain, CHNA communications asked about posting on Nextdoor.

Attendees also questioned Lt. Goguen concerning the Permanent Supportive Housing that King County is converting the La Quinta hotel into. Questions included asking how Kirkland law enforcement will be involved and if the city planned to increase staffing and patrols for the area near the facility. Lt. Goguen explained that these apartment homes and residents have the same rights as all other Kirkland/Bellevue residents.

In response to questions, Lt. Goguen noted that the police department has been hiring new officers. Some of them still are not deployable because they are in training or have injuries. He noted that the police department did not have a vaccine mandate requirement, so that did not impact their staffing.

The city also has two web sites where people can review crime data:

- Crime Mapping - [CrimeMapping.com](https://www.crimemapping.com) - [Helping You Build a Safer Community](#)
- Crime Dashboard - [Crime Dashboard – City of Kirkland \(kirklandwa.gov\)](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/crime-dashboard)

3. City of Kirkland Anti-Idling Campaign

Susan Vossler, a volunteer on this campaign, talked to the group about this effort and their campaign of signage throughout the city. The presentation slide show can be accessed [here](#). She asked people to take the pledge at the end of the presentation packet. She also asked people to reach out to others to take the pledge.

Attendees mentioned the idling issue with parents waiting for kids at the International and the Community School. Discussion included opportunities to include this in driver's education programs and through various social media sites, including postings by neighborhood associations.

4. 2022 Neighborhood Safety Program

Lisa McConnell, CHNA's neighborhood safety program (NSP) lead, discussed past safety program accomplishments. She noted that the 2022 NSP program was delayed due to staffing issues. The 2022 NSP funding will be incorporated into the 2023 NSP, resulting in a much larger program (on a one-time basis). She then presented the two projects that CHNA submitted for the 2022 NSP. These included improved crosswalks on NE 68th Street at 106th Avenue NE and mid-block between the Met Market and Houghton Village shopping centers. She noted that the crosswalk at NE 68th St/106th Avenue NE is part of the City's proposed Transportation Benefit District (TBD) funding program (see item 7b below). The other 2022 NSP project requested installation of school speed zone signs and flashing beacons for eastbound NE 52nd Street approaching 108th Avenue NE. If funding is sufficient, CHNA requested school zone beacons be installed on westbound NE 53rd Street near Northstar Middle School.

We need to submit projects for the expanded 2023 NSP. We asked people to provide their ideas for locations with safety issues, especially related to pedestrians and bicyclists. We will discuss these, as well as our 2022 projects, at our November 8 meeting. Please submit your ideas to us at centralhoughton@gmail.com before the meeting. If the projects are submitted to us by October 31, we will have time to review the issues and potential solutions for the NSP application before we meet.



Attendees mention increasing issues with speeding and racing vehicles on 108th Avenue NE and asked about possible use of speed bumps. Lisa did not feel that this could happen on such a busy arterial street. Others mentioned continued speeding on cut through streets (such as NE 62nd) and the danger this presents to children in the neighborhoods as well as those going to and from the community school. The intersection of NE 62nd/111th Avenue NE (just south of the Community School) was identified as having sight distance restrictions that make it unsafe for pedestrians

In addition to submitting projects to CHNA, please use the City's app or web site to submit projects for the City to consider. The site can be accessed using this link – [Suggest a Project](#). The suggest a project site can be used for all types of projects, including transportation safety, potholes, curb repair, parks projects/maintenance, etc. It is NOT limited to large capital improvement projects.

5. 2022 Neighborhood Celebration/Matching Grant Review

Larry Toedtli led the discussion on the 2021/2022 matching grant. Initially, we had four grant elements – 1) website hosting; 2) mailer/communication program; 3) celebration event (Labor Day picnic); and 4) sense of place/historical marker. After we started planning for the Labor Day picnic, we opted to drop the sense of place/historical marker for this grant cycle. Larry presented a summary of the volunteer hours and costs incurred for the celebration event and the other projects in our 2021/2022 matching grant. Volunteers provided over 260 hours of time for the celebration event and another 60 hours for the website and neighborhood mailer projects. Total costs were about \$3,000, or 10% over the CHNA city grant total. Most of the cost overrun was covered by donations from our celebration event team. The mailer cost was approximately \$1,250 and the Labor Day event costs were about \$1,625 (including donations).

Larry indicated that the summary information was presented to provide a framework for future grant applications and event planning. City staff have indicated that the 2023/2024 Matching Grant Program will likely be very similar to the 2021/2022 program. We will start



discussions about ideas for the 2023/2024 Matching Grant Program at our November 8 meeting, since the applications are typically due by the end of January.

All agreed that the Labor Day picnic was a success, leading to more sign-ups on the CHNA mailing list. Having live music and activities for kids were seen as being particularly important to the overall success. Attendees did feel that there should have more signage, a banner and other ways to communicate with our neighbors about events such as this. Lisa McConnell noted that banners require an additional permit and cost for the city to install.



It was suggested that the CHNA should explore options for fund-raising or donations for events or other activities, such as mailers or other specific topics affecting our neighborhood. We need to check our tax status as a non-profit related to fund-raising. Larry noted that we would include that topic on our November 8 meeting agenda.

6. Neighborhood Communications Program

Haris Hussain, CHNA vice president, asked attendees how they heard about tonight's meeting. Many said they received our email, including people that had just recently signed up via our web site or at the Labor Day picnic. People noted that they were interested in finding out more about CHNA and looking to help build a sense of community or just be better informed.

Haris discussed the limitation with the Nextdoor neighborhood app. He noted that messages about CHNA are intermixed with a variety of other posts about lost pets, business ads, and other topics. He asked whether people would be accepting of more emails from CHNA, including reminders about the upcoming meetings. People agreed that a few emails a month would be acceptable.

Central Houghton NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Transportation
CHNA participates in transportation projects and planning to help ensure that our local neighborhood issues are understood and addressed. Connect with us if you have questions or concerns related to specific transportation issues.

Land Use
Have a question about what's the latest in housing, parks, or at the Met Market center? CHNA is up to date on development projects, zoning, and comprehensive plan activities.

Neighborhood Enhancement
CHNA receives grants from the City that allows us to implement projects that enhance our community. These can include upgraded crosswalks and community events.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Did you know?
Fire Station 22 is being renovated and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2023.

About CHNA:
The Central Houghton Neighborhood Association (CHNA) was formed in 1990 with the primary purpose to preserve and enhance our broader community. That purpose continues today. We focus on getting information out to our neighbors so they are aware of & can successfully participate in decisions affecting:

- Planning & development projects
- All modes of transportation
- Public safety & crime prevention

@CentralHoughton
CentralHoughton@gmail.com
Central Houghton Neighborhood

Join our email list by scanning the QR code or visiting HoughtonLives.com

We also discussed the use of sandwich boards or other signs to advertise the meetings. We noted that we need to check on the City's regulations for these types of signs which were updated a couple of years ago.

It was also suggested that a rapid alert system for the neighborhood would be of benefit, (see burglary/shooting) above. We will continue the discussion on communication by CHNA using various tools at our November 8 meeting.

7. Other Topics:

Leaf Blower Ban

Larry added a new topic to this part of the agenda related to a proposal to ban or phase out gas-powered leaf blowers. He said that the Highlands Neighborhood Association Board had sent an email to the Kirkland City Council supporting a phase out of these leaf blowers due to noise and environmental issues. He noted that City staff have indicated that a study was/is being prepared and will be presented at a future City Council meeting. Larry suggested waiting to see that study so both sides of the issue can be better understood before CHNA takes any action. Discussion followed noting that the study, if directed by the City Council, would likely show what the Council already plans to do.

a. Carillon Apartment Amenity Building

The Public Hearing scheduled for this project located on the west side of the Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC), scheduled for October 11 was continued to a later, undefined, date. Lisa voiced concerns about staging on the actual corridor and how that can impact walkers, bicyclists etc. A member who lives above the proposed location has reviewed the plans and forwarded them to neighbors that may be affected. Overall, it was a reasonable option, but agreed with Lisa about concerns with construction activities. You can sign up for notices from the [Kirkland Hearing Examiner](#).

b. Kirkland Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Proposal

The City is considering a proposal to increase vehicle license fees (car tabs) by \$20 per year to fund 45 high priority pedestrian and bicycle projects from the Safer Routes to School project list. It also would include funding for maintaining landscaping within street medians. Lisa McConnell attended the October 3 workshop on the TBD. She noted that this would raise \$1.34 million per year which would be used to payback bonds so the projects can be accelerated and completed within 6 years. The only project within the CHNA boundaries is the upgraded crosswalk at 106th Avenue NE/ NE 68th Street. Additional community forums were scheduled for October 12 and 20. For more information, including a map of the

proposed projects see the [TBD Website](#).

CHNA meeting attendees voiced concerns about car tab rates going up for projects that seem like basic expenses, not extra costs. This is similar to postings on social media. The role of our group on these types of programs was discussed with some noting that CHNA could/should take a stronger role. We will discuss that at our next meeting.

c. Parks 2023 Ballot Measure Initiative

The City Council is exploring a potential bond issue for voter approval in 2023. (see [Parks 2023 Ballot Measure web site](#)). An exploratory committee was established. Susan Haris, CHNA secretary, reported she is on the PFEC looking at this proposal. Concerned was voiced about the costs while others said a parks bond rarely loses in Kirkland because people love their parks. Meetings of the committee are scheduled for October 13 and 27. Susan was asked to report on this ongoing project.

d. Old PCC Site City Redevelopment Process

Larry reported that not much was happening here yet, but folks were interested in the “affordable” housing as well as possible other uses for the property. He noted that CHNA asked people through Nextdoor and at the Labor Day picnic what they would like to see happen at the site and what concerns they have. People noted they wanted small scale neighborhood services, especially with more affordable rents for small businesses. They also noted that groceries, restaurants, and yogurt stores within walking distance would serve the neighborhood. Possible support for an aquatics center was noted. People were concerned about traffic impacts, pedestrian safety, building heights, and blocking the view of Lake Washington and the mountains.

Larry reported that the city plans to have a public process where people can share their ideas and concerns. That process will likely start in early 2023. At this time, the city does not have a web page for this project; CHNA will monitor and let members know when we get more information.

We discussed that it would be good for people to start making their comments on the types of land uses and concerns they have about redevelopment of the shopping center site. Comments can be made to the full City Council or specific members (such as Kelli Curtis and Neal Black who reside in Central Houghton) by email or during items from the audience at the regular City Council meetings. You also can forward your comments to the City Manager and/or Planning and Building Department.

The following provides the link to the City Council web page and email addresses for sending your comments.

- City Council Website – [Kirkland City Council](#)
- Email all City Council Members – CityCouncil@kirklandwa.gov
- Email Councilmember Kelli Curtis – kcurtis@kirklandwa.gov
- Email Councilmember Neal Black – nblack@kirklandwa.gov
- Email City Manager Kurt Triplett – ktriplett@kirklandwa.gov
- Email Planning and Building Director Adam Weinstein – aweinstein@kirklandwa.gov

We would love to be copied at centralhoughton@gmail.com on any correspondence you send to the city on this topic so we can assemble the comments as CHNA engages with the city on this issue.

e. La Quinta Homeless Housing and Health Through Housing Initiative

This topic was discussed earlier with Lt. Goguen. Attendees stated that they would like to be kept up to date on this project. The City's web site is [here](#).

On October 19, the city sent out a press release stating that staff have been working with outside experts on current best practices related to this type of housing project. They also have been coordinating with King County's project team.

The press release noted that city staff anticipate providing a formal check-in at the Council's November 15 meeting on options for moving forward toward a legally binding agreement between the City, King County, and the selected operator of the facility. Following that meeting, staff intends to return to the City Council in early 2023 for adoption of a final negotiated agreement outlining the terms and conditions for operation of the La Quinta Permanent Supportive Housing facility.

f. Revising City Code Following Sunsetting of Houghton Community Council

Larry reported that the City Council adopted ordinances at its September 20, 2022, meeting that will bring Houghton zoning and city code in line with the rest of the city. The [Council Packet](#) provides more detail on the changes that will be effective January 1, 2023. Attendees remarked that there is considerable "spot zoning" happening in the city in relationship to

building and/or Google desires at NE 85th Street, so the need to change the Houghton codes seemed out of line with the bigger picture.

g. Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station Siting.

Larry noted that two or the three sites for replacing the existing Houghton Transfer Station as a modern indoor transfer station and expanded recycling center (like Factoria) are located just east of I-405 in Kirkland. The two sites include the existing transfer station site and the Houghton Park-and-Ride lot. The other site is in Woodinville. The environmental scoping period is planned for fall 2022 but has not been scheduled. He suggested that folks check the [County website](#) about the project and the scoping process. You can sign up for email notifications on the web page.

h. Want to know about Heat Pumps?

Larry provided a link about use of [heat pumps](#) for heating and cooling. He also provided a link for the [Sustainability Ambassador Program](#).

8. Next Regular Meeting November 8

Larry was thinking about hosting a panel discussion on working with the city on assorted topics. He suggested postponing that due to the number of topics identified for the November 8 meeting during this meeting.

These potential topics for the November 8 meeting include:

- Neighborhood. Safety Program for 2023
- City Matching Grant for 2023/2024
- Fund Raising/ Donation Strategies/Options for CHNA
- Parks 2023 Ballot Measure
- CHNA Communication Program
- Role of CHNA Moving Forward after HCC Sunsetting

He asked people to send ideas for the November 8 or other future meetings to us through emailing us at 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/>

[Nextdoor – Central Houghton](#)