



City Council Meeting with the Neighborhoods
Juanita Neighborhoods Association
Submitted Questions/Comments (46)
Meeting Date: April 13, 2015



City Manager's Office:

1. Helen Keller Elementary school was the center of our community because the school grounds were easy to access and were used by the community to chat, meet and play. The school district redesigned the grounds to block usage. It is completely fenced. Play areas are away from the street access. The basketball courts were poorly designed and too far from parking. And the school building makes poor use of the lot available. The traffic flow is constricted and obstructs 108th in the morning. Cars stop in the road on 108th on school mornings at 8:50 to wait to drive into Helen Keller to drop off their kids. Teacher parking is better, and the building is newer. But the community has been effectively excluded.

Response: *This question has been referred to Lake Washington School District.*

Fire:

2. Please discuss the siting of the new fire station.

Response: *Keeping our community protected and safe through our fire protection network is one of our highest priorities. Because this is a major investment, we are taking our time to make sure we make a decision about a new fire station(s) that provides the most improved protection for our residents and businesses. Our firefighters are an important partner in determining the best plan to move forward. City leaders, fire department leadership, union, and firefighters are having positive, respectful conversations to ensure our decisions provide the resources necessary for first-class fire and emergency medical support services to our community. In the meantime, we are continuing to explore potential sites for future fire stations. The City intends to honor its 2011 Interlocal Agreement with former Fire District #41 to improve response times in Finn Hill while identifying ways to improve services in entire north portion of Kirkland. The City will be conducting public outreach meetings to assure that residents and businesses are informed about our progress.*

3. Can a citizen burn yard waste in their backyard?

Response: *Outdoor burning is banned in Kirkland. For air quality questions, call the Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency at 206-343-8800. Also for air quality/indoor burning restrictions recording, 1-800-595-4341.*

Finance:

4. What % of Kirkland's population is over 55?

Response: *22.9% (2013 Census American Community Survey)*

5. What % is retired?

Response: *10.6% of residents received some form of retirement income (2013 Census American Community Survey)*

6. What % earn less than \$70,000 per year?

Response: *43% of households earn less than \$75,000 (2013 Census American Community Survey)*

7. What steps is the Council taking to keep the City budget at or below past budgets? What steps are you taking to shrink the City budget?

Response: The budget for 2015-2016 follows the following themes:

- Sales taxes, which are the City’s largest General Fund revenue source are budgeted conservatively. The 2015-2016 budget is built on the assumption that collections in each year will be the same as what we received in 2014.
- New positions are funded on a one-time basis wherever possible. Any ongoing positions must be funded from reductions elsewhere, or new ongoing revenues.
- Monies are placed into reserves to support unfunded capital needs rather than adding new operations
- Employee health care cost growth is being controlled through the Healthy Kirkland plan, which bundles a high deductible health plan with an employee health clinic and health care concierge to help employees find low cost service providers

8. What has been the increase in real estate tax imposed since the Juanita Neighborhood was annexed?

Response: Assuming this means property tax, the following table shows the City of Kirkland property tax rate changes since 2011.

Property Tax Rates Pre-annexation 2011-Current 2015					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
City	\$ -	\$ 1.37	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.16
Fire District*	\$ 1.22	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.11
County Road Levy	\$ 2.25	\$ -			
Kirkland Street Levy			\$ 0.20	\$ 0.19	\$ 0.17
Kirkland Park Levy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.13
Total	\$ 3.47	\$ 1.51	\$ 2.01	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.57
*Fire District Bond 2012-2015					

The increase in 2013 is due to the voter-approved Road Levy and the Parks Levy, which added resources for streets and park operating and capital improvements.

However, the rate is only part of the equation. The tax levy is the result of the tax rate applied to all the assessed value in the city. The total tax levy is limited by state law to increase no more than 1% per year on existing properties plus the impact of new construction in the city.

The actual change in the amount of tax paid by a homeowner will depend on how much the assessed value of the home has increased or decreased over the years. If the growth in the home’s value outpaces the decrease in the rate, the tax bill will increase

9. What steps have you taken to shrink the city employee headcount?

Response: New positions are funded on a one-time basis wherever possible. Any additional ongoing positions must be funded from reductions elsewhere, or with new ongoing revenues.

10. How are you accounting for and paying for future retirement and health care for these employees?

Response: Employer contributions for retirement are paid by Kirkland to the state Department of Retirement Services. The annual contribution rates we are charged by DRS, plus contribution from employees are set to fully fund the future cost of the retirement benefit.

We do not pay for future health care costs directly. However, through the Healthy Kirkland Plan that covers current health benefits, employees are eligible to receive an annual deposit into a Health Reimbursement Account that can be used to either pay current year health plan deductibles or be saved to pay for future health care expenses. Through a market based approach to providing health care, the extent to which employees make educated and smart choices to control their health care costs results in both a savings to the City of Kirkland by way of lower claims payments, as well as savings for future health care needs for the employee.

11. When a civic ""improvement"" is being considered, how is the future cost to administer or operate the ""improvement"" accounted for?

Response: Operating and maintenance costs are reviewed for all projects, where applicable, as part of the capital budgeting process.

12. What steps are you taking to make sure that seniors, retired citizens and lower-income families can afford to live in the city?"

Response: The 2015-2016 budget includes funding for the following programs:

- Human Services Agencies funding of approximately \$3 million over the two year budget
- Senior Discounts for Utility and Garbage Services
- A Regional Coalition for Housing
- Kirkland Cares – Assistance with utility bills from utilities customer donations

Planning:

13. What is in the works for Totem Lake Mall? What is the status of the Totem Lake development?

Response: Ownership of the mall property is in the process of changing. A company called CenterCal is expected to take ownership before the end of April. Since late 2014, the City has been discussing potential development plans with CenterCal; and in March, the City Council approved an extension and amendment to a development agreement originally approved in 2005. The agreement commits the City to contributing \$15 million for public improvements in the vicinity of the mall. A revised conceptual development plan was also approved by the City Planning Director. The plan maintains a mix of retail, office and residential uses, but in a somewhat different configuration than previously approved. Once the purchase process is complete, we expect CenterCal to move quickly through the development process forward by submitting development plans for review and approval by the City Design Review Board.

14. What is the future of Juanita as a viable business center?

Response: There are really two different business districts in Juanita – the Juanita Village district and the North Juanita district. Both have a diverse and strong mix of businesses, though they are certainly different.

North Juanita is anchored by the Safeway grocery store, which serves a broad part of north Kirkland. The store was remodeled within the past few years and appears to be set to stay. This bodes well for the stability of the district. Most of the other complementary businesses also appear to be doing well.

On the other hand, the recent departure of Albertson's was cause for some concern. Goodwill Industries recently announced that it will be opening a store in the old Albertson's space which will help to stabilize that portion of the district). City land use policies support making neighborhood business districts more pedestrian oriented. Although businesses are highly influenced by market forces that are beyond the control of the City, it would be beneficial to involve neighborhood residents in a discussion of the desired future of the North Juanita District.

Juanita Village is a smaller district which is much more focused on small service businesses supporting the surrounding neighborhoods. When the Juanita Village development was originally approved in 2000, the City asked the developer to include a grocery store. He indicated that the site was not well located for a full service grocery to be successful, especially given the proximity of the Safeway store to the north and the QFC store to the northeast. Even so, for a considerable time, he pursued a specialty or smaller grocery as a possibility, but to no avail.

15. I am concerned about the new Goodwill location. What was the process of allowing this store in the former Albertsons location?

Response: *The former Albertson's site is zoned for retail use and the Goodwill store qualifies as retail. The City does not have the ability to selectively approve businesses, only to enforce development regulations.*

16. Just north of NE 145 Street I believe is Bothell? What, if anything is Kirkland planning to do to address the enormous increase in traffic from the Juanita Village area up 98th/100th AVE NE since the new housing developments went in north of 145th (where the nursery was and across the street, and it appears more than 50 new homes are underway just north of those new ones, and now there is a proposal to allow more homes where the public golf course is at Juanita Way and SR 522 ('Wayne's land'). Over development on 100th north of 145th through "Juanita Way" to 522 is severely impacting traffic in Juanita, and as more and more houses go in up north I think something needs to be done very soon. Can you guys work with Bothell to stop their reckless development (they're taking out trees at a very alarming and disappointing rate, and putting houses without adjusting for the increased traffic) and/or insist they provide their resident with appropriate access to these new neighborhoods without funneling them through Juanita (like an east-west main access road from I-405 though to 100th/Juanita Way north of NE 145th Street)? We Juanita residents are suffering from another city's decision.

Response: *The new development in Bothell has created a significant change to the landscape, but the regulation of that development is Bothell's responsibility, not Kirkland's. It would be inappropriate for Kirkland to intervene unless there were a specific unique impact to Kirkland. Traffic is an understandable concern, but it does not appear to be a realistic alternative to build a new east-west road north of NE 145th St. Also, it is possible that traffic from new growth in Kirkland is having a similar impact on Bothell. Both cities are growing rapidly and have a responsibility to accommodate growth under the requirements of the Growth Management Act. Kirkland, for example has been assigned targets of over 8,300 new dwelling units and 22,400 new jobs by 2035. We're now in the process of preparing an update to our Comprehensive Plan to guide new growth, with a major emphasis on locating as much as possible in locations that give residents options such as walking, bicycling and transit to minimize the need to drive.*

Police:

17. "What laws has the city decided not to enforce? Jaywalking--people just walk out at random throughout Kirkland without waiting for traffic or for the signal to walk.

Response: *The Police department is actively involved in pedestrian safety as well as traffic control and mitigation. Traffic and Patrol officers are on the lookout for unsafe violations that occur by the motoring public as well as pedestrians. In order to enforce Jaywalking, an Officer would have to observe it in their presence. Many times, they also have to choose whether or not the violation is of an egregious nature that they would deviate from their assigned call for service and stop the pedestrian. If this violation were to occur in the downtown corridor, the police contact quite possibly would also block traffic which would be a consideration in determining whether or not to take action. In checking our records, we have issued three infractions for jaywalking in the last year.*

Please be assured that traffic safety is a high priority within the Kirkland Police Department.

Public Works:

18. Prior to the annexation vote we were shown how our taxes and fees would change once we became part of Kirkland. One of the benefits listed was that Kirkland pays for street lights for all of its citizens. After the vote it was discovered that Kirkland had erred in its estimate because they did not realize that we paid for our street lights through our utility districts. Instead of working quickly to resolve this issue the city council voted on June 7th, 2011 to make the residents of the annexation areas continue to pay for their own street lights not until the issue is resolved, not for the remainder of the year, not even for the remainder of the budget cycle, but that a plan needed to be developed no later than 2014. That's three and a half years just to come up with a plan! I felt then and I still feel today that the way this was handled was in retaliation for the annexation area's failing to approve the assumption of Kirkland's bond debt. Whatever the reason, this was not a good way to start off the partnership with the new neighborhoods. It's 2015 now and I'd like to know if we will stop being treated like second class citizens.

Response: *In December of 2014, the City Council approved funding to assume responsibility for all streetlight repairs and utility costs in the annexation area beginning in July 2015. You will be receiving more information on this transition very soon.*

19. Many months back, the city of Kirkland changed parking outside of the condo complex I live in on my street from angled parking which accommodated more cars to straight parking. This has made it challenging for residents and for having guests come over, since most owners only have one space each in his complex. The street is packed with cars. Will you consider bringing back the angled parking? Will you take away the permit parking on 101st Pl NE for overflow parking for the condo complex cars to park? What solutions do you have? Thank you.

Response: *Last year, at the request of residents, the City changed angled parking to parallel parking and added a red curb zone in front of the Juanita Village Condominiums on the west side of 100th Ave NE, north of NE 116th Street. These measures were implemented to improve traffic safety and sight distance issues at this location.*

101st Pl NE south of Juanita View Apartments is public right-of-way and a permit is not required to park here. 101st Pl NE traverses through the Juanita View Apartments and is a private road. Permit parking questions on this section of the road should be directed to the apartment manager.

Please contact Kathy Robertson, Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator, 425-587-3870 or kr Robertson@kirklandwa.gov if this is not the location you are referring to, or if you have other questions.

20. How will the traffic be handled when the new mixed-use buildings go up on the NW corner of 116th & 124th?

Response: Although we are not sure which buildings you are referring to, we can relay that there are site-specific improvements such as sidewalks that developments have to provide as a condition of their permit. Projects that have large impacts are subject to greater staff analysis and may be required to make improvements that mitigate the impacts. If you'd like more specifics on a particular project, please contact Thang Nguyen at tnquyen@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3869.

21. There are some very bad chuckholes on 100th Ave. N.E. I would like to know when they will be repaired.

Response: Our Public Works staff has driven this stretch of road and was unable to locate any potholes in the roadway. Please call (425) 587-3900 to provide an exact location so we can make any necessary repairs.

22. Ever thought of an overlay of NE 126th Street, at the entrance of Kirkland Springs. 100th Lane NE. Bad Bad Pot Holes. Filled once this year and have returned. Appears to have been filled several times over the years.

Response: Thank you for the inquiry. Public Works staff has been out to inspect the site. This section of NE 126th Street at 100th Lane NE is located on very soft soils which has led to settlement and cracking in the roadway. Our maintenance crews have added this location into their work plan and will complete repairs by the end of September 2015.

23. NE 126th Ave, from 100th Ave NE up the hill into Spring Brook Development. In the late fall and winter, The Street is pitch black. It would be great if a street light was installed in that area. It is dangerous to walk in the fall and winter evenings. There is not enough light from neighboring condos and apartments. There is no light from spring brook that helps.

Response: The City has a street light request policy and form that residents can use to request street lights. If a power pole is present at the site and Puget Sound Energy agrees the power pole will support the street lamp and affected residents agree, then the street light can be installed and the City will pay the ongoing energy cost. If a suitable pole does not exist then the residents can share the cost of the new pole and the City pays the ongoing energy costs. Please contact Kathy Robertson or Iris Cabrera at (425) 587-3800 to obtain a copy of the policy and forms.

24. How will the City connect the bike/pedestrian trails into Juanita from the Cross Kirkland Corridor?

Response: The plan is to make a pedestrian and bicycle connection from Forbes Creek Drive (adjacent to the Resort at Forbes Creek) up a utility easement over private property (the property is owned by the apartments). The complex is currently on the market and the current owners do not want to negotiate a recreational easement at this time. They would prefer we work with the new owners. The City is monitoring this closely as the connection is a high priority for the community.

25. My husband and I wanted to comment on the Kirkland Corridor trail. We are very excited to have this access so close to our home. We look forward to seeing it expanded.

Response: *If the Forbes Creek connection helps you, see the answer above. If there is another connection you are referring to, please contact Kari Page, Cross Kirkland Corridor Coordinator at KPage@kirklandwa.gov or call (425) 587-3011.*

26. With the future road congestion from I-405 with three-person carpool and excessive toll projecting more peak hour traffic to NE 124th is their review of traffic study? Especially backed up traffic using alternative street parking and school swim team bus turn around require vehicle volume into usage of 105th and NE 125PL. With this is their plan for second traffic light?

If so what plans do you have when traffic study did not take absence of bicycle lane into consideration?

Response: *Thank you for your question. In order to answer your question appropriately, we need more information about your specific inquiry. Please contact David Godfrey at (425) 587-3865 to clarify your concerns so that we may respond to your inquiry. With regard to the impact of I-405 tolling on surface street parking, Public Works staff will be monitoring traffic on Kirkland's surface streets. The impact of tolling to our surface streets (if any) is yet unknown. The tolling plan will allow motorists to pay extra to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes, but will not require all motorists to pay a toll, nor will it reduce overall freeway capacity. That being said, if significant impacts are documented, the City will use its new Intelligent Transportation System to adjust signal timing, where possible, to help relieve congestion.*

27. Graffiti Removal. When utility company service boxes, poles, etc., within the right-of-way become marked with graffiti, the city does not feel the responsibility to remove the offending marks and charge the company. Why? The permits issued to the companies should allow for the city to do just that in a timely manner.

Response: *Most utility companies operate under franchise agreements with the City. There are a few telephone companies that are exempt from this requirement under state law. We concur that graffiti is unsightly; however, with limited resources, the City is not in a position to take responsibility for cleaning non-City owned infrastructure. Responsiveness to the City of Kirkland's graffiti notifications to the various utilities/agencies ranges from quick (WSDOT) to much longer. Of the 30 "unresolved" graffiti notifications that we currently have on record, one is the responsibility of a private utility, Frontier communications, along the south side of NE 132nd Street in approximately the 11200 block which was reported to them in October of 2014. We have contacted Frontier to remind them of this outstanding issue. If you have other specific locations please contact our hot-line (425) 587-3824.*

28. Graffiti removal in the 24 hr. window as stated in the city's promise to its citizens. This does not happen, I have personally waited over 3 months to have visible graffiti removed. Removal finally happened after repeated contacts. The current system does not offer a return email, letter or call when the initial offense is first reported. Oversight is lacking in prompt removal of graffiti in our city. Please review the graffiti policy, RW permits and response times so a good response may be provided.

Response: *It is the goal of the City to respond in 24 hours and we strive for that. In the decade of graffiti prevention that Kirkland has had, the program has had a significant impact on the number of graffiti notifications: in 2005, the City had over 2000 notifications for graffiti that were addressed, whereas in 2014 we had only 24. Your feedback regarding contacting those reporting graffiti is well taken and Public Works staff is implementing changes to the program that will provide for that contact.*

29. Trails completion. I can no longer find the city maps of the walking trails within my area. I can only find a map that shows sidewalk routes. Sidewalks are not trails. The city maintains a trail from the south end of 101st Ave NE to NE 108th St. This trail supposed to be completed from the south end of 101st Ave NE to Forbes Creek behind the fire house. This would allow citizens in my neighborhood to walk comfortably to the firehouse for meetings & the bus stops for transportation. Why have the maps deleted the trails? When will this trail be completed?

Response: *An electronic version of the map you are looking for is located at the Feet First website: <http://www.feetfirst.org/walk-and-maps/download-maps> (scroll down and click on Kirkland). If you would like a paper copy, please contact David Godfrey, at dgodfrey@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3865 or stop by City Hall. Although it is still useful, the map is out of date and does not reflect the new neighborhoods that were annexed in 2011.*

I'm not aware of a trail that is planned through the wetlands between Forbes Creek Drive and NE 108th Street / the trail. If you'd like to discuss it more, please contact David Godfrey, at dgodfrey@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3865.

30. Styrofoam. Kirkland Maintenance used to keep a bin for the recycling of Styrofoam at the Maintenance offices. This no longer is available, forcing residents to stock pile the foam waiting for a community event. The foam blocks can be large and a problem to find storage while waiting for the event. The residents may even miss the event because of work or vacations. Without a convenient way to recycle the foam people tend to throw it away, this hurts us all. Why can't the city assist residents in recycling with a Styrofoam site?

Response: *The City's Styrofoam recycling events have been very well received by the community. Because of this success, the amount of Styrofoam collected is too great to have an unattended collection bin. In order to manage the material and ensure that it does not overflow the collection containers or cause litter problems in the community, we have switched to staffed monthly events. Through these monthly Saturday events, we have still been able to collect a full 40-yard container (and usually more).*

31. Because of increase in traffic, more and more people are using our neighborhood (the area west of 100th AVE NE on NE 124th Street) as a thoroughfare, cutting through way too much & fast (going east-west on NE 124th Street to north-south on 93rd AVE NE to/from Juanita Dr and vice-verse -thus avoiding Juanita. Village/Beach/Park area). As more and more families with young kids arrive to this neighborhood, people cutting through is becoming a huge safety concern. And, if the proposed Rec center is built by Juanita, more and more people will cut through (I strongly oppose this location for a Rec center-the roads cannot handle the increased traffic)... There is an 'Arterial ends' sign for those traveling west on NE 124th, but the road is painted with double yellow lines making it appear as if it is a main road, and there is no sign at the south end of 93rd. Please help us keep our little neighborhood residential! ... At the very least we would like to see a "local traffic" or "no through traffic" sign posted at the two 'entrances' (for westbound traffic on NE 124th and for northbound traffic on 93rd), as well as the double yellow lines removed so it doesn't look like a main arterial. I think it would also be smart to widen the sidewalk/add a mini island at the 100th & 124th 'entrance' (at the NW corner of intersection) so it looks like the one lane it really is (frequently people on NE124th go straight over 100th from the right turn only lane which causes many near collisions with the folks going straight from the correct lane when the driver illegally going straight realizes they need to get over left fast due to parked cars). Traffic in the area is overall getting to jammed...

Response: As you may know, the City Council gave direction to staff in March to remove the Juanita Beach Park site from consideration for the Aquatics and Recreation Center. Formal actions will occur at the April 21 Council meeting. With regard to local traffic, the island, curb bump outs and striping were installed as part of a neighborhood approved package several years ago. We're reluctant to install "no through traffic" signs because they are not effective. As you suggested, there may be other physical changes, such as widening the sidewalk and adding a traffic island, for example, that could be more effective. Contact Kathy Robertson at krobertson@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3870 for more information about traffic calming options.

Your Neighborhood Association may want to propose this project for 2016 Neighborhood Safety Program (NSP) funding. Contact Kari Page at kpage@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3011 for more information about the program.

32. The future plastic bag ban in the city of Kirkland is clearly not about logic, reasonable arguments, or the majority public opinion. While I strongly disagree with the ban, I realize your minds are made up, and arguing now is futile. I just ask you to amend the new law to allow for at least one free paper bag to be provided by the merchants. Historically, since the customer is paying up to hundreds of dollars for the goods in a store, the merchant always bore the cost of providing a container to take the purchases home. Free paper bags were the standard for several decades. With the invention of plastic bags, free plastic bags were an alternative. Why can't the store go back to providing a free paper bag? Why is this cost to be absorbed by the paying public for the first time in history, instead of the merchant? As of next spring, Safeway will be able to give me a free product, such as buy one, get one free, but a free paper bag will be ILLEGAL. There is currently no law regarding what a store must charge for a product. Legally, Safeway could choose to give me a free cart full of groceries, but they could not legally give me a paper bag. This well intentioned, but misguided ban on plastic bags is unfair to the customer. Bringing your own canvas bags are not always possible, and there are good sanitary arguments against it. I really don't care either way about plastic bags or canvas bags, but if at least one FREE paper bag is not legal, I will do all of my future shopping in Kenmore or Bothell.

Response: The Kirkland plastic bag reduction ordinance includes a minimum five-cent fee on large paper shopping bags as an incentive to encourage consumers to bring their own reusable bags in lieu of using retailer-provided paper bags. This is a standard provision included in most plastic bag reduction ordinances in the United States. By removing the incentive and allowing retailers to provide one or more paper bags for free, consumers will likely use considerably more paper bags than reusable bags relative to the alternative that includes a five cent fee. The intent of the ordinance is to restrict the use of disposal plastic bags and decrease the use of paper bags with a fee and consequently encourage consumers to use reusable bags.

33. It appears that salmon are miracle foods for humans. It appears that Kirkland is the primary authority for enforcing stream cleanliness and protecting salmon habitat. It appears that the city is allowing the use of herbicides next to salmon streams, allowing vegetation to be cleared and streams to be slowed. It appears that even a city park is being converted to a pea patch and off-leash dog park so that fertilizers, chemicals, and parasites from dog manure will wash down into a salmon spawning stream. So, what is Kirkland's commitment to following laws and regulations that support salmon health?

Response: Please call the Planning Department Code Enforcement to report specific instances of herbicide/pesticide use and clearing in stream buffers. These activities are prohibited by the City Zoning Code Chapter 95.51, which states the following: "7. Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizer. The use of plant material requiring excessive pesticide or herbicide applications to be kept healthy and attractive is

discouraged. Pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer applications shall be made in a manner that will prevent their unintended entry into waterways, wetlands, and storm drains. No application shall be made within 50 feet of a waterway or wetland or a required buffer as established by City codes, whichever is greater, unless done so by a State certified applicator with approval of the Planning Official, and is specifically authorized in an approved mitigation plan or otherwise authorized in writing by the Planning Official.”

The City takes many steps to address the quality of water and aquatic habitat in our stream channels including regulation of development as noted in Chapter 90 of the Zoning Code, and pro-active management activities as noted in the 2014 Surface Water Master Plan and the Stormwater Management Program Plan (go to the city website and type “surface water master plan” or “stormwater management program plan” for details). Please feel free to call or email with specific questions or concerns.

Kirkland’s only official off-leash dog area – Jasper’s Dog Park – is located well away from the park’s creek and will be isolated from sensitive wetland areas.

34. Building onto the buffer areas around Juanita Creek--the City has not conducted a photo survey of Juanita Creek, nor even looked for violators--in spite of Google Earth making available photos at timed intervals of the creek.

Response: *The City has not conducted a survey of riparian vegetation along Juanita Creek. At the same time, all violations are pursued as we become aware of them. Buffer widths and use regulations will be reviewed and possibly updated as part of update of Chapter 90 of the Zoning Code, with that process beginning in late 2015 or 2016.*

City staff have attempted to assist with restoration of vegetation along Juanita Creek by conducting volunteer planting events at Brookhaven and Juanita Beach Parks, and by obtaining a National Fish and Wildlife grant in 2012 to assist private property owners in restoring and maintaining native vegetation in the stream corridor. In addition, city staff provide funding and assistance to the King County Noxious Weed Program to assist with control of invasive plants such as Policeman’s Helmet and Japanese Knotweed along the stream corridor.

Parks and the Aquatic and Recreation Center:

35. What is the future of Juanita for more park space?

Response: *The recently updated Park, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan identifies a need for a new neighborhood park in the northern portion of the North Juanita Neighborhood to help meet the City’s guidelines of a park within a quarter-mile of each household. In addition, the North Juanita Open Space Tract, located east of Juanita High School, has recently been reclaimed for neighborhood use. Children’s play equipment will be installed there this fall.*

Existing parks in the Juanita Neighborhoods include Juanita Beach, Juanita Bay Park, McAuliffe Park, Heronfield Wetlands, Jasper’s Dog Park, North Kirkland Community Center & Park, Brookhaven Park, Edith Moulton Park, and Windsor Vista Park.

36. Please discuss the siting of the aquatic center.

Response: At their March 17 meeting, the City Council provided direction to staff to remove the Juanita Beach Park site from consideration for the ARC, but to keep the North Kirkland Community Center site in consideration. The removal of Juanita Beach was based on considerable community input including a citywide survey.

Over the past several months, staff have been working with a commercial real estate broker to seek other suitable privately owned sites for the proposed ARC Center. At the City Council's direction, we have focused seeking privately owned properties in proximity to I-405 and in the Totem Lake area. Four sites that have been evaluated to date are:

1. The Eastside Tennis Center property near the ParMac industrial area
2. Properties adjacent to Totem Lake Park (including the City-owned Yuppie Pawn Shop property)
3. The Christ Church Property directly south from the Kirkland Justice Center
4. The Kingsgate Park & Ride Property (owned by King County)

The Tennis Center and Park & Ride properties do not appear to be viable options at the present time as the respective owners have not been receptive to the City's overtures. However, owners of the Christ Church property and some property owners adjacent to Totem Lake Park have expressed interest in further discussions with the City. Based on this interest, the consultant team has completed some very preliminary analysis of the Christ Church and Totem Lake properties. This analysis is included in pages 2-13 of the consultant report from The Sports Management Group which can be viewed online at www.kirklandwa.gov (search "ARC Project", find "Summary of Findings Report")

The City Council will consider a resolution on April 21 to officially remove Juanita Beach Park from consideration and to continue seeking site options to locate the proposed ARC. The City Council will also consider the timing to place a measure to fund the ARC before the voters as early as November 2015 or in 2016.

37. Since majority usage will be out of city residents, is their continued review of 2-4 city park district? Seems this would provide funds for construction on land not owned by city. And reduce risk of long term operating fund sustainability? Does NKCC site not adjoining any business location meet your good neighbor or business growth goal? Is Juanita Beach north park still funded for three baseball fields and parking lot, even if ARC not constructed there?

Response: Please see response to question 21. With regard to funding for ballfields on the Juanita Beach property, the fields are included in the Juanita Beach Master Plan, however, those projects are not funded at this time.

38. The new community pool. Please revisit the community pool in the city owned Juanita park location. Why has this been dropped and stated that it will not be considered again. I find this disturbing after the city put a lot of planning and thought into the building, location, and traffic situations

Response: Please see response to question 36.

39. My comment is that: I feel that Brookhaven Park is currently unsafe due to inadequate fencing. The park is enclosed by a small fence with a gate and although there is a sign stating that the park is not an off leash Dog Park the enclosed space tends to encourages off leash play. This is unsafe because the fence is not dog proof, last summer a dog and their owner were playing off leash in the park and the dog was able to shimmy under the fence, attack and kill my dog as we were walking by on the sidewalk. Beyond the risk to passer-byes, being attacked by dogs escaping this park is also near a busy road so the fence should be much higher and studier to prevent a dog from escaping and being hit by a car. I'd like to propose either removing the gate from the fence to reduce the temptation for people to allow their dog's off-leash or to improve the fencing and convert the park to be a true off-leash area as that is what people seem to be using it for anyway.

Response: *Thank you for the information and suggestions. Parks staff assessed the fencing along NE 128th St. and will install a thicker gauged fence fabric and add a bottom tension bar to enhance the stability of the fencing.*

40. Raised in Bellevue I watched as the neighborhood tore down all the trees to build big houses. We chose Kirkland to move to because the city represented itself as a community that appreciates trees, parks, and open/natural spaces. In the last few years, it seems Kirkland may be losing that vision... Please don't let developers keep cutting down all the trees on a lot to build big ugly modern houses. I'm particularly concerned in regards to Goat Hill, and that same hill as it travels north/North-east (maybe then becoming "Finn Hill?"). The hill west of 93rd AVE NE and north of NE 120th Street as far as I can tell from the city map... So much vegetation has been removed from Goat Hill, and it's starting to spread (just saw yesterday yet another lot has been cleared to build and is for sale). I think we need to not just consider that the hills look better green (way too many hills in our region have turned from trees to houses in my 30-something years alive), but the excessive clearing puts us at risk of landslides that are happening more and more in the Puget Sound area (the rain when I was a kid was a constant drizzle, not the down-pouring it is today, and we need the trees/vegetation to keep the land from sliding as it gets hit with more water at once---there are many houses that would be impacted by a slide...Let's learn from Oso). We've already seen a mini-slide on Goat Hill a couple years ago, though I think it was small enough the owner of the house above the slide just added some retaining support... STILL VERY SCARY! Who owns this land? Can Kirkland buy it for a park? Is there some south of Juanita Heights Park that is already city property? Can Kirkland expand Juanita Heights Park to more of this hillside? It would not only help keep the hillside stable, but provide another great green area, thus beautifying Kirkland further. It would be especially nice for the surrounding neighborhood as it would be accessible for many neighborhoods/residents WITHOUT driving...

Overall, I hope you will please help keep Kirkland/Juanita Green and NOT overdeveloped, and address the traffic concerns arising. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Response: *Expanding Juanita Heights is a goal identified in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Since annexation, the City has acquired 7 parcels (2.47 acres). Currently, the City is partnering with the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance to acquire additional parcels. For more information contact: Jennifer Schroder, Parks and Community Services at (425) 587-3301 or jschroder@kirklandwa.gov*

41. The number one question I would like answered is; why did the city hire consultants regarding the ARC if the city council is just going to continue to disregard their recommendations? The council has continually been told that the NKCC is not an appropriate site, yet the council clearly thinks they are more qualified to make these decisions.

Certain council members have also continually made comments about the ARC being similar to the existing NKCC. I cannot fathom how anyone who has spent any amount of time at NKCC and in the surrounding neighborhood can come to this conclusion.

I'm not only concerned, I'm scared of how the city council is going to destroy my neighborhood. I'm concerned that the train park, one of the main reasons I selected this home last May, might be taken from our children. I'm concerned how this mammoth, multi-level structure will loom above the houses in our small, single-family home-filled neighborhood. I'm concerned how the existing green spaces will be turned into a parking garage, which has no place being nestled amongst single family homes. I'm scared for the increase in traffic through our small neighborhood filled with children playing and riding bicycles and the devastating consequences which could come from this.

Now I'm hearing that school buses may be parked along our street. It's not a wide street. With cars parked on each side that leaves a single lane for traffic. A bus is obviously wider, the residents need the street for our own parking purposes, and the buses would further reduce visibility of children on the street. I fail to see how using our street for bus parking is even logically possible. Let alone a reasonable burden to put upon our neighborhood. We purchased our homes to be part of a residential neighborhood, not a parking lot.

The only reasonable suggestion I've heard come from the city council regarding NKCC recently is the suggestion to sell it to raise funds for the ARC. As long as the train park remains and the NKCC land is zoned to fit in with the existing neighborhood (single-family homes or townhomes), I would be supportive of that decision.

Please don't be so locked on building the ARC that you will do so at any cost. The cost to building at NKCC is far too high to its neighbors.

Response: *Please see response to question 36. The City Council has heard and understands the concerns of the neighbors to NKCC and will take those into consideration if the NKCC site goes forward.*

42. Thanks for this opportunity to express my comments regarding placing the ARC at the NKCC.
- a. The residents in the NKCC neighborhood have enjoyed a quality environment to bring up our children and to retire. The ARC with parking as proposed would be stuffed into the entire available city owned land at this site. Setbacks? The ARC would change the quality of life enjoyed by the current NKCC residents with increased vehicular traffic, increased pedestrian traffic, and elimination of current open space.
 - b. The current NKCC complex serves a diverse Kirkland population. These services are proposed to be addressed by the ARC. However, I have seen no proposal to replace the existing park, outside basketball court and open space. These are valuable outdoor resources for mothers with babies, children, picnickers, dog owners, a game of hoops, etc.
 - c. Traffic is a major PROBLEM. Access and Egress to/from the proposed ARC would be on NE 124th Street. In 2013, the average daily traffic on NE 124th Street at the proposed site of the ARC was 26,889 vehicles!!! That is average vehicles per day! Calculated by taking total vehicles divided by 365 days of the year. According to traffic engineers this continues to grow at rate of 3% per year. A 2013 traffic count of the morning peak from 6:15 AM to 9:00 AM traffic count shows 1,708 vehicles primarily heading East on NE 124th street at 103rd Ave NE; the corresponding evening peak from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM is 2,183 vehicles with 1,528 heading west down the hill. EVERY RESIDENT in the NKCC neighborhood can speak to the difficulty of making a left or right turn onto NE 124th street. At PM peak times the traffic will back up NE 124th past 103rd Ave NE from 100th Ave. NE.

Access and egress into and from the proposed ARC will mandate a stoplight on NE 124th street {four lanes and turning lane}. This will result in a huge number of citizens enduring additional wait times. I have seen no traffic impact analysis. If this was a commercial enterprise wanting access/egress across this four-lane major regional arterial – it would be denied.
 - d. The original ARC concept was a swimming pool. Today the concept of the ARC far exceeds that quest. The incremental operational cost versus incremental revenue needs to be reviewed and subject to a healthy dose of pragmatism. Sure “it would be a nice activity” but can these pay their own way and at what rate.
 - e. As I grow in my understanding of the “pool” utilization. I am struck by the notion that the pool’s demand is regional and this adds to the design costs. This changes who should be the sponsor?

Response: Please see response to questions 36 and 41.

43. Our neighborhood benefits from having the NKCC here. So it is clear that a new facility like the ARC of an appropriate size and usage is perfectly justified at the NKCC site. I must emphasize the “appropriate size and scale part”. I have two primary concerns about increasing the size and usage of the current NKCC facility.
- a. Traffic. This is a big problem. The two proposed ARC facility plans I have seen would lead to major traffic problems in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood is tricky to get in and out of at the wrong time of day. Most people who live here choose to drive through to 105th AVE NE to get onto NE 124th ST eastbound. It is much easier to make a left turn from this location. This fact will not be lost on frustrated ARC users trying to go east on 124th. Any dramatic increase in traffic to the NKCC site EVEN WITH the addition of a traffic light at 103 AVE NE and 124th ST NE will funnel traffic through our neighborhood down NE 125th PL and 105th AVE NE. These streets have no sidewalks and with street parking are effectively one lane. Runners and people on strolls avoiding 124th ST NE as well as playing kids all use the center of these streets, which currently have negligible traffic. The few cars that do use the 105th-to-125th route to get to and from NKCC drive too fast and frequently endanger children and pedestrians. I see no way to dramatically increase usage at NKCC without this being an issue.
 - b. There are obvious concerns about destruction of green space and aesthetics in our neighborhood. The two proposed facilities I have seen would essentially pave over the entire park and add multistory parking garages, all mere feet from the driveways of single family homes. It is unclear to me why green space is so much more valuable in Juanita Village than it is a few blocks away at NKCC. Juanita Village has the very large Juanita Beach Park. NKCC Park is surrounded by its own high density of condos and apartment buildings, with many of the park users walking from the Emerson and Heronfield apartment complexes. The only reason that comes to mind as to why taking away 100% of our green space is “fairer” than taking away 30% of their green space is that they are a wealthier neighborhood. I would love to see some numbers to prove me wrong on this point.

I believe there is an appropriately sized pool facility that would work for the NKCC site that would benefit Kirkland in general as well as the NKCC neighborhood. The plans that I have seen of building fencepost to fencepost on the NKCC site in order to cram in as much revenue generating potential as possible are way off the mark. The site is simply not big enough for gymnasiums, giant event rooms, splash parks, and their associated parking requirements. That seems so evident, it can be stated more as a fact than an opinion.

Response: Please see response to questions 36 and 41.

44. Dogs off leash--routinely every day in Edith Moulton Park a group of people come to the park to let their dogs run free. Is it possible to create a "dog control zone" for the neighborhood of Juanita? And if this were done would that make it easier to enforce off-leash dogs?

Response: While Kirkland's only official off-leash dog area – Jasper's Dog Park – is located in Juanita, the City will be looking at opportunities for more off-leash areas where appropriate. The new master plan for Edith Moulton Park includes a future “designated off-leash trail” in the southeastern portion of the park.

45. I want to know why the City Council seems so intent on dropping a BIG BOX right smack in the middle of our neighborhood. The big box is ARC. There is absolutely NO SUPPORT for this among the residents of this area.
- a. It removes a lovely neighborhood park used consistently by Kirkland residents.
 - b. It makes an already huge traffic problem many times worse.
 - c. It will bring more traffic through our neighborhood with people trying to avoid the problems on NE 124th St
 - d. Over the past 10 years we have had a large increase in children moving to and born in the neighborhood. This welcome addition of children playing on the sidewalks and cul-de-sacs also results in more street crossings which could be disastrous with increased traffic through the neighborhood.
 - e. Your own consultants say the NKCC is not a good location, but you continue to consider it, just because you own the land. Well ... you also own the baseball park in Downtown Kirkland, why isn't THAT considered?
 - f. An Aquatic Recreation Center is a very large financial commitment that does NOT justify Kirkland funds alone. This is a regional facility that should be paid for with regional funds, not just Kirkland taxpayers.
 - g. How did Lake Washington School District and Juanita HS get off the hook? They already have a pool and space for expanding the existing facility. They also have the infrastructure to handle the traffic and school buses.
This project does not have my support, my neighborhood's support and I will actively campaign against the City of Kirkland taking on the project alone. I will also protest loud and proud against taking away our "existing, paid for, consistently utilized, outdoor, Green Park".

Response: Please see response to questions 36 and 41.

46. What steps is the council making to ""partner"" with the school district to make good use of these community centers/assets that the schools represent? I note that Juanita High School will be rebuilt without regard to the community asset the swimming pool represents. I urge the council to insist that the ""community center"" the schools represent be part of any building project and to seek out new ways to partner with the district financially. Anchorage Alaska had a community school concept where the schools were used for meetings, classes and sports. I'd like to see that concept used here.

Response: The City has a longstanding use agreement, the first use agreement dates back to 1991 with the LWSD to use school facilities for indoor recreation programs as well as the scheduling of athletic fields at 19 LWSD schools within the City of Kirkland. Currently Kirkland Recreation programs are in 13 LWSD Elementary Schools and 5 Secondary Schools. In regards to partnering with the City for the proposed ARC, we will continue to discuss funding opportunities for the District to financially participate in the project.