



Neighborhood Meeting with City Council
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails Neighborhood
Submitted Questions/Comments (13)
Meeting Date: May 11, 2010



Parks

1. Kirkland is behind in offering a local dog park, compared to Bellevue and Redmond. It has been noted that there are 1,000 dogs in Kirkland. What hope is there for a dog park in Kirkland, for the good of all those dogs living in cramped quarters, who need a quality local place to run?

Response: *At the April 6, 2010 joint meeting with the Kirkland City Council and the Park Board, the City Council authorized the Board and Parks staff to investigate two options for providing this recreation activity. First, a Fenced Off-Leash Area Option will be considered at a City-owned park property south of the Heronfield Wetlands (area just west of Fred Meyer and the Kirkland Municipal Court building). KDOG, a local non-profit group, will be working with the City on a feasibility study and, if the site is approved, would be responsible for start-up costs and stewardship. A decision on the site is likely to be made this fall.*

A second option to be explored would be for unfenced Off-Leash Areas, which would require a revision to Kirkland's existing park regulations to allow time-limited off-leash dog activity within certain areas of some existing developed park sites. As of now, the process for examining the unfenced option will not be initiated until after the process for a fenced option has concluded. The process for considering both options will include opportunities for public input.

For more information see the staff memo to the City Council:

http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/Assets/City+Council/Council+Packets/040610/3a_StudySession.pdf.

Planning

2. Are our Neighborhood Plan updates going to stay on schedule? How do you propose to do this vis-a-vis the annexation workload for the Planning Department and Planning Commission?

Response: *The Planning Department is currently working on the Lakeview and Central Houghton Neighborhood Plans and is scheduled to complete those this year. Next year we are scheduled to work on the South Rose Hill and Bridle Trails Neighborhood Plan. These schedules will be unaffected by the new annexation. Sometime after the effective date of annexation, we will need to prepare neighborhood plans for the annexation area, but a schedule for how to do this and how it will affect the schedule for other neighborhood plans or other planning projects has not been determined. Priorities for planning projects are discussed annually at a meeting between the Planning Commission and the City Council. The next meeting will be early in 2011.*

3. Work on the transfer station is going to begin soon. Who from the City is going to monitor the construction compliance with permits and rules? Will the City actively see that rules are being met, or will it be the residents' responsibility to call the City with complaints and compliments?

Response: *The building and land surface modification permit applications have been reviewed by City staff from several departments to ensure that plans conform to all applicable codes and the land use permit issued earlier. Once the permit is issued, building inspectors will monitor construction to assure that work is conforming to approved plans. City staff will not be on site at all times, so if citizens observe activities that they suspect do not meet permit requirements, either during or after construction, it would be helpful to report*

those to staff. For further information or to report concerns, you may contact Tom Jensen in the Building Department at 425-587-3611 or tjensen@ci.kirkland.wa.us or Tony Leavitt in the Planning Department at 425-587-3253 or tlevitt@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

4. For those who are in support of affordable housing in the Kirkland/Houghton area (in particular) the South Kirkland Park and Ride, what strategic direction needs to be taken by advocates to see that this project supports up to 200 affordable units?

Response: Later this year, the Planning Department will be preparing zoning regulations to allow "Transit Oriented Development" (TOD) at the South Kirkland Park and Ride site. The regulations will be prepared to implement Comprehensive Plan policies that were adopted in 2009. The policies state that the TOD should contain mixed income housing, with a minimum of 20% of the units affordable to low or moderate income households and an additional 25% affordable for median income households. King County has indicated that a 200 unit project, together with some commercial space and additional commuter parking, would be feasible on the Kirkland portion of the site (half of the site is in the City of Bellevue). As the regulations are prepared, public meetings and hearings before the Planning Commission will be scheduled. Anyone interested in how the site will development is encouraged to participate in those meetings. For further information, please contact Senior Planner Dorian Collins at 425-587-3249 or dcollins@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Police

5. How will the level of police services be maintained for our neighborhood when the annexation area becomes the responsibility of the Kirkland Police Department?

Response: There are no anticipated reductions in police services for what currently is being provided in the existing city limits. When annexation becomes effective on June 1, 2011, the City of Kirkland Police Department will add police services for the annexation area. At this time, it is anticipated that 37 new commissioned officers will be hired. Three patrol districts are planned for the annexation area, adding to the existing five districts in current city limits. In addition to general patrol services, additional staff will be added to the Investigations, Traffic, K9, Corrections and other police support services to meet the needs of a larger city. For more information about KPD, go to www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/police.

Public Works

6. Will the rank and schedule for Capital Improvement Projects in our neighborhood be affected by annexation?

Response: There are no significant changes to Kirkland's or King County's currently funded and scheduled 2009-2014 CIP projects. In 2012, the City will begin consolidating the (former) County and the current Kirkland capital projects into one Capital Improvement Program. At that time, all projects within the whole City of Kirkland will compete equally based on the current criteria and prioritization process used to establish all CIP projects.

Within the SRH/BT area, Public Works is continuing to work on the NE 85th Street project as described below, as well as the design of Non-motorized improvements on 116th Ave NE, Bridle Trails. In addition, School Walk Route Improvements near Rose Hill and Ben Franklin Elementary Schools are in design and will be completed in 2011. We have also applied for Public Works Trust Fund Loan financing for sewer main improvements on NE 80th St to begin in 2012 combined with a new watermain along the same corridor. We will also be doing a 2011 Emergency Sewer Program with a high likelihood that there will be additional improvements within the SRH/BT neighborhoods, For more information, contact David Snider at 587-3832 or DSnider@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

7. What is the City doing to get Metro to improve bus service to SRHBT, to the Houghton P & R and the freeway station? (Metro services have decreased dramatically in the last 5 years. At the current underutilization, the Houghton P & R might be right up there with Kirkland's dead mall.) Is the City going to be active regarding these issues or passive? If active, please describe the plan?

Response:

The following improvements are underway:

- a) *Beginning in October, Metro plans to add 3 new trips in the morning and 3 new trips in the afternoon to the Route 265. The new trips will operate between the Houghton Park and Ride and First Hill in Seattle.*
- b) *Although not completely approved yet, Metro is planning to consider a restructuring of service in Kirkland and the Eastside in fall of 2011. A panel of citizens from the affected communities usually is set up by King County to provide advice on how service should be reorganized. The group helps Metro staff develop a proposal to be considered by the County Council. This will be a key opportunity that Kirkland has been requesting for some time.*
- c) *Almost ten years ago Metro responded to community requests to make their service less Seattle-centric and have more service throughout the entire day. The idea behind this change was to make more destinations available from Kirkland rather than requiring transfers in Seattle. A few years ago, routes between Kirkland and destinations such as Bothell, Woodinville, Kenmore, Overlake did not exist although there were more peak-only routes to Seattle. Now all those destinations are served from Kirkland and there is more frequent all-day service throughout Kirkland. In exchange, service on SR 520 has been made more frequent on fewer routes and throughout the system more transfers are required.*

One example is the route 245 that runs between Kirkland and Overlake, Bellevue College and Factoria via NE 70th in Kirkland. This route has proven very popular and ridership has steadily increased along with steady increases in service frequency, the number of hours it runs each day and the number of days it runs each week.

Metro's Planning:

- d) *Metro Transit is operated by King County. Therefore, the King County Council makes most of the final calls on issues such as where service operates, how frequently it operates, and so forth. The County Executive has convened a task force to come up with a way to address two issues; 1) how to achieve sustainable funding; and 2) how to allocate new transit service. The task force is made up of 28 members appointed by the County Executive from a wide cross-section of interests. Two elected officials, one from Issaquah and one from Bellevue represent the Eastside on the task force. The Task force is scheduled to complete its work in September 2010. The task force website is <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/TransitTaskForce.aspx>*

Traditionally, Metro's primary revenue source has been sales tax. The recent economic downturn hit Metro hard and large cuts in service were anticipated. Some different revenue sources (property tax formerly directed to ferry service and future

toll revenue from SR 520 for example) were redirected to fund bus service and that has postponed the need for service cuts.

How new service hours are allocated between, Seattle, the Eastside and the southern portions of the County continues to be an important factor. Regardless of how the allocations were set, people in each area have sometimes felt they were not getting a fair share of new service.

- e) *Kirkland has regularly commented on proposed changes to Kirkland service and called for a process to reassess and reorganize the way bus service is delivered in Kirkland. When the "Task Force" has completed their process, Metro will be in a better position to consider changes and additions to transit service in Kirkland.*

8. What is the schedule for the remainder of the City work on NE 85th St.?

Response: *NE 85th Street Corridor Improvements has been divided into two separate contracts: the underground utility conversion from 120th Avenue NE to 128th Avenue, and the roadway improvements (sidewalks, planter strips, storm drainage and intersection improvements). Project design, engineering and property acquisitions are well underway. The anticipated construction schedule is as follows:*

114th/85th Intersection: summer/fall 2010

Underground Conversion: fall 2010 (anticipated completion 1 year later)

Roadway Improvements: 2011 (anticipated completion 1 year later)

Pavement overlay: 2012

For more information, contact Don Anderson 425-587-3826 DAnderson@ci.kirkland.wa.us or visit the project web page at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/85thStreet.

9. When is NE 85th St./124th Ave NE construction going to begin?...end?

Response: *See above.*

10. When are the related (to NE 85th Street) sidewalks going to be constructed? We understand that the sidewalk for Rose Hill Meadows Park is a Sound Transit responsibility, but, with residents, especially children walking to the park, does the City feel that not having the sidewalk presents any potential liability? Current timetable please. Any chance to speed it up?

Response: *Unfortunately, the sidewalks on 124th Avenue NE are integral with the improvements (both on the surface and underground) on NE 85th Street that separating them would not only slow the overall progress but create costly inefficiencies in construction.*

Property acquisition has been the most time consuming process for this project (involving over 90 individual properties). The priority has been placed on right-of-way acquisitions for properties associated with the underground conversion first. The utility conversion work needs to be complete before surface improvements. Additionally, the extent of concrete work to be performed on 85th Street and 124th Avenue allow for greater economies of scale and we expect better bids for this work if combined. Staff remains committed to completing all project scope elements as expediently as possible including 124th Avenue sidewalks with the current schedule.

11. Are there any plans to install a traffic light or round-about at the intersection of NE 70th street and 122nd Ave NE? Thank you.

Response: *This intersection has been one that we've been watching for a long time. There are several things that have to happen before we install a traffic signal, with the most important one being that of meeting "signal warrants". We use nationally accepted guidelines that help determine whether or not a signal is "warranted" at a particular intersection. These warrants are based mostly on traffic volumes but also on safety and other issues as well. You can see them on line at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2003/Ch4.pdf> beginning on page 13 of that PDF. We've monitored this intersection for traffic volumes and whether or not signal warrants are met; so far, warrants have not been met. Once an intersection meets signal warrants, it competes for funding through the Capital Improvement Program. This is an important intersection to a number of people so we are continuing to monitor it closely.*

12. Please HELP—We need School Zone Designation! Can you please convert 130th Avenue NE between 80th and 73rd as a 20mph school zone, as it is 1 of 4 KEY feeder streets, where children walk/ride their bikes to Rose Hill Elementary School. It is the KEY south feeder to this school for all elementary school children residing between 70th to 80th St on the North and 132nd to 126th street. The other 3 feeder streets, that are currently a 20 mph school zone are 128th street, 80th street coming from the east/132nd and 80th street from Lake Washington High on the west side. Most Traffic flies up/down 130th street past these children at speeds of +35mph vs. 25 mph speed limit/2 sets of low speed bumps. Can you please conduct survey via Rose Hill enrollment AND also speed study 130th avenue during 3-4 times per day to secure this school zone designation? This is currently a very dangerous, fast road and we need your fast help, at LEAST during the school year. This is an accident waiting to happen. Please help us to keep our kids safe with new signage on this street!

Response: *This has been assigned to the Transportation Engineering group in Public Works for evaluation. We appreciate you bringing this to our attention.*

13. City Manager's Office

How is the search going for the new City Manager? What criteria are you looking for: critical assets, traits and experience? Quick summary of the review/approval process. How close is a decision?

Response:

Process to date:

In November 2009, the City Council engaged the services of Bob Murray and Associates to conduct a nationwide search for Kirkland's next City Manager. Over the following three months, Mr. Murray conducted interviews with the City Council (including the City Council in office at the time, as well as the newly-elected Council members). He also interviewed department directors and held a meeting with the City's bargaining unit leadership. In late January, a public forum was held to gather public input. In addition, comments were solicited via the City's web page regarding the qualities and experience that would be important for the next City Manager. We received comments from the general public as well as from City employees. All of this information was forwarded to Mr. Murray and summarized for the City Council.

Based on this input, Mr. Murray developed a position profile and held a meeting with the City Council to present a summary of the comments received to date. The City Council had an

opportunity to confirm that the characteristics identified through the interview process were consistent with their goals. You can view the Council's study session on this topic by going to the City's web page and selecting "View City Council Meetings." The meeting date was January 27, 2010. During this study session, the City Council outlined the process they would follow for the interviews. Further discussion took place at a later meeting (see April 6, 2010 meeting under Council Reports
(http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/council/Watch_Council_Meetings.htm).

Following the January 27 study session, Mr. Murray developed a recruitment brochure and advertisement and began his search process. The recruitment closed on April 9 and, as of that date, Murray and Associates had received 92 applications from across the United States.

Next Steps

Mr. Murray is reviewing the applications and will determine which candidates best meet the profile identified by the City Council. At this time, candidate names will remain confidential out of consideration for the applicants, many of whom currently hold positions in other agencies.

On May 4, 2010, Mr. Murray met with the City Council in executive session to evaluate the qualifications of those recommended for interviews based upon their applications. The first round of interviews will be conducted on May 14, 2010. On May 25, 2010, the City Council will hold final interviews. If you did not have an opportunity to provide your comments or input, you can still do so by going to the City's website and completing the form asking for your opinions
(http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/CMO/Kirkland_City_Manager_Recruitment.htm).