



To: City Council

From: Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods, Jim McElwee, Coordinator

Date: October 9, 2006

Subject: Joint Study Session with the City Council

I have prepared the attached memorandum outlining potential discussion topics for the October 17th Joint Study Session with the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN).

KAN held their first retreat in many years this past month. It was well attended and generated a lively discussion of KAN's mission and our goals for the next year. The attached memo summarizes our important issues.

We are looking forward to talking further with the City Council about how KAN can become an even more valuable resource/organization for the City as a whole.

CITY OF KIRKLAND

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**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM**

To: City Council

From: Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods, Jim McElwee, Coordinator

Date: October 17, 2006

Subject: Joint Study Session with City Council

The Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods (KAN) would like to thank the City Council for the opportunity to discuss issues and ideas that we are currently addressing as well as our vision for the immediate future of our organization. In particular we would like to address the following items:

- KAN is a Success
- Our Mission Statement
- Our Goals and Objectives for the coming year

Each of these items is discussed more fully below.

KAN is a Success

KAN is an informal body made up of neighborhood representatives. The purpose of the group is to establish a citywide focus for neighborhood associations to coordinate and share issues between neighborhoods, and educate neighborhood leaders. (This is used as our existing mission statement.)

Eleven Neighborhood Associations (NA's) represent the neighborhoods of Kirkland at KAN. Each association reflects the diverse and unique characteristics of its neighborhood. The NA's have been a great success in educating the residents about neighborhood issues, being a focal point and resource for residents to improve their neighborhoods, and providing feedback to the City Council and City Staff on neighborhood issues.

As an informal alliance of all the NA's, KAN has been a venue where representatives of the associations can come together to learn news of the larger community, exchange ideas on current issues and seek counsel on methods to improve individual association practices. We have been a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas and concerns and for the dissemination of information about city issues and events. We also provide direction for Neighborhood U where the entire community is invited to learn about city structure, systems and processes and to develop community leadership skills.

The KAN meetings are well-attended with the representation rarely being less than 75% of the NA's. Our agendas are full, and we consistently have to defer or turn away worthy issues and groups. The single most important part of each meeting, and the essence of KAN, is Neighborhood Reports, the sharing of neighborhood activities, issues and ideas around the table.

Measured by our existing mission statement, we consider KAN to be successful. Based on discussions at our recent (October 2, 2006) retreat, we think we can be even better. During our retreat we concluded that our performance corresponded well to our existing mission statement and we agreed that some modifications to that statement would reflect more clearly that we wanted KAN to take a more active role. Items of “doing well” and “opportunities to do better” as we discussed at the retreat are shown in Tables I and II.

Mission Statement

Our discussions of revisions to our mission statement were lively and spirited, especially as we addressed where we would position ourselves along the continuum between “support” and “advocacy”. Our draft proposals include increased support of neighborhoods on common issues and the application of a unified or representative neighborhood voice to educate residents and to influence other organizations. A sub-committee is drafting a final proposal that we expect to adopt at our November 8 meeting. Table III is our word association chart regarding the word “advocacy” in our mission statement.

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

At the retreat, the group identified several goals for the coming year:

- Develop Future Leaders
 - Identify and communicate training opportunities
 - Mine new leaders
 - Provide leadership training
- Assist in communicating city issues to our residents and communicating neighborhood issues back to city
- Develop a Voice for Neighborhoods
 - Finish mission statement
 - Define structure and scope
- Enhance Visibility of KAN
 - Market NA’s and KAN (possible KAN website)
 - Secure/Identify funding for activities
 - Enhance outreach efforts to neighborhoods
- Do More Collective/Group Problem Solving
 - Put as regular part of agenda

We look forward to our meeting with the City Council to further discuss our goals and relationship with the City.

Table I

About KAN – What Things Work Well

	Consistent with current mission?	
Get to hear about other neighborhoods and hear other ideas and issues	Yes	
Introduction to City and Regional issues	Yes	
Educational Speakers (such as emergency preparedness)	Yes	
Ideas that I can use for my neighborhood	Yes	
Neighborhood U	Yes	
Opportunity to meet people from other parts of the city	Yes	
Share projects, goals and solutions	Yes	
Efficient way to get out info	Yes	
Networking	Yes	
It exists – the alliance works together instead of getting played off one another (not Seattle)		Not Addressed
Learn things I should pass on to my neighborhood	Yes	
Becoming aware of issues that may be coming to my neighborhood	Yes	
Opportunity to serve on other committees		Not Addressed
Candid and informal	Yes	
KAN participants have a similar lens for viewing City of Kirkland	Yes	

Table II

About KAN – Opportunities to Improve

	Consistent with current mission?	
Have more interest in participation	Yes	
Recognized as a group that people want to go to		Not Addressed
More of a presence		Not Addressed
More visibility		Not Addressed
Better understanding of what KAN can do for neighborhoods	Yes	
Get more visibility to Neighborhood Associations		Not Addressed
Give us more tools to grow Neighborhood Association membership	Yes	
Support each other on issues that may impact us all	Yes?	
A place to gather support for Neighborhood issues		Not Addressed
Build coalitions among neighborhoods		Not Addressed
Represent neighborhoods to council (e.g. issue papers)		Not Addressed
Make a difference on City decisions		Not Addressed
Communicate community views on issues (e.g. web page; be a “3 rd branch” of government and another perspective)	Yes	
Use KAN as a place to identify and train community leaders	Yes	
Develop future leaders	Yes	
Do more problem solving and sharing solutions	Yes	

Table III

Should KAN Include Advocacy in the Mission Statement?

Pro	Con
Voice	Political
Opinion	Abused
Power	Polarizing
Influence	May not represent everyone
Counterbalance	Risky
Seat at the table	Not always consensus
Leadership	Majority versus Consensus
	Could ruin a good thing
	Divisive

October 2nd KAN Retreat attendees:

Everest–Anna Rising
Highlands–Sue Keller, John Braun, Susan Braun
Juanita–Norm Storme, Greg Butler
Lakeview–Pam Miller, Robert Miller
Market–Jane Maule, Loren Spurgeon
Moss Bay–Glenn Peterson, Mark Eliassen
North Rose Hill–Margaret Carnegie, Karen Tennyson
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails–Ern Anderson, Colleen Cullen
Totem Lake–Lynda Haneman
KAN–Jim McElwee

City–Kari Page, Marilynne Beard

Neighborhoods of Kirkland

