

Date: February 23, 2010

Janice Soloff, Senior Planner, opened the joint meeting of the Lakeview and Central Houghton Advisory Groups in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Soloff introduced the two speakers who would provide presentations to the advisory group members. The first speaker was Loita Hawkinson, with the Kirkland Heritage Society. The second speaker was to be Michael Cogle, with the City's Parks Department.

Ms. Hawkinson provided a presentation of the history of the Central Houghton and Lakeview neighborhoods. Copies of her PowerPoint presentation are available – *please contact staff if you would like to have a copy mailed to you.*

Michael Cogle presented an overview of the City's parks located in the two neighborhoods, covering issues related to the varying functions of different parks, levels of service, plans and funding, etc. Mr. Cogle responded to many questions from advisory group members.

The joint meeting adjourned at about 8:00, when the advisory groups split and continued their meetings in separate rooms.

Betsy Pringle, Chair of the Central Houghton Advisory Group began the next portion of the meeting at approximately 8:10.

Ms. Pringle introduced herself again to the group, and stated that she is a member of the Houghton Community Council. She then asked each member of the group to introduce themselves, since several members were in attendance who had not been at the first meeting in January.

Angela Ruggeri then led the group in the final phase of the Visioning exercise. The statements that the small groups had developed during the last meeting were posted throughout the room. Each advisory group member was given 6 sticky dots to post beside the statements they felt were most important. Ms. Ruggeri told the group that the results from the exercise would be used by staff to help draft the Vision Statement that would be brought back to the advisory group for review in the future. *The results of this exercise are presented in the attached document.*

Ms. Ruggeri then introduced the next topic for discussion: Historic Context. She mentioned that there is no historic context section in the existing neighborhood plan for Central Houghton, but that one would be added with this update.

Discussion followed, with members suggesting ideas for ways in which the history of Central Houghton could be acknowledged and preserved. Some ideas included:

- Noting the "political history" of Kirkland in some way – the fact that the Central Houghton area was part of a separate city, and that it maintains a community council – one of only two in the state (one advisory group member noted that the Municipal Research Center has information about the history of the consolidation of Houghton into Kirkland).
- Preservation of physical markers in the neighborhood that acknowledge the former city.
- Preservation of today's history in some way – photos

- Noting community identity – strong sense of community in the neighborhood.
- Inclusion of schools as a part of the community
- Identification of key sites with historic significance
- Possible policies could encourage:
  - Signage that tells the history of the naming of parks, etc.
  - Education about the area's past

Ms. Ruggeri introduced the topic of Parks and Open Space.

Several members noted the overlap of issues related to parks and open space with natural environment issues.

Discussion regarding Watershed Park began. Comments included:

- The name of Watershed Park may provide a more active image of the park. A change to Watershed Natural Area or something similar may be appropriate. Labels are important.
- Master planning of the park should be considered. Calling for a Master Plan in a policy, with the goal of protecting and preserving the natural quality of the park may be appropriate.
- Policies may be needed to call for good bike and pedestrian connections to the park.

Advisory group members discussed trails, and the potential importance of a trail along the BNSF line in the future. It was noted that this trail may provide important connections to other areas, including new access to Carillon Woods.

Comments also noted that rights-of-way also provide open space, and the neighborhood plan could discuss the street environment, and its role as open space. One member noted that the streets could be narrowed, and designed more for pedestrians, rather than cars.

Key public views were discussed. Some members stated that they thought these should be identified and noted in the neighborhood plan.

The value to neighbors of fields at schools was discussed. Potential issues with over-scheduling of these fields were noted, as this can remove them from the open space resources available to neighbors.

Ms. Ruggeri discussed the expressed interest of group members in additional time for meeting and discussion. She noted the difficulty in finding extra dates that worked for all members. Members responded that the meetings should be scheduled, and those who could attend, would.

The next meeting of the group will be on the special meeting date of March 9<sup>th</sup>, to cover the topics that were not discussed from tonight's agenda. They will include schools and the natural environment. The next regular meeting date for the group is March 30<sup>th</sup>.

At 9:10, the meeting was adjourned.

## Results of Visioning “Dot” Exercise February 23, 2010

### 10 dots

- Neighborhood oriented businesses that are attractive, economically healthy and in already existing areas (footprint).

### 9 dots

- Maintain inclusively diverse residential (economically, age, housing type) to promote a full range of lifestyles.

### 7 dots

- We want retail resources in our neighborhood that provide opportunities for local neighborhood-friendly businesses and residents.

### 6 dots

- A common area for the community to gather at Houghton Center (like Crossroads) promoting joint activities between assets.
- Continued integration & cooperation with institutions to ensure their use/development is parallel/similar to the rest of the neighborhood.

### 5 dots

- No high intensity development at South Kirkland Park & Ride without supporting services.
- Traffic on 108<sup>th</sup> has to be managed as a minor arterial.
- Trail as a backbone for safe non-motorized transportation and recreation.

### 4 dots

- A community which encourages an active lifestyle and is safe for walking and bicycling.
- A community which supports and values schools.
- Maintain and enhance current parks (native park stewardship) to continue to provide diversity (recreation types, ages using, etc.).

### 3 dots

- Maintain open spaces and increase public-owned sites for open use when opportunities become available.

## 2 dots

- Enhance and preserve lake and mountain views, the eco system (natural environment), and the tree canopy.
- Most of our public spaces are in natural and underdeveloped states.
- Policy should include community involvement – proactive planning/public involvement, integration with community.
- Attractive for pedestrians and bicyclists (non-motorized).
- Enhance and promote rail to trail and connect to neighborhood.

## 1 dot

- Preserve natural topography and environment (views, lake, streams).
- Reduce noise.
- Enhance and develop trails.
- We like what we have while carefully managing growth and density.
- Support a full range of life styles – family oriented.
- Maintain existing (majority low density) zoning that allows for a variety of income and age levels.