

Date: March 9, 2010

Betsy Pringle, Chair of the Central Houghton Advisory Group began the meeting at 7:05. This meeting was a continuation of the discussion on schools and the natural environment that was part of the February 23, 2010 meeting agenda.

Steve Sankey, representative from Northwest University and member of the Central Houghton Advisory Group gave a presentation on the university's future plans. He explained that all changes would need to go through the master plan process. He stated that the university wants to be a resource for the community and to work with their neighbors.

Future plans for the university over the next 20 years or more include a new sport and fitness center, a student center and a worship center. All these projects are in the very early planning stages and are dependent on future funding. The university presently has approximately 900 undergraduate students, with a total student population of 1200-1300 if the degree completion program and other campuses are included. There are no expected changes to the existing master plan.

The group discussion moved on to traffic problems with various other schools and churches in the neighborhood. Mr. Sankey left at approximately 7:40 since he had another commitment. The traffic discussion included issues with the Puget Sound Adventist School and parking on NE 53rd Street. The school has expanded its use/programs and this has created traffic problems on days outside of the normal school week and hours. These expansions were not required to go through permit review since there was no increase in building floor area. Interactions with the neighborhood concerning these issues often end up being adversarial.

Concerns were also voiced about the International Community School traffic. It was pointed out that there is an existing agreement between the school district and the neighborhood and that there are more than the maximum agreed upon number of students presently enrolled at the school. *This agreement was later provided by one of the Advisory Group members and was e-mailed to the group.*

Evening events at the Best School were also discussed. It was suggested that all the schools in the area surrounding the intersection of 108th Avenue NE and NE 53rd Street should be addressed in a combined section of the Comprehensive Plan, probably under land use.

There was a general feeling that the schools are good for the neighborhood, but there is a concern about their potential impacts. The group would like to see communication between the school district and the neighborhood improved so that the schools can become more integrated into the neighborhood. It was suggested that the Central Houghton Neighborhood Association take a role in proactively establishing a relationship with LWSD and with the other private institutions in order to address concerns.

Rachel Mikulec, director of the Kirkland Children's School and member of the Advisory Group then gave a presentation on their potential plans for a new school building. She expressed the school's need for additional space to accommodate the many families on the waiting list and asked for the Advisory Board's feedback on some early design ideas. The board was very supportive in their comments and suggested ways to make a smoother, safer drop off area for students of the school. Concerns about safety near Lakeview Elementary School were also discussed.

The next item for discussion was the Natural Environment section of the plan. Carillon Woods was discussed and it was noted that it did not exist when the last neighborhood plan was written. It is a unique park with both developed and natural areas. The northeast corner contains a playground and public art, while the rest of the park is stewarded and is being actively restored to native condition. The neighborhood wants to maintain this balance between developed park and natural area. To date, 2000 volunteer hours have been donated to the development of the park. It is an excellent example of the type of stewardship that should be encouraged elsewhere in the neighborhood and in the City in general.

The day lighting of streams and wildlife habitat were also discussed. It was pointed out that wildlife habitat certification in the City of Kirkland began in Houghton and that it should be acknowledged in the Comprehensive Plan. It was mentioned that Watershed Park has a diversity of wildlife and that native species should be encouraged.

The next meeting of the group will be on Tuesday evening, March 30. It will begin at 6:30 in the City Council Chambers. with a joint session with the Lakeview Advisory Group. Presentations will include housing options in Kirkland and Transit-Oriented-Development at the South Kirkland Park and Ride site.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.