



Background and purpose of meetings

The City of Kirkland hosted the second series of four neighborhood planning workshops during the months of May and June. The City hosted the first set of workshops in January and February. The meetings in January and February focused on helping neighborhoods identify issues with their existing plans (or principles for new plans) as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan update process. The purpose of this series of meetings is to:

- Report back to neighborhoods on the City's response to issues and suggested changes or additions to existing neighborhood plans.
- Further explore how shared business districts might change in the future.
- Further explore issues from the first set of meetings that need clarification or additional thoughts.

The City hosted the fourth meeting in this series on June 10 at the LDS Stake Center (7910 NE 132nd St) from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Neighborhoods in attendance included Juanita, Finn Hill, and Kingsgate. These neighborhoods share common boundaries and business districts. **Approximately 45 people** attended the meeting.

Upon signing in, staff gave attendees a meeting agenda and copies of transcribed notes from the first workshop organized by neighborhood and theme. Staff also gave attendees transcribed notes that focused specifically on transportation and parks and open space related issues. The purpose of these materials was to give attendees the opportunity to review comments from the first workshop and give feedback on comments and issues that needed further clarification and additional insight.

Introductions

Penny Mabie (facilitator) welcomed attendees to the meeting, introduced staff, reviewed the agenda, and discussed the format of the meeting. She gave a brief synopsis of the first workshop and outlined the goals of this meeting. Penny noted that following the discussion on the City's response to the first workshop's comments, there would be a break where attendees would have the opportunity to review and provide comments and questions on wall exhibits that highlighted comments, issues, and themes from the first meeting specific to Juanita, Finn Hill, and Kingsgate.

Response to first meeting's comments

Overview presentation

Paul Stewart (City of Kirkland, Deputy Director of Planning) started this discussion with an overview presentation. In addition to the objective of the workshops and key themes from the first meeting, the presentation focused on the schedule for updating the Comprehensive Plan including updating the general elements of the plan such as land use, economic development, and housing; selecting Citizen Amendment Requests for study; and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. The

presentation also touched on comments and themes from the first meeting and the City's response to those comments and themes.

Walkability

Jeremy McMahan (City of Kirkland, Planning Supervisor) concluded with a presentation on the 10-Minute Neighborhood concept. This concept is based on a person's ability to walk 10 minutes from where they live to where they go to school, work, shop, and play. The City of Kirkland is currently developing a tool to map things that contribute to walkability such as proximity to destinations and how accessible are those destinations (how does a person get there).

Transportation opportunities

David Godfrey (City of Kirkland, Transportation Engineering Manager) continued the discussion with a presentation on transportation. David's presentation highlighted the goals of the Transportation Master Plan, gave an overview of trends in vehicle miles traveled and changes in transportation priorities, and illustrated how planners consider how well streets connect housing with local businesses and other community assets. The presentation concluded with an examination of how the City can find the right balance of land use and transportation projects.

One output of the tool is a heat map. The heat map shows areas in Kirkland that are more or less walkable by overlaying attributes such as parks, schools, and sidewalks. Most importantly, the map shows where connection gaps exist. One goal of the tool is to help identify where growth could occur, help the City prioritize where capital improvements should be made, and highlight where pedestrian connections can be improved.

Question and answer session

Attendees asked City staff questions and gave comments about the overview, 10-Minute Neighborhood concept, and presentation on transportation opportunities. Comments and questions covered a range of topics, and are provided below. Answers to questions by City staff are noted in italics.

Is there a central location where we can look at the full description of the comprehensive plan?

The existing Comprehensive Plan is on the City's website. Currently there is no neighborhood plan for the Kingsgate, Finn Hill and North Juanita neighborhoods. As draft sections of the Comprehensive Plan update are available we will be putting it up on the Kirkland 2035 website.

What is the City's process for handling a Citizen Amendment Request (CAR)?

Citizens can submit an application form found on the City's website. Once the application is submitted, it goes through the Planning Commission and City Council for review. Then it may be incorporated into the environmental review for analysis. CARs will be publically published and the public will have the opportunity to comment. Staff will determine which CARs to present to the City Council and the City Council will report back which CARs are eligible for further study.

Is there no way to change the zoning or density of property that were first approved by the County?

Yes, but it usually requires changing the Comprehensive Plan first. Now is the time to request this. You should discuss this further in the breakout groups and or submit a CAR.

How does the City view high density development versus residential and commercial mixed uses?

This is a part of the conversation we are having now. The question for us, and you, is where and how should new growth occur.

Is the 10-minutes neighborhood goal of walkability realistic for Kirkland?

Yes, we believe it is.

Has the city looked at what percent of the population lives in a walkable area?

Not yet as we are still piloting the basic functions of the 10-minute walkability tool.

Are there examples to see if the 10-minute walkability tool is productive?

Yes we have looked at examples of other cities such as Portland. Portland has been using this model extensively.

Are there any plans or information for the Albertson's site in North Juanita?

There is no new news to report on this issue at the moment. However, this issue would be a great topic for the Juanita group to discuss in terms of land use, walkability, and what you want to see in your neighborhood.

We could lose green space by building the new Juanita pool. Why isn't the City considering something like the Albertson's site to build a new pool?

The Albertson's site was considered. But to build the aquatics center, it would be too costly given the land needed. We are using park land because it is less costly.

In terms of capital facilities, how does the City prioritize what to spend money on and how much?

These priorities are outlined in the Capital Facilities Plan. In general, the higher the level of service, the more money is needed. Identifying priorities for the City is what this comprehensive plan update process is about.

Can we see the 10-minute neighborhood maps in more detail?

Yes, they will be posted soon on the City's website.

Will construction approved by the County prior to annexation continue until completion?

That depends on when the construction was approved. If the County approved the work and issued a permit, it will continue under the County's rules. If the work was approved, but no permit was issued by the County, that technically falls under Kirkland's rules. If zoning changes are necessary, that could be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan update.

Break

Penny instructed attendees to take a break and review the exhibits around the break-out rooms concerning differing viewpoints, transportation issues, and comments from the first meeting. Attendees were asked to provide comments and questions on the exhibits, as well as mark which comments they liked with a sticker. For a detailed list of comments and questions please see the attached spreadsheet.

The audience then broke up into their respective break-out session groups to have neighborhood-specific discussions about business districts and neighborhood plans.

Close out

Janice Coogan (City of Kirkland, Senior Planner) outlined the next steps including upcoming Planning Commission study sessions. She also highlighted ways for people to stay involved with the project including attending future public meetings web links to Kirkland 2035 homepage and the Ideas Forum:

- www.kirklandwa.gov/Community/Kirkland2035
- www.IdeasForum.kirklandwa.gov