



# CITY OF KIRKLAND

Planning and Community Development Department  
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587-3225  
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Houghton Community Council

**From:** Janice Soloff, AICP, Senior Planner  
Eric Shields, AICP, Planning Director  
Paul Stewart, AICP, Deputy Director

**Date:** December 3, 2009

**Subject:** LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN UPDATE-ADVISORY GROUP

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Houghton Community Council either:

1. Appoint members to the Lakeview Advisory Group (*depending how many additional emails or letters we receive from people interested in being on the Advisory Group between now and December 14, meeting*), or
2. Provide direction to staff on an alternative planning process that does not include an Advisory Group.

### BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

The Houghton Community Council and Planning Commission agreed to the formation of Advisory Groups to work with staff to update the Lakeview and Central Houghton Neighborhood Plans. The Advisory Groups would be comprised of neighborhood association chairs, representatives from Boards and Commissions, approximately 5 residents and 5 businesses located in the neighborhood and city staff. Membership for the Central Houghton Advisory Group was approved at the November 23, 2009 meeting.

To date here are the people interested in being on the Lakeview Advisory Group:

Residents	Sally Mackle, Bob Style, Georgine Foster (see enclosed emails)
Business	<i>No response yet</i>
Neighborhood Association	<i>No commitment yet</i>
Houghton Community Council	John Kappler
Planning Commission	Jay Arnold
Park Board	Shelley Kloba
Transportation Commission	<i>As needed</i>
City Staff	Janice Soloff, Paul Stewart or Eric Shields

To have a diversified and balanced group it would be ideal to have more residents and businesses on the Advisory Group. Because of the lack of response from residents and businesses in the Lakeview

neighborhood you recommended extending the deadline for letters of interest to the December 14, 2009 meeting and that the Council would help staff recruit for members.

Staff has recruited for the Advisory Groups using the following methods:

- Two articles in the Kirkland Courier newspaper
- Emailed the October 29, 2009 Open House attendees
- Advertised on the City and Planning Department WebPages
- Sent out announcements to both project and citywide list serves
- Emailed several requests to the Lakeview Neighborhood Association
- Mailed letters (21) to parties of record mailing lists from past zoning permit applications and Shoreline Master Program update
- The Economic Development Manager contacted several business owners

#### Alternative Planning Process Approach

If it is determined that there will not be an advisory group because of lack of interest, the Houghton Community Council should discuss an alternative public participation process. One option could be to hold a neighborhood workshop on key issues for all Lakeview residents and interested parties. Then staff would take the initial step of updating a draft of the plan and working through key policy issues with the Houghton Community Council at study sessions. Before the public hearing a second public open house or workshop could be held to inform the public of the proposed draft plan and code amendments. Please provide direction to staff on which way to proceed.

#### **Neighborhood University December 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>**

As a reminder staff is hosting a "Neighborhood U" on December 8<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Peter Kirk Room at City Hall. For background we will give an overview "Planning 101" and why we have the Comprehensive Plan. The focus of the two day event will be an interactive community dialogue on how we can improve the Neighborhood Plan process in Kirkland. We will be using some unique public participation techniques to make it fun. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Advisory Group members are strongly encouraged to attend as well as Boards and Commission members. People are encouraged to RSVP to [reservations@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:reservations@ci.kirkland.wa.us). For details about the 2009 Neighborhood U, please read the news release [http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/News\\_Room/NR112309NeighU.htm](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/News_Room/NR112309NeighU.htm). For questions, please contact Kari Page, Neighborhood Services Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or [kpage@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:kpage@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

Attachments:

1. Email from Sally Mackle, November 3, 2009
2. Email from Georgine Foster, October 30, 2009
3. Email from Bob Style, November 11, 2009

cc: File ZON07-00032

**Janice Soloff**

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**From:** Sally Mackle [sjmackle@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2009 1:47 PM  
**To:** Janice Soloff  
**Subject:** Lakeview Neighborhood Advisory Group

Hello Janice,

I am writing to submit my application for the Lakeview Neighborhood Advisory Group.

My husband and I have been residents of this area since 1980. We built our home on Lake Washington Blvd. and have enjoyed living her for the past 30 years. Over the past two years I have had a few conversations with Eric Shields about updating the neighborhood plan. My immediate concern is the deteriorating condition on the Blvd from 38<sup>th</sup> to about 48<sup>th</sup>.

The Blvd is the gateway into Kirkland for most people. But the condition from Northup Way north is not very inviting. Aside from the few commercial buildings, the residential areas look sadly unkempt. The housing is at least 50 (or more) years old with little or no renovation, the lawns and trees are overgrown and the lawns often not mown. Several of the homes are now rental, something that continues the downward slide of a neighborhood. This is certainly not the way we want the entrance to our City to look and gives the cars and passengers a negative impression of this beautiful city.

To change this current situation will require a new neighborhood vision statement, along with goals and policies to bring that vision to reality. It may also require some updated zoning code amendments that will bring the existing larger lots into compliance with the State Growth Management Act. Kirkland has a wonderful natural environment with Lake Washington running the entire length of the city. We need to build on this natural beauty and take advantage of what it offers us.

Residents also face difficulty crossing the Blvd. as there are no traffic lights between 38<sup>th</sup> and Carillon Point. The two or three crosswalks are hazardous because traffic moving at 35 miles per hour and often more. This is another issue that the Group could be addressing.

Another issue, related to this one, is the state of the eastern sidewalk along the Blvd. In many areas, the sidewalk is cluttered with leaves, branches, overgrown weed berry vines and trees, sometimes marking it almost impossible to walk on this side. Some new housing stock will help rectify this situation, but it may also be necessary to have the city enforce some of the rules governing sidewalk clearance, and also require a citizens group to work with residents in the area to ensure the Blvd looks neat and tidy at all times.

I believe my commitment to this part of Kirkland is evident in my four years as an elected member of the Houghton Council. I look forward to working with the Advisory Group to bring new life to this part of Kirkland, as well as the rest of the Lakeview Neighborhood area, to make our area of the city an outstanding gateway.

Please let me know if you need any other information from me.

Sally Mackle  
4500 Lake Washington Blvd  
206-465-0029



**Janice Soloff**

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**From:** georgine foster [georginef@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2009 4:08 PM  
**To:** Janice Soloff  
**Subject:** lakeview neighborhood plan update

Dear Janice,

It was an insightful meeting last evening, and it was great to find out that the City is looking for comments from the residents as to the direction we would like to see our neighborhood go in the future. I am especially interested in being part of the Lakeview advisory group, and as my husband and I are retired, I DO have the time to devote to the process. It would be a chance to help mold the future for my neighborhood...it is a great place to live NOW and I would like to make sure that growth, as we know it will occur, doesn't change the "feeling" we all so enjoy here.

Let me know if there is anything else I should do to meet the requirements to be part of the Advisory group.

Thank you,  
Georgine Foster  
4517 102nd Lane NE.  
425-828-3984



**Janice Soloff**

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**From:** RLSTYLE [rlstyle@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2009 4:15 AM  
**To:** Janice Soloff  
**Subject:** Neighborhood Plan Updates

Janice:

Having moved here in February 1987, I've seen many changes - mostly good, some bad especially those, which I have a tough time dealing with, such as concurrency.

When the GMA was adopted, I was the Planner in the City of Carnation. It gave me the opportunity to be on the ground floor of the subsequent rules and regs that were developed as part of the GMA. Eric and I attended many meetings. Since then, I've been awed at the way each jurisdiction has applied the GMA. I'm also awed how the Lakeview and Houghton neighborhoods have responded.

There have been many interpretations of the GMA that have caused neighborhoods to get upset. The people who moved here moved because they liked what existed. Now, there are pressures to change what existed.

I would like to be involved.

Sincerely,

Bob Style