



## Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

# Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

**Notes taken by:** Alena Wolotira

This meeting was held in person at the Village Green Community Center

**Present (in person):** Beth Berglund, Logan Hammon, Glen Hutchinson, Alena Wolotira, Kate Joncas (co-chair), Tim Davis (co-chair), Chris Gilbreath, Breane Martinez, Marla Powers, Cynthia Logan, Ben Astaire, Steve Heacock, Shep Griswold

**Excused Absence:** Steve Marchese, Kaili Roest, Dave Bomalaski

**Absent:** Karen Jeyes

**Also present:** Rebecca Pirtle, Commissioner Rolfes

**Welcome & Call to Order:** *Co-chair Joncas called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.*

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
  - Tom Curley–Suquamish CAC–Discover Kingston was wonderful
- **Introduction of members**
- **Commissioner Remarks:**
  - County will be signing the purchase and sale agreement for the transfer of ownership of the Eglon property
    - Do not anticipate the use of the property changing at all in the next year or two. Will remain quiet trails and forest until there's staff capacity to have community meetings to discuss its future
  - Timeframe for 104 realignment project: managed by state DOT. They have assigned a project manager. Going through a federal permitting process for environmental review. Began acquisition of the properties a few years ago but more acquisition will restart in Summer 2025. Preliminary Engineering Summer 2026. Construction in 2027.
    - Set amount of money from the legislature–\$18M, but projected cost of current project is \$25M. \$7M discrepancy will be figured out in the future, project still in the works
  - Citizens on Patrol: volunteers who are deputized so they can give tickets. Commissioner requested a pilot project to move training (year-long) from Port Orchard to somewhere up north.
  - Thank you for Discover Kingston event, especially to Rebecca Pirtle.
  - DCD–new website with information about all neighborhood permitting. [Map Your Curiosity](#)
  - Eglon happened because a lot of people in NK rallied the legislature and the Dept of Natural Resources. Mark Libby deserves special recognition.

**Quorum:** Yes

- Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: No changes. Chris moved, Glen seconded. All ayes. Minutes approved

**Ongoing or Unfinished Business**

New student representative: Chris reports that we don't yet have a member. But we have a candidate identified so hopefully we can convince him to join and meet him next month!

**Discover Kingston Open House Recap. 9/30/24**

- Almost 60 govt and nonprofit groups in attendance
- At least 400 attendees
- Volunteers amazing, especially Village Green
- Improved issues from the year before
- Rebecca runs the important communication with the groups, which is a huge lift
- Breane: Poulsbo resident stopped by to find out who to talk to to make this happen in Poulsbo. Several people also came in with a specific question for a specific group.
- Beth: the fact that we can fill a room with the nonprofits in our community is partially due to having no government entities who are filling those gaps. Pretty impressive to have that many volunteers

**New Business:**

**Environment and Land Use Committee: Comp Plan Letter**

- Draft for the one of the final formal stages of commenting on what the County has prepared—on the Kingston sub-area plan
- Zoom meeting, everyone read beforehand, all involved folks went around the room to make their comments. Letter is a summary of the key points made in this meeting
  - A couple are questions that could perhaps be addressed in future meetings
- Glen moves to approve the letter. Tim seconds.
  - Further discussion: applauding Beth for all of her efforts
- All ayes. Motion to approve the letter passes. Beth will send the letter tomorrow.

**Group photo:** tabled to December

**Reports:**

- **Council Announcements:** none.
- **Committee Reports**

- **Transportation:** (Tim Davis)
  - Andy Nelson took ATMS questions at the September meeting
  - Erik Baker to talk about Comp Plan–heartening because the Transportation Committee had submitted some suggestions. Erik agreed to go discuss our suggestions, which had been crossed out in the latest draft
  - Working on a letter for next month re: possible solutions involving traffic calming
  
- **Community Services** (Chris Gilbreath)
  - Cindy will be taking over the chair position in January
  - Debrief on the Discover Kingston event, similarly laudatory as the debrief at this meeting
  - November meeting: issue of Kitsap Community Health Assessment. Jessica Jetter working with the assessor.
  - Mary Gleysteen–we are a waterfront community but no one needing ADA access can utilize it. Perhaps use the port property next to the upper parking lot.
    - Alena: already heard about this proposal at the October Kingston FAC meeting and at the latest 104 working group meeting.
    - Can the hill and toth property be park, Landing property to be a boutique hotel, leaving the waterfront for Kingston
  - Commissioner: Tammy Bowen at PTOS meeting a few months ago is also working on access to the waterfront.
  - Work plan updates
  - Unsung Heroes Plan: promotion of the project, will be reaching out to various Kingston stakeholders to partner. End of the year should see a nomination of a wonderful community member as an unsung Hero
  - Mary Gleysteen: Severe Weather Shelter is recruiting volunteers
  - Cindy: Affordable housing and community meals
    - Affordable Housing:
      - Met in September. Cindy joined the booth at Discover Kingston. Amazing discussions with attendees.
      - Purchase of the property near the VG has been completed by Kingston Cares, with plans to be forthcoming.
      - Next meeting Monday, Oct. 21. Open to the public.
    - Community Meals

- KCAC put on the community meal in August. Such a good time that we are volunteering to do it again.
  - **Environment & Land Use** (Beth Berglund)
    - Assuming the county is willing to receive more from KCAC, first bullet in the letter. Share your thoughts on vision improvements should be shared with Beth
  - **Parks, Trails, Open Spaces:** (Mark Libby)
    - Spent much of the September meeting discussing conversations that came up at Discover Kingston
      - Suzanne Arness discussed the history of Arness Park, used to be a logging dump
    - Sept. 28 restoration of Kingston Middle School lower field
      - 30 volunteers working from 8-430. Thatching, aerating, top dressing with 18" tools. Took a long time, great effort. Hoping for good turf next spring.
      - 600 X 320 foot field. \$3k of donated top soil.
    - Oct. 19–Nike Park work party. Stripping ivy off of fir trees
- **Organization Reports:**
  - **Port of Kingston:** (Steve Heacock)
    - Budget adopted for next year
    - Strategic Plan–10 year plan being developed
      - 2 opps to participate–10/22 @ 930 am in VG across the hall. And 10/22 at 830 at the port
    - Finale for the Kingston Public Market–tons of bicyclists on Sunday. Great success, will do again next year. Usually ends the first week of October
    - Restroom project: about to submit permits.
      - Also, doing an ADA review as part of their operating plan. Will look at port assets and accessibility. Have had discussions with Tammy Bowen, Dana and Lucy Schumacher. Also talked to someone at Discover Kingston event who Steve will connect with
    - Christmas tree at Henry's Tree Farm located! Light displays should be restored soon, display will be put out for the holiday. Looking for volunteers to help hang the lights. Contact Steve or anyone else at the Port. Date for light hanging? Beginning week in November. Easy stuff might even start this weekend.
    - Beth: there are women who work year-round on the lights. They meet weekly and make sure that everything is in working order and do repairs.
    - Guess the number of lights as a raffle fundraiser?
    - Majority of the lights are LED and low-wattage
  - **Kingston Friends of the Library** (none)
  - **Chamber** (none)

○ **Kiwanis Club** (Shep Griswold)

- Successful Coho Derby–gave away a \$2500 check for the winner, plus other prizes. Not raining! Lots of attendees
- Salmon Slam last Saturday at VG
- Halloween–coming up at VG, with the Interact Key Club
- Next month–food drive, then Santa!

**Rotary Club** (Chris Gilbreath)

- Took down most flower baskets, last ones removed this afternoon
- Middle school project–Vern’s Topsoil donated soil, Cup and Muffin provided food, and a rental company donated equipment. School District was very happy to have the help.
- Highway cleanup–meet at the Rite Aid parking lot at 10 am on 10/12. They provide safety equipment
- Rotary International–Leading efforts since 1985 to eradicate polio from the world. Internationally, our numbers have started to go up due to wars and vaccine misinformation. Across the world, Rotarians hold fundraisers to help with the effort on International Polio Day–October 24. Rotarians from Kingston, Poulsbo, Bainbridge Island, and Silverdale Pints and Pies event at Western Red Brewery with Premier Meat Pies, both of which will donate proceeds to the effort.

**Village Green Foundation** (Beth Berglund)

- Celtic musicians coming on Saturday, 10/12, flutes and bagpipes to be played by very talented musicians. Acoustic concert in Summit Room
- November 2, Heritage Event for Native American Culture Bearers–S’klallam tribal members will come share tribal artistic knowledge as well as information about the tribe itself.

**North Kitsap School District** (Breane Martinez)

- Busy time of year
- November 1–Kingston homecoming football game. Great event to get out and support our local school. Dance will be on Saturday
- Today, the District got news that the Suquamish tribe is endorsing our levy
- <https://www.nkschools.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/nksd400>
- [https://www.nkschools.org/about-us/departments/communications/parentsqua\\_re-for-families](https://www.nkschools.org/about-us/departments/communications/parentsqua_re-for-families)

**Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe** (Marla Powers)

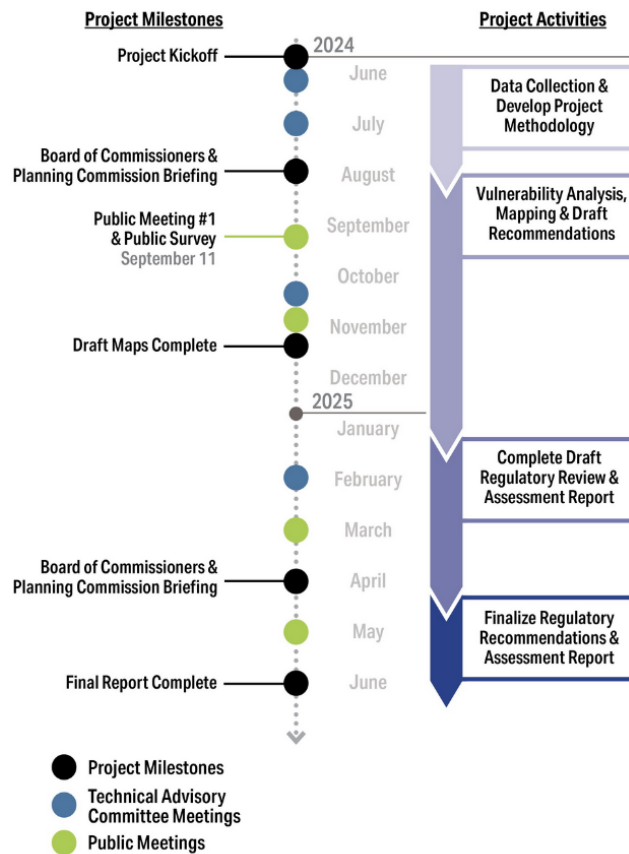
- Natural Resources had a table at Discover Kingston. People very interested in cedar hats

- Little Boston trail still under construction
- October 18-19: Haunted Heronswood from 5 to 9. Special spooky designs with food, etc.
- Planning association of Washington–11/1 all day. Registrations are open for bootcamp on the topic of open space planning. Lots of attendees, with tribe hosting the event and also presenting
- 11/2 from 11-3 Kitsap Salmon tours–check your favorite streams for docents to tell you about the migrating salmon!
- Stream Surveys–surveying the stream every 7-10 days. Counting live salmon, dead salmon, type, sex, stream flow, temp, dissolved oxygen, DNA samples, etc.

**Guest Presentation: Sea Level Rise Project, Jim Rogers,** Senior Planner, DCD Planning and Environmental Programs

- Coming up: December 12 presentation from the scientists performing the study. Here at VG
- Partners: Dept. of Ecology (funding) Facet (consulting) Blue Coast Engineering, Kitsap Co.
- Sea rise caused by declining ice sheets and the expansion of water as it warms. Areas higher and further from the coasts will be at increased risk of flooding and erosion. Low lying areas may be permanently impacted.
  - Risks: degraded/destroyed habitats. Damage to homes, roads, buildings. Hardship for commercial industries. Loss of culturally important sites. Loss of recreation opportunities
- DCD grant from Dept of Ecology to map different projections of sea level rise and identify assets that with possibility of loss due to sea level rise
- Community Engagement Plan: all documents are on the website [here](#), including the project story map
  - Currently: developing mapping analysis models, then an audit of regulations, next steps (all on the above linked website)

## Project Timeline



- Public survey <http://www.kcowa.us/kitsapslr>
- Member questions:
  - Did the county pursue the grant?
    - A: yes
  - Did the county add staff?
    - A: .4 FTE of Jim's time, plus consultant company's time.
  - Member comment: Sea level rise has been at a steady incline, not sold on the use of resources.
  - Question: what will you do with the report?
    - A: wrap up in June 2025, use to inform future planning, especially regarding construction and utilities built next to shore lines

### **Guest Presentation: North Kitsap School District Levy Update, Mike Merlino, Executive Director, Finance and Operations at NKSD**

- Came last fall as part of the presentation about the bond.
- Community we live in is supportive of schools. Have never failed an operations levy. Passed multiple capital levies. Hit a speedbump in 2024.

- New superintendent in the district, Rachel Davenport
- Facility Advisory Committee: makes recommendations to the school board. Huge changes this year from how it was done in the past. Clear coming through the bond that more parents and staff should be involved in the process. Applications open earlier this year. Non-administrators chose 27 members. Staff or family member from each of the buildings on the committee.
  - Started to meet in April, met until July. First meetings involved a lot of questions and concerns. 3 projects in the bond that were lightning rods
    - How was Suquamish Elementary treated? No money
    - Pearson—rebuild on the site or at Finn Hill
    - Wolfle—rebuild or remodel?
  - Committee spent April, May going out to each building. Walked through, met with staff and parents, worked with experts to create an updated facility condition index. \$540M potential projects
  - Committee, taking into account the 38% favorable vote last year, decided to recommend running a capital levy in November to keep the levy rate flat for the next two years. Will drop down in 2027.
- Committee Member, representing the Community, Eric:
  - Joined the committee in April
  - Steps that impressed him:
    - First meeting, superintendent introduced herself, welcomed the committee, and recused herself to ensure her opinions did not influence or bias the committee
    - 3 lightning rods: made it clear that the committee needs more time to develop a comprehensive plan to properly prioritize projects, fund critical systems.
    - Set priorities of student safety and functionality
  - \$25M projects
    - \$6M for technology
    - Suquamish and Pearson:
      - Pearson: gym to be built on the site bc current gym is cafeteria and small gym. When a future levy/bond is passed, the new building will connect with the new gym.
      - Suquamish: to add classroom space where the portable is. Remodel some classroom space
      - New safe/secure entrance with a vestibule for each school in the district. Limits access to the office only, once buzzed in
      - Kingston and Poulsbo Middle Schools: new tracks
    - Proposals: positively received at informational meetings.
  - Rate remains flat across district, some changes at a more granular



level

- Teacher's Union endorsement
- Suquamish Tribe endorsement
- More information: [nkschools.org/2024levy](https://nkschools.org/2024levy)
- **Member Questions:**
  - Seems like there has been a longstanding problem with few funds available to keep athletic fields up to current athletic standards, driving a stand-alone sports complex proposal. Would like to see the need for sports fields to be met at the schools, including the community needs. Can fundraised/nonprofit funds be accepted by the school district?
    - A: if there were a large donation, the money should be spent as dictated by the donor. If there was a large enough donation to redo a field, they will absolutely be interested in engaging in those conversations.
    - Bre: other school stadiums at other districts have business donations with commemorative acknowledgement of those community investments

### **Public Questions and Comments, addressing both speakers:**

- Q: Vulnerability analysis—how granular will the report be?
  - A: major use for this information is to look at places where sea level rise is likely to have an impact on infrastructure and planning for where to put new facilities
- Q: Will storm surge be accounted for?
  - A: yes, any extreme event
- Q: report is not property specific but the survey is. How do these results get folded into what is otherwise a pretty technical study
  - A: survey asks you where you've seen the impacts of sea level rise. Entire county will be mapped. Anyone will be able to use the information
- Q: climate change, tree preservation, forest fire risk are conflicting interests in our community. One of the last IPCC reports says that our region is likely to be a refuge for climate refugees. How are we planning for sudden increases in population and how we will house them without leveling our forests.
  - A: Comp Plan does plan for a projected population increase over a 20 year period, which comes from the State. Hopefully the state is accounting for things like climate refugee possibilities
- Comment: climate change is a bigger problem than just sea level rise. Substantial report. We are crossing 9 planetary boundaries
  - Biodiversity integrity
  - Biochemicals, especially N and Ph
  - Freshwater pollution for crops and human use
  - Land system change (deforestation)
  - Environmental pollutants
  - Climate change—many things we are doing to help CC are hurting the others
  - Ocean acidification
  - Ozone depletion
  - Atmospheric discharge

- Comment: field feasibility study is on the way from the Rotary. Working with the district to identify the fields in North Kitsap, which is why the Middle School field got recent help. Would love to partner with the school district to make improvements now.
- Question: as sea levels rise and the vulnerability of our shoreline increases, park areas are in that area. Please consider parks as infrastructure in the same way as other services and utilities.
  - A: parks are an asset being considered in the study

**Closing Items:** none.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- November 13 – Community Services Committee–”Latest data from the Kitsap Community Health Assessment – what it tells us about North Kitsap”
- December 11 – KCAC 2025 Planning Session. Committee reports on the accomplishments this year.

*Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.*