



Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2024

Notes taken by: Alena Wolotira

This meeting was held in person at the Village Green Community Center as well as via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Present (in person–no Council attendees over zoom today): Steve Marchese, Kaili Roest, Alena Wolotira, Tim Davis, Shep Griswald, Beth Berglund, Glen Hutchinson, Cynthia Logan, Breanne Martinez, Chris Gilbreath

Excused Absence: Kate Joncas

Absent: Ben Astaire, Logan Hammon, Marla Powers, Steve Heacock, Karen Jeyes

Also present: Rebecca Pirtle, Commissioner Rolfes

Welcome & Call to Order: *Co-chair Davis called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.*

- Initial Public Comment (2-minute limit per person)
 - Mark Libby: Sub Area Goal # 19 on page 214 (Comp Plan)
 - Village Green-related suggestions. Mark wanted to make sure that we were aware and that these provisions were discussed
- Introduction of members
- Commissioner Remarks: reserved

Quorum: Yes

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

Ongoing or Unfinished Business

- New student representative: Chris reports that we don't yet have a member. Within a month, we should be set.
- Discover Kingston Open House - Monday, September 30, 4:00-7:00 PM
 - Registration closed
 - 58 groups coming
 - Volunteers still needed!

New Business:

- none

Reports:

- **Council Announcements:** none.

- None

- **Committee Reports**

- **Transportation:** (Tim Davis)

- Poulsbo Mayor announcement that they will be installing state-legal traffic cameras in certain areas. Our Transportation Committee is discussing whether it's appropriate to consider the application of cameras to our area
- Comp Plan output analysis re: transportation issues

- **Community Services** (Chris Gilbreath)

- Cynthia Logan: Affordable Housing Working Group met Aug. 19.

- Presentation by Kimberley Henderson, update on the Nordic Village in Poulsbo (8 affordable housing units)
- Confirmation of Kingston Cares being able to purchase a property adjacent to VG that will be developed in the next 2 years for affordable housing. Adjacent to the back parking lot on Howerton
- Spring Hill and Barrett Bungalo projects are moving toward the permitting process
- Next Meeting: 9/16 VG at 4:00 pm, open to the public

- **Environment & Land Use** (Beth Berglund)

- Planning meeting for later in Sept to discuss the Comp Plan final draft. Preparing a letter with comments on the Comp Plan.

- **Parks, Trails, Open Spaces:** (Mark Libby)

- PTOS Meeting on 9/10
 - Parks Dept seeking funding to do wildlife study at PG Heritage Park
 - Pros plan: county received a draft in August, still under review
 - Parks is running leadership and chainsaw classes, CPR and First Aid is the next one
 - Discover Kitsap Park Walk-NK Heritage Park on 10/12. Study of how we benefit from an intact ecosystem.
 - Parks Advisory Board: reservations from April to September for silverdale waterfront and picnic shelter-78. Twice as many as any other facility in their repertoire.
 - NK United-Athletic fields. Restoring the lower part of the Kingston Middleschool Field
 - Work Party: VG Woods on 9/14 at 10:00 am. Restoring woods to their more natural and open look

- October party: Nike Park
- NK Heritage Park: (Shep)
 - 2nd Sat of every month blackberry removal work party. Piece that used to be a farm where there's a mural. Behind was a meadow that's now completely overgrown. Looking to plant trees and restore the natural field.

● **Organization Reports:**

- **Port of Kingston:** none

- **Kingston Friends of the Library**

- No one present

- **Chamber** (Kaili Roest)

- 2025 Lodging Tax grant application is about to go in
- Working on a walking map for downtown Kingston with the Port
- Updating the wooden sign by the Ale House
- Concerts on the Cove wrapped up. Survey on their Facebook page looking for feedback and suggested bands for next year
- Kingston Cove Christmas, December 7

- **Kiwanis Club** (Shep Griswold)

- 150 back to school backpacks spread to local schools including school essentials.
- Key Club: great new leader at the high school
- Installed new instruments on the playground at the VG. Should be operational this weekend
- 9/21–Coho Derby. Lots of anglers and boats and empty trailers around Kingston. Getting a large fake salmon on a trailer, instruction about the lives of salmon.

Rotary Club (Chris Gilbreath)

- August, BOD approved budget. Later, approval of the NK Anglers Service Members fishing derby.
- Funding approved of the NK United Committee to begin addressing the shortage of playfields in the Kingston Area. Starts with Kingston Middle School field. Met with school officials to discuss how the fields could be rehabilitated
- Hope totes–Chamber and Safeway toiletries in tote bags for distribution throughout the winter. In memory of September 11
- Approved funding for KRL 3rd grade library orientation program
- Park cleanup at the VG.
- Sunday at noon–rotarians and Kiwanis will take down the summer flower baskets. Welcome other volunteers!

Village Green Foundation (Beth Berglund)

- Pick up the monthly newsletter!
- Fundraiser concert, 9/21 from 3-6 interpretations of Scottish and Irish dance music. \$20 suggested donation

- Who IS the Village Green? Multiple entities!
 - VG Design District represents the geographic region
 - VG Senior apartments managed by Martha and Mary
 - VG Metro Park District: taxing body supporting the cost of the park
 - Board of commissioners comprised of 5 elected members
 - VG Foundation: 501c3 nonprofit arm that fundraises towards items that taxpayers don't fund. E.g., bottle-filling station next to the drinking fountains.

North Kitsap School District (Breanne Martinez)

- School up and running and off to a great start
- Bd has been visiting schools and classrooms
- Regular school board meeting is tomorrow evening, open to the public. Public comment open
- Saturday, Latino festival celebrating Latinx heritage and culture. 1-6 at Kingston High
- Kingston Middle School possible threat: alerts were sent out. Continuing to encourage kids to say something when they see something. Sheriffs came out and met with the family. District staff spent the morning at the school going into every classroom. Alena comment: communication was great about this issue.
 - <https://www.nkschools.org/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/nksd400>
 - <https://www.nkschools.org/about-us/departments/communications/parentsqua-re-for-families>

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

- No one present

Guest Speaker Presentation: County Update from Commissioner Rolfes. Eric Baker also in attendance

- Christine Rolfes appointed as commissioner following the departure of Commissioner Rob Gelder
- Structure of government:
 - Kitsap County has 4 incorporated counties.
 - 3 commissioners are legislative and executive representatives for unincorporated areas. Rolfes is the northern part (as south as Waaga Way)

- Most of the counties in the state run the way Kitsap does, with three commissioners
- Other, separately elected, county officials work in partnership with the commissioners
 - Auditor–elections
 - Assessor
 - Sheriff–law enforcement
 - Prosecutor
 - Treasurer
 - Clerk
 - Judges
- Explanation of Services
 - Overall County budget: \$500M
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ Public Works
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ law and justice
 - Revenue Sources: sales tax, property tax make up 60% of budget. Many other revenue is specific to funding the activity involved. Property taxes in our state are capped at the amount the county can collect. Total amount can't grow more than 1% year over year
 - Property tax collections don't keep up with inflation, sales tax grows as the economy grows
- County Planning Projects–Eric Baker
 - all three converging at once. A lot for staff, the public, and the board all happening at once. Staggering the dates to try to make it possible for each of the documents to receive the attention they need.
 - Critical Areas Ordinance (Oct. 2024)
 - Parks, Recs, Open Spaces Plan (March 2025)
 - Comprehensive Plan Update (Dec. 2024)
- Transportation
 - ATMS–automated traffic management system–automatic tally system at Lindvog and 104. Should be ready by Mother's Day, 2025. Will be in play for much of the day during busy season + weekends all year
 - SR 104 Realignment & Main Street Redevelopment–reroute traffic on First Street and reclaim Main Street for redevelopment. WSDOT is the lead. Community engagement is important. Draft plan and design done.
 - Ferries–
 - Fast Ferry via Kitsap Transit. All County Commissioners sit on the KT board, elected for each city, and a union rep.
 - Issue: Currently, both boats are back up. We should get the Commander back in a few months but we have both a regular boat and a backup boat.
 - Unprecedented maintenance issue last month.

Communications said "until further notice" service delayed.

- KT Emergency bus plan: was not initially deployed but now has been.
- Senator Cantwell just let us know this evening: \$13.5 M grant to build a new boat for the Kingston Fast Ferry route. Will be cleaner than what's running now, but unclear how electric it will be.
- Hood Canal Bridge
 - Open bridge results in terrible traffic
 - Agreement with the Navy to be careful and thoughtful about not sending subs out during high traffic times. Letter from the Commissioners sent to the Navy and the response was positive
 - Klallam and Jefferson County on board to make Hwy 3 traffic backup a high priority for the upcoming legislative session
 - Transportation Improvement Plan
 - Submitted
 - SR 305. New roundabouts and a new culvert on the reservation. Traffic snarls will hopefully be cleared up by the end of the fall
- Parks and Trails
 - Eglon Forest transfer: 700 acre transfer from DNR to county
 - Point no Point: one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the county. King Tide almost took the whole thing out. Trying to get the parking lot reopened and barricades pulled back.
 - North Sound to Olympics Trail: final plan submitted by consultants but county hasn't yet met to discuss it. Meets federal trail standards (Really big, really expensive). Rolfes proposing that the trail won't be formally adopted and instead consider this to be parks trails planning with smaller scale paths. Would go from Ferry Terminal to Port Gamble park and the town. Key pieces of property to be acquired—county working on it now
 - PG Forest Heritage Park
- Health and Public Safety
 - Olympic College expansion for healthcare workforce development. Increasing course offerings. We will grow our own healthcare workers here.
 - Opioid settlement funds. Worked with Klallam and Jefferson County to use funds for prevention and treatment programs
 - Clifton Clinic—juvenile detention center. Built in the 80s at a time where incarcerated juveniles were expected to grow. Currently, there are 4-5 individuals incarcerated. Partnered with Peninsula community health

- services. There's a health clinic there now, and there will be respite care there.
- Sheriffs Office staffing and body cameras. Raises for each of the personnel. One of the only fully funded sheriff's offices in the state. Body and car cameras. Working with Pouldbo about how to get more recovery services in NKitsap.
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - .1% Sales tax for affordable housing projects. Examples
 - Evergreen Bright Start Property—30 units for vulnerable young adults with wrap around services (Bremerton). Mostly young people exiting foster care or people with insecure housing
 - Time Square: affordable apartment in Kingston that was for sale originally, Mary Gleystean brought it to the county. Purchase and sale agreement secured by the county. Should be ready by the end of the year. 12 units. Near the ferry terminal, next to the vet.
 - On the horizon:
 - Tree preservation rules for the county
 - Public notification process improvement: about development applications
 - AirBnBs regulation
 - DCD Process—big reorganization taking place. January new permit system
 - Kingston incorporation: some work time being set aside to give this community the info asking for to understand effort and money involved in incorporating Kingston. Doesn't mean that we will incorporate but it is time for the convo
 - NSTO
 - Raydient Rezone/Sports—Comp Plan does not include a rezone of the Raydient property but this will be re-examined next year
- **Q & A (KCAC Member Questions):**
 - Tim Davis Comment: KCAC is working for the community. Here's an example. Member raised the concern about Fast Ferries announcement. County official acted quickly and there was a response from KT within 12 hours with a change in the tenor of the announcement.
 - Tim Davis Question: Main street redevelopment process.
 - A: Process must be led by WSDOT. Should be starting in 2025. Still purchasing right of way. Coffee Oasis is for sale. They want \$875,000. In state right of way.
 - Beth Berglund Question: Q about revenue and expenses pie chart. Awkward convo with reflexologist complaining about schools and school funding. A big share of property taxes goes to education, state, fire, etc. BEFORE the county

gets it. Less than ¼ of current taxes go to the county. Incorporation will be very expensive.

- A: Yes, thank you. Information is correct.

- Steve Marchese Comment: it's helpful to have conversations like this and he is looking forward to understanding everything involved with incorporation. Expresses support of the response of the Commissioner re: the Fast Ferry issue that he raised.

- A: Thank you for forwarding the screenshots, that helped get a fast response.

- **Q & A (Public Questions):**

- Q: Audience: County Code enforcement. Zoning in neighborhood doesn't allow permanent residence by an RV. Contacted the county. 3 years of occupation. Many letters sent, including April Public Nuisance letter. No septic on the lot. Enforcement action has not yet occurred and the RV is still present. What is the enforcement of county code compliance policy?
 - A: it's the job of the county to enforce county codes. Please give Commissioner your contact information; she will find out and follow up. There may be court cases impacting the outcome.
- Q: Audience: Jefferson County pamphlet for how to secure Additional Dwelling Unit permissions. Why hasn't Kitsap done this?
 - A: City of Poulsbo leading a design project to provide 4-5 pre-permitted designs for ADUs. All four cities and the county are working on encouraging ADUs as an affordable way of ensuring that the diverse housing needs of the community are met.
 - A: Eric: In our existing code and in the upcoming comp plan—strongly encourage accessory dwelling units. In urban areas, you can have as many as 2 on your property. Impact fees are half of what they are for single family elements. Design elements removed in coming version of code. Conditional Use Permit still required for rural areas, because they want to keep development down in rural areas. ADUs are intended to be usable as affordable housing. Affordable housing should be in places that are not isolated from services and economic areas.
- Audience comment: supports easing rural ADU laxity in permitting.
- Q: Audience: can't get from Little Boston to Kingston during the business day by bus. Can't get anywhere in North Kitsap by bus. Impossible to go to Port Orchard in a day.
 - A: KT Board has this conversation regularly, especially to the Port Orchard access issue.
- Q: Audience: Rooftop solar permitting is the barrier to installing energy efficient and environmentally friendly solutions on residential homes. Recently went through a \$700, 120 day permitting process to install solar. Second time getting a permit, first time was just as slow. How can we make this faster?
 - A: At this time, the new permitting system is attempting to get all permits out within 30 days. Additional conversation could be had as to whether things like solar can go faster.

- Q: when the Kingstons Fast Ferry was postponed indefinitely, it seemed like the importance was on having 2 Bremerton fast ferries. Bremerton already has a WSF ferry running to Seattle.
 - A: Got the ferry system to pay Kitsap transit to run the Bremerton boats. May have factored into the communication. No picking favorites, more of a legal obligation.
- Q: Audience: Sneak preview on the tree policy?
 - A: Tree Canopy Code. Critical areas ordinance protecting trees in and around wetlands, streams, steep slopes. What will development do to canopies? Exploring requirement that outside of critical areas, you have to have a certain number of trees in each development. Retention of existing trees will be worth more tree units than planting new ones. Commissioners is trying to balance need for trees with need for housing. Urban growth areas aren't expanding in this comp plan—what we have available needs to be maximized in the next 20 years.
- Q: Wildfire recommendations from state legislature?
 - A: Legislature delayed the WWUI code. Per these new regulations, residences in WA are supposed to have “defensible space” between tree canopy and the home. Important in high-fire areas or areas that are hard to reach by local fire. Currently optional for local governments to employ. Current Comp Plan will not update the WUEE code to incorporate new recommendations.
- Q: Audience: Timeline for realignment
 - A: WSDOT taking the lead
- A: response to the public comment. Appreciates the efforts of the KCAC in contributing to the sub-area plan. A lot of it has been updated. Changes are intended to leverage existing community assets. VG is one of the most important ones in all of Kingston. Hope is to allow for new uses, new alliances, and new people in Kingston. Drafted by the members of the KCAC.
- Closing Remarks
 - Public meetings coming up: https://www.kitsapgov.com/BOC_p/Pages/AgendaMasterSchedule.aspx
 - Glen Hutchinson: thanking everyone in attendance. Attendance has been growing lately. Your comments are so appreciated. We need the feedback that you are providing. When you leave tonight, talk to your neighbors about these meetings and try to encourage other people attending
 - Chris Gilbreath: make sure we have time for additional public comment

Remaining Public Comments:

Comment: Main street: we already have a main street. So development of “main street” will need to have the naming addressed.

A: development will involve an opportunity for the community to provide input on renaming this street.

Closing Items:

- **Plug for Discover Kingston:** ATMS, Realignment–there will be folks at the event who you can talk to about it. ATMS will be run by Kitsap Public Works. KPW will be at the open house. You should talk to them about any concerns you have.

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 9 – Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces Plan Update (including the Eglon Forest), Sea Level Rise presentation from Community Development & North Kitsap School District Superintendent talking about the levy
- 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

Adjourn: Tim motion to adjourn. Glen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.