



Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

Meeting Minutes (draft)

March 11, 2026

Notes taken by: Beth Berglund

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

Present:

At Large representatives present: Tim Davis (co-chair), Glen Hutchinson (co-chair), Steve Marchese, Cynthia Logan, Patrick Heye, Kaitlin Murray, Cynthia Logan, Steve Marchese, Breane Martinez

Representing representatives present: Allena Koch, Shep Griswold, Chris Gilbreath

Ex Officio representatives present: Beth Berglund, Steve Heacock, Miranda Smallwood, Marla Powers, Jen Skalback

Excused Absence:

At Large representatives absent: Dave Bomalaski, Kate Joncas, Kaitlin Murray, Alena Wolotira

Representing representatives absent: none

Ex Officio representatives absent: none

Also present: Chris Cooley, Commissioner Rolfes, and 28 people in the audience.

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

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
 - None
- **Quorum:** Yes.
- **Introduction of KCAC members**

Commissioner Remarks:

- On Thursday, March 26 6-7:30, Community Conversation: Crime and Justice in North Kitsap hosted by City of Poulsbo at the City Hall Council Chambers, 200 NE Moe Street.
- Read, Roam, Rules: topic is urban walkability, the book is Walkable City. RSVP for the March 23rd Book Club Workshop at the Kingston Library.
- Chris Cooley introduced himself. He is a policy analyst in the Commissioners office and is KCAC's liaison with the Commissioner's office.
- Bond Road Litter Cleanup on Sunday March 15, 9-noon & 1-3. RSVP to

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Tim moved to approve. Chris seconded. All attendees approved unanimously.

Ongoing or Unfinished Business:

- none

New Business:

- none

Committee Reports

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

- The committee meets monthly the Wednesday after KCAC. We meet by zoom at 4:30PM.
- Please complete the Kola Kole survey which will be open until the end of March. <http://kcowa.us/KolaKolePark>

- **Parks, Trails & Open Space (KPTOS) (Mark Libby):**

- Work party at Quiet Place this weekend (March 14, 10-12).
- Kitsap County survey re: Kola Kole part interests is open until end of March.

- **Transportation (Tim Davis):**

- No date yet for the kickoff of the ATMS
- TIPS isn't going to be pursued.

- **Community Services (Cindy Logan):**

- In March we welcomed two guests. Heather BenJudah, Principal of Gordon Elementary, and Kate White, Community Services Representative with NKFR.
- KAHWG last evening for project updates and a presentation by Sherrie Raines (Housing Resources Bainbridge) about how community land trusts work.

- **Communications Committee (Glen Hutchinson):**

- Get the word out about what's happening in KCAC and to encourage more participation.
- We're looking to get information into the Kingston Community News to expand our reach.
- We're starting to use the Town of Kingston to promote the KCAC meeting guest presentations and topics.

Organization Reports-

<https://www.kingston4thofjuly.org/>

- **Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (Marla Powers)**

- Presentation to the Port of Kingston happened recently re: the culvert injunction case. Marla is willing to present to other organizations.
- Tribal member Gena Steiner will be presenting to Kiwanis this month.

- Heronswood is hosting their spring plant sale coming up.
- Earth Day Celebration at the longhouse on April 22 (9-4PM)
- **Chamber of Commerce (Jen Skalbeck)**
 - Some outreach to AirBNB and other short term stay facilities so those can be referenced on the visiting Kingston page.
 - Lots of projects underway – new wayfinding, kiosk near the Ale House, communication to those waiting in the ATMS line, tourism promotion
 - Promoting Kites of Kingston, Pirate Festival, etc... happening in Kingston during the tourism season
 - Encourage folks to read / participate in the Book Talk Christine referenced earlier.
- **North Kitsap School District (Miranda Smallwood)**
 - BOD is tomorrow at 5PM. There is a zoom option. Gordon Elementary Principle Heather BenJudah and one other principle will be presenting.
 - Long range planning is happening
- **Port of Kingston (Steve Heacock)**
 - New parking payment system which is confusing folks but it's actually quite easy to use. Functioning well in general. Call the office at 360-297-3545 for help if you need it.
 - Planning for 4th of July is underway. Marina is full already for the 4th.
 - Boating season opens in May
 - Kingston Public Market will open the 2nd Sunday in May and will include a farmer this year.
- **Youth (Allena Koch)**
 - TOLO dance
 - Registration for next year has started
- **Village Green (Beth Berglund)**
 - 10 Years open celebration details. Celebration on Saturday, May 2
- **Kiwanis (Shep Griswold)**
 - Upcoming Events:
 - Food Drive on March 18
 - Kites Over Kingston on April 11 (11-3PM)
- **Rotary (Chris Gilbreath)**
 - About 17% of their budget goes to international service projects which include Ukraine, Belize, Uganda, Mexico, and Afghanistan. Often these projects line up with emergency response needs.
 - International Service Committee focuses on these areas of need.

Guest Presentation #1 – Commissioner's Office: County's Introduction of a Feasibility Study for Kingston Incorporation (Michaela Jellicoe, Community Attributes)

See slides. Report will be provided in May 2026.

Member Comments/Questions:

- Glen - How does an incorporation petition begin?
 - The report will address. It starts with a petition, then it goes to a vote.

- Shep - What is the tipping point for population? What made the small cities that were listed tip towards incorporation
 - Probably legacy towns. The minimum now is 1,500 (which is a limit that expires in 2028)
- Tim - It seems like it would be important to consider ferry traffic / impact so perhaps Coupeville would be a useful "comp".
- Steve - Is there going to be any discussion of the boundaries of the UGA?
 - Yes, they will consider economic drivers in the context of the UGA boundaries.
- Beth - suggested that LaConner could be a useful benchmark / comp.
- Patrick - consider other communities served by ferries
 - Kingston is kind of unique
- Steve - will you be exploring the levels of service? Not all dollars do the same thing. It would be helpful to understand different delivery models.
 - Scope and budget is somewhat limited with the budget they have for this study. For the comparison city they can look at those aspects
- Christine Rolfes - this study is being done based on a 2025 workplan because counties are required to provide UGAs information about incorporation. This is the first set of information that people need.

Public Comments and Questions:

- Fellow did a google search on what it takes to incorporate a city...He brought some info with him which is available on www.mrsc.org
 - She agreed that the MRSC is a very useful resource.
- Ron - incorporation has been a topic for decades. Many conclude that Kingston isn't economically ready yet. But there are things that can be done to move us forward. How much retail / retail tax is needed?
 - The report will not make recommendations about what Kingston should do but it will give us clarity of where we are now.
- Betsy - Services such as?
 - Not schools, not fire department
 - e.g., Sewer, water, surface water, roads, public safety (police, court)
- Ron - could you include a list of cities that incorporated in the last 20 years whose taxes did not increase?
 - 2001 / 2002 - Spokane Valley, Liberty Lake. Almost none since then.
- Dave - how many of these studies have you done? What are the lessons learned in general?
 - This is our 5th in the last few years. Usually there is an economic reason holding the town back but cities have the ability to right-size to get a better revenue / cost fit

Guest Presentation #2 - Kingston Youth Presentation - "High School Life and The Choice to Stay Local" (Allena Koch).

See slides.

Member Comments/Questions:

- Glen - what do you like most about Kingston?
 - Walkability, access to ferry, pretty
 - Ferry terminals, public transit supports trying new things
 - Wolfle, KMS, KHS - it's the people / students he's grown up with
 - Small size makes it intimate / connection, walkability
- Tim - Student body count?
 - 550 at KHS with more at Choice Academy
- Patrick - going away is so normal / expected, Speech / Debate?
 - Speech / Debate is now treated as a sport rather than a club. Recent change
- Tim - What is Kingston missing that we need?
 - Somewhat difficult to hangout without spending money. Library hours are pretty short.
 - More school spirit among Kingston residents (adults).
- Glen - traffic / safety concerns, what's the sentiment? Any suggestions?
 - There can be issues with ferry traffic coming into downtown which makes it harder to get to destination
 - Same. Especially trying to come out of a business lot and ferry traffic blocking the street.
- Glen - Walking safety?
 - Definitely feels somewhat unsafe
 - The Wolfle school zone from 45 to 25 isn't clear because of the curve. Would be better for the change to happen earlier.
- Patrick - do you feel like you have what you need for college applications?
 - AP teachers really help support standout essays. Scholarship support too.

Public Comments / Questions:

- Betsy - there used to be a science club
 - President of future health (medical is the focus but includes science)
- Betsy - arts & music have been curtailed or changed. Do you feel that?
 - Band was having a hard time because of shared need to middle school. Definitely could use more arts/music.
 - 2D Art would like to see it grow, Band starts super early (7AM)
- Breane - thank you!! Jobs came up. Are you working locally?
 - Worked at Henery Hardware in the summer. Took a while to find a job. Helped by his uncle.
 - Kingston Ale House, which is a first choice for a lot of students. Hours being flexible is not easy.
 - Had a hard time finding a job with enough flexibility with sports, etc.
 - Finding a job is difficult especially in the fall / winter.
- ??? - any vocational training? Especially non-computer
 - Personal finance, photography, yearbook, vocational
 - Similar to Running Start for technology / vocational training. e.g., welding
 - Trying to get a HomeEc club started to prepare for self-sufficiency

- Did you find a Tennis Coach?
 - Yes, he's currently coaching the boys team at Lake Washington.
- Hanging out. Gym at VGCC? Would that be used? Ping pong table?
 - Definitely. Tribal Center (but it's not local)

Final Public Comment:

- March 15 litter cleanup.
- Music on Sunday, March 29th. Featuring a solo guitarist playing choro music.
- KLAM is a great community resource for information.
- Games aren't super clear to those outside of the school / parent groups. Would love to see game schedules showing up in the Kingston Community News.
- S'Klallam Presentation at 7AM here at VGCC tomorrow.

Closing Items:

- None.

Motion to adjourn by Tim, seconded by Glen

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.