



Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

Notes taken by: Alena Wolotira

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

Present (in person):

At Large representatives present: Glen Hutchinson (co-chair), Cindy Logan, Alena Wolotira, Kate Joncas, Tim Davis (co-chair), Dave Bomalaski

Representing representatives present: Leonard Taylor (youth), Shep Griswold (Kiwanis), Chris Gilbreath (Rotary)

Ex Officio representatives present: Beth Berglund (Village Green), Steve Heacock (Port), Marla Powers (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe), Angela Clark (Chamber of Commerce)

Absent:

At Large and Representing representatives absent: Steve Marchese

Ex Officio representatives absent: Karen Jeyes, Breane Martinez

Also present: Commissioner Rolfes, Rebecca Pirtle, various Sheriff's Office employees. Barb Dennis, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Kitsap.

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

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
 - Mark Libby: Year of the Rural. $\frac{2}{3}$ of North Kitsap residents live in the "rural" and not in Kingston. Sports complex needed. Growth Management Act tells us to care about athletic fields and active recreation. Quotes statements out of comp plan. Quotes GMA. Cluster housing. To take action, we must look at all projects as a whole.
 - Flower baskets coming Saturday, May 17. Flower watering sign up sheet distributed.
 - Dave Bomalaski: Commissioner Rolfes' good heart and hard work are apparent to all. But county is falling short in a couple of areas:
 - How are there resources to look for a salmon stream on Main Street when there are no

- sidewalks in front of our schools
 - Drinking water brown
 - Drives 30 minutes to BB Island to go swimming—other individuals may not be able to afford the trip
 - Trees awesome, streams awesome, but some priorities need to be rethought
- Bobbi: Encourage folks to come to the Tuesday or Wednesday meeting next week regarding the YMCA sports complex. In Rotary, we found that this facility will present more than swim or gym. Mental health counseling, free Friday evenings for teenagers, other community services. Survey two years ago: 400 households. If there were a YMCA in the North End, would that be beneficial to you? Responses were overwhelmingly in favor. We hear from people similar comments to what Dave just said. Poulsbo pool is too cold for older people and it isn't intended for senior citizens. If you want information about this facility, come and hear yourself at these two meetings.
- Jett: 45 years ago, a teenager in this town. There was nothing for kids to do other than go down to the beach and drink beer. It's not that different today—there are some new schools but that's it. This is really sad. The development that hasn't happened for this community is sad. Village Green is great but we had to do it ourselves. As a community, we need help to build a YMCA and sports fields. As a young adult, worked for the Parks Department. Parks have diminished services significantly over the years with closed restrooms and diminished staffing. Fields would help kids and families, having a pool would help senior citizens.

● **Quorum:** Yes

● **Introduction of KCAC members**

● **Commissioner Remarks:**

- Hears the comments about community needs. We will hear from the Sheriff's Department today. He's a separately elected public official. Always starts his presentations stating his department is underfunded, which is true, but she hears the additional needs expressed tonight by the community
- Year of the Rural Session, 6/26 5:30-7:30 at Village Green. Rural land use, permitting childcare, small scale farming.

- Upcoming events:
 - Solid Waste–waste collection and recycling program. If you need to get rid of scrap metal and small electronics, they are accepting these materials in Silverdale (Fair Grounds) on May 24 for FREE. Can also bring to the Silverdale Recycling and Garbage Facility any other time.
 - Grant from state to collect tires–if you have tires sitting around, Monday June 9 and June 10, 2pm to 6pm at the Fair Grounds for free.
 - Paint recycling: Bainbridge Island–June 28 from 9 to 3 for FREE.
 - More info on Solid Waste’s website here:
<https://www.kitsap.gov/pw/Pages/SolidWaste.aspx>

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Joncas moved to approve. Chris seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Comment from Cindy: the minutes last month were great!

New Business:

- **Meeting topics for next 9 months?**
- **Year of the Rural Letter**
 - Distributed before the meeting
 - Request to read the letter aloud, granted. Read aloud. Full text of the letter will be posted on the KCAC website following this meeting.
 - Comment: the letter doesn’t take a stance on the re-zone.
 - **Approval vote:** Davis moved to approve. Hutchinson seconded. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Reports:

Committee Reports

Transportation: (Tim Davis)

- Working on how to best communicate about the ATMS with the community. The control gate will likely be installed by the end of July. See the minutes from the April, 2025 meeting for more information. Wants to make sure the community is not surprised. As we get closer, will hopefully have more news.
 - QUESTION from Dave B: will road traffic changes be monitored after ATMS is installed?
 - Tim’s ANSWER: there has been a request of Kitsap Public Works to do this monitoring. Remember that this involves a state highway in addition to county roads. Will additionally hopefully alter the schedule for the ATMS
 - Rebecca Pirtle COMMENT: Everyone in Kingston, Hansville,

Greater Kingston area will receive a postcard in the mail with information about the project.

- QUESTION from audience: will the postcard indicate whether it is legal to make a U-Turn on 104?
 - A: no, but we've been advised that this is legal if safe.

Community Services (Cynthia Logan)

- Joint meeting and work on the contributions to the letter. The meeting was successful in seeking common goals
- Members attended two school events this month:
 - NK School District Info Event on April 16 at the High School
 - Hidden in Plain Site Drug Awareness Presentation at the Middle school
- Friday, May 16, will be the next meeting. Both school presentations will be discussed.
- **Affordable Housing Subcommittee** (Chris)
 - Met 5/13 with 11 members attending. 3 housing projects in
 - 5/28: celebration of the Times Square Preservation property. Details will be discussed at the August KCAC meeting
 - Next meeting: June 10 at VG, open to all

Environment & Land Use (Beth and Dave)

- Letter that was just approved reflects our work product for the last month

Parks, Trails, Open Spaces: (Shep)

- 4th street successful work party
- Eglon party in June
- Spent time discussing the letter

Organization Reports:

Port of Kingston: (Steve)

- Sundays, Kingston Public Market has returned. Extended music playing throughout the day. 10 am to 3 pm. When there are other activities going on at the Port, such as Kids Day, the hours of the market will likely continue to 4 pm
 - May Day celebration with a May Pole for kids in a dance troupe to perform with.
 - Lots of new vendors this year and new food options
 - More information: <https://www.thekingstonpublicmarket.com/>

Kingston Friends of the Library (Karen Jeyes)

- Karen wasn't present.

Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce (Angela Clark)

- Kaili will be back in August, doing great.
- Local Winery just joined the chamber
- 7 high school seniors submitted applications for scholarships, of which there are three available. \$1,000 each
- Afterhours event at Heronswood tomorrow at 5:30 pm
- June luncheon here at the Village Green
- Events
 - 6/17 Kingston Pirates Festival
 - Concert Series: July 26-30th

Kiwanis Club (Shep Griswold)

- 4/27 Bike Fest was very successful. Thanks to the Rotary, Sheriff's Dept, and Fire Dept
- End of month (5/31) Brew Fest at the Port.

Rotary Club (Chris Gilbreath)

- Flower askets need to be installed–will go up on Saturday, May 17. Kiwanis also helping plus any other volunteers–come help! 10:00 am at the VG.
- Student activities
 - Scholarship picking day next week, same as Chamber
 - Working to find families for student exchange with other Rotaries.
 - Youth Protection training
 - Walt Elliott-arranged health presentations
- Getting ready for June 20 Golf Classic, funds need to be raised.
- Budgeting work, money to be spent starting in July

Village Green Foundation (Beth Berglund)

- Recent celebration of the 9th anniversary of the opening of the VG community center.
- Artist reception 5/15 at 6:30 pm. Kingston High student artwork presented.
- Boys and Girls Club: looking for summer camp sponsors. If you pick up the VG May bulletin, you can see info about sponsorship levels.

- Q: When do sponsorships need to be in by?
- A: Check the bulletin!

North Kitsap School District (Breane Martinez)

- Breane was not present today
- Other resources:
 - <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 (Marla Powers)

- 5/17 from 9-11 am, tour # 3 of the Divide community forest with ribbon cutting
- 5/31 planting maintenance at Hansville Highlands
- Heronswood (botanical garden owned by tribes) offers 3 classes per month in the summer. Open 9-3, limited
- Planters Forum August 21 in Little Boston: salmon restoration considerations during land use planning work. Will bring multiple speakers and organizations
- Reminder: Canoe Journey is July 28. Probably close to 1,000 people coming and going that weekend.
- Staff level: working on the Year of the Rural regarding Tribe's concerns
- Works on culverts and fish passage barriers.
 - COMMENT: it's important to fund sidewalks.
 - RESPONSE: Fish barriers are required by state law. The county and other jurisdictions don't have the specific requirement to correct these barriers. Deadline for these corrections is by 2030.

- Youth (Leo Taylor)

- AP Testing just finished. Leo took 4 this year!
- One of his favorite activities in the 4th grade was hosting a French exchange student. One of the best things we can do for our community.
- Last day of school: June 15 graduation. Additional week of school for students who are not graduating.

Guest Presentation:

Sheriff John Gese

- Joined by:

- Jeff Menge: Patrol Chief and Kingston Resident
- David Wolner: Community Resource Officer and homeless coordinator, citizens on patrol
- Undersheriff Russ Clithero
- Peter, volunteer, Citizens on Patrol.

- Most dynamic 4-5 years in Sheriff's time here.
 - Staffing: giant metamorphosis of our agency and our profession. Large portion of patrol deputies have fewer than five years experience. Jeff does this training. Operationally, we'd like 65 people but there's a shortage of officers—currently 43. 14 deputy openings. Recruiting is tough, and then training takes 1.5 years. Has had a large impact on activities of the department. 126 fully budgeted positions, which is the same as 20 years ago. Not only are there unfilled positions but the current staffing levels aren't tied to population growth that has occurred in the last few years.
 - SWAT, Search and Rescue—additional turnover in trained staff
 - Big operation, medical costs in the jail have increased significantly.
 - Please understand that we would love to have more people up here. 5-6 people working the road today and the patrol sergeant had to be pulled and placed to be the sole officer in the North End
 - Police Reform
 - 2020 George Floyd
 - Kitsap County protests. 2020 protests were both impactful and peaceful.
 - 2021 Legislature passed 13 bills related to police reform, meaning a lot of changes for police. Passed in March, effective in July. Everyone needed to be retrained and they did it. Many of the more recent legal requirements have already been adopted. New hires have a heart for service.
 - Prime example of a 2021 bill. If there is an officer-involved shooting, an outside team needs to perform the investigations. Last winter was the first time the team was
 - Officer involved shooting a couple of days ago that resulted in a death. Horrible. These are controversial and the outside team is going to handle the investigation. Sheriff doesn't receive information until the investigation is done. Accountability is good, but has required much adaptation.
 - Crime Rates
 - Large increases in the last five years. Kitsap largely reflective of larger trends.
 - 2017-2018: rise in crime
 - Pandemic: drop in crime, drop in proactivity due to desire to stop spread of virus
 - 2021-2022: crime rates shot up. Robberies and violent crimes. Auto theft doubled in the state.
 - Moderation since 2022 in the last year or so. Decreased burglaries and auto thefts. Domestic violence still high. Young people with firearms using them on each other.
 - Challenging to easily explain the reasoning behind rises in crime rates.
 - Kingston has a relatively low crime rate compared to other parts of the county.
 - Rising gang affiliations, rising firearm violations, officers encountering more people who are armed (which increases the volatility of the interaction)
 - Proactive
 - 80% of people in jail testing positive for fentanyl
 - Large population of folks with both mental health and physical health issues, as well as addiction. Trying to treat

addiction while someone is incarcerated and connect them to social services to try to help all issues before the person is released. Very proud of these programs.

- Homelessness issues are large societal problems that aren't always best solved by law enforcement
- Casey Jinks—crisis intervention officer, another big social issue.
- Jail: can hold up to 500 people. One pod closed due to staffing, so more like 430. Before the pandemic, up to 480. During pandemic, worked with legal community to drop to 150. Slowly raising now, between 300 and 350 now.
- Topic raised by community prior to meeting
 - Citizens On Patrol: requests to assist with 2 hour parking enforcement in the downtown core.
 - Rebecca: one of the challenges is that the number of volunteers determines how many COPs can service the county.
 - Program has been in existence for close to 20 years. Pete is great, many volunteers are dedicated. Do quite a lot of the work for us. Check on abandoned vehicles, vacation house checks, parking. Like to have about 25 but there are currently 14 so there is room for more. These services are in demand but it's tough to get volunteers out and up north.
- MEMBER QUESTIONS
 - QUESTION: more people would volunteer in the North End if they knew they would be stationed in the north end and not anywhere in the county. How to ensure that north end residents get to stay in the north, may lead to more volunteers.
 - A: encourage more people to volunteer.
 - A: If we had more numbers, then we could assign folks to the north. Until then, we need people everywhere.
 - A: COPS do trainings, meetings, community events. Would be hard to have that person assigned just to Kingston.
 - QUESTION: Do they have to deploy out of south? How can we help recruit?
 - A: Cars get parked in the south. If you hear of people who are interested, please have them contact us.
 - QUESTION: Handout?
 - A: Pete has some recruiting material. Not an easy process, must pass background check and go through training process. Very enjoyable, great way to spend time and serve community
 - QUESTION: With new ATMS going in, are COPs folks going to help monitor the situation and observe the community road usage, speeding, etc?
 - A: We would need to talk about what kind of commitment you're looking for. But harder to staff for longer period of time.
 - QUESTION: Speed controls. Transportation Committee submitted a letter to KCAC, approved, sent to Commissioners. Here in front of VG West Kingston Road speeding issue. Center point for seniors crossing the road. Talked to Public Works about traffic controls and they aren't able to accommodate any requests. Speeding is an

issue. Asking for traffic enforcement is a challenge. Letter requested speed camera–position on that, thoughts on using speed cameras for traffic calming?

- A: Lived in Phoenix in the 80s where there was radar speed enforcement. Washington is now dipping its toes in carefully. Lots of restrictions about where they can be placed. Can put them in the park. After a year, will they still have an impact? Hard to say. What was the cost associated with the request?
- A FROM QUESTIONER: We thought this would be the perfect place to test out this technology.
- A: Any ticket that comes through must be verified by specific government officials.
- A: should be limited to school zones, construction zones, parks.
- QUESTION: Any other passive ideas for handling speeding?
 - A: we've started meeting quarterly with public works on traffic safety coordination. We're looking at all the things throughout the county to identify areas of concerns. Measuring what's effective. Perception of issues often over-estimates the occurrence of safety issues. One enforcement officer in the entire agency. Hopefully benefits will be seen going forward
- HEART Program–David Wolner.
 - Lots of successes in last 4 years. Has come with fallout from COVID. Big spikes took place in 2020
 - 2015-200 to 300 homeless. Tripled in 2020
 - 600 currently in county. 50% in Bremerton, the rest are spread around the rest of the county. Wolner doesn't get called to Kingston very frequently
 - HEART–coordinated approach to dealing with these issues. Current coordinator "savant" at See, Click, Fix. Report encampments via this avenue.
 - Silverdale had dozens of encampments along Clear Creek Trail. Zero have been there now longer than a day or two. Public Works gets out to clean up rubbish. GPC helping.
 - Important to be consistent, present every day, kind, and hold folks fairly accountable.
 - The easier cases have been mostly handled, more resistant folks remain and are being worked on.
 - CONTACT INFO: See, Click, Fix.
<https://seeclickfix.com/kitsap-county>
 - Helpful if you take a picture, drop a pin in the app.
 - Commissioner Rolfes: Please use this service for all sorts of reporting.
 - Gese: Dave was elected by the deputy's union as Deputy of the Year. He's well-respected in the region.
 - QUESTION: people are getting uneasy about the parking lot here at VG. Some car prowls. What to do?
 - A: what's going on?
 - A: People camping in the woods are breaking into cars that are parked at VG.
 - Village Green: no recent car issues in our parking lot, which we take very seriously. New camera system. New handyman here who is an employee of VG

- Apartment comes on his time and patrols the grounds. Often it's the same person who he finds, he tells the person to leave and the person leaves. Delivers a trespassing letter, which will involve the Sheriff's Department. Can't park here after 10 pm.
- Wolner response: appreciates what VG has done. When there are folks who are known transients in the area, Wolner/HEART can help try long-term planning. Even if folks are resistant to long-term change, we can still try, come talk and help folks try to work through solutions.
 - A: Car prowls situations—no suspect situations where you're pretty sure we won't respond because the suspect is gone—please still report a prowls online. No need to call, but still report. The reporting data helps us track ongoing issues to devote funding to specific areas that need it.
 - QUESTION: Could See Click Fix be used for this online reporting because your website is terrible?
 - A: online portal has recently improved so try that again. The nice thing about the online reports is that they dump directly into our reporting system, which SCF would not do.
 - QUESTION: Federal cuts impacts?
 - A: not a lot of federal grants but the jail-related recent grant went through
 - A: state funding for some things has decreased. Voting and traffic enforcement grants may be impacted.
 - Audience Questions:
 - Nancy: COPs, how do you prioritize where the COPs volunteers are stationed for the day? With Kingston being way north, small, unincorporated, without a big voice, how do you prioritize?
 - A: assignments go out every day. 6-10 assignments. Volunteers schedule them based on where they are located and which other assignments are close. But there aren't always items in North Kitsap so it's hard to do this aggregation in the North. The assignments are driven by complaints made by the public.
 - Mark: question about the Sheriff's office in Kingston. How do you use it?
 - A: Precinct for patrol deputies to write reports. Not cost effective to staff it for the public. Assessment several years ago of walk in traffic showed it wasn't feasible to keep it running. Budget cuts and streamlining. "Respite and report" area for the deputies in the area.
 - Beth: Jail vs. prison: Why would you go to jail, time limit?
 - A: arrested and awaiting processing, charge, adjudication—jail. Under a year misdemeanor conviction—jail. Over a year, felony, prison.
 - Leo: what does your recruiting process look like? Do you recruit out of high schools?
 - A: there are scholarships for criminal justice majors. High school cadet program. Try to do outreach at recruiting events. Good partnerships with the schools. The school resource officers are walking talking billboards for how good it is to be a sheriff's deputy.

Final Public Comment

None.

Closing Items: None.

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 11–Public Works: Transportation Improvement Projects.
- July 9–Summer Break, no meeting
- August 13–Affordable housing needs and opportunities
- September 10–Year of the rural
- October 8–

2025 Potential Meeting Topics:

- Annual youth representative presentation

Motion to adjourn by Glen Hutchinson, seconded by Alena Wolotira.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Informational items: The Future of North Kitsap Health, Recreation, and Sports by YMCA. Two meetings