



## Kingston Community Advisory Council (KCAC)

### Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

**Notes taken by:** Alena Wolotira

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

**Present (in person):** Steve Heacock, Chris Gilbreath, Cynthia Logan, Beth, Glen Hutchinson, Ben Astaire, Tim Davis (co-chair), Kate Joncas, (Leo Taylor), Steve Marchese, Marla Powers

**Excused Absence:** Dave Bomalaski, Breanne Martinez, Logan Hammon, Shep Griswold, Kaili Roest

**Absent:** Karen Jeyes

**Also present:** Commissioner Rolfes

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

- **Initial Public Comment** (2-minute limit per person)
  - None.
- **Introduction of members**
- **Commissioner Remarks:** None
- **Quorum:** Yes
- **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** *Tim Davis moved, Chris G. seconded. All ayes. Minutes approved*

#### **Ongoing or Unfinished Business**

- KCAC Planning Session (2025): December 8 meeting
- Update on Student Representative:
  - Leo Taylor, who was present at the meeting, has been offered the position and is waiting to be approved by the commissioners

#### **New Business:**

- Transportation Committee Letter Re: Traffic Calming Methods
  - *Glen moves to approve the letter. Glen seconds.*
    - Further discussion:
      - Input today from Beth B.--minor edits to formatting.
      - Tim: hoping to add that the traffic calming methods are necessary as a result of ferry traffic
  - *All ayes. Motion to approve the letter passes.*

## Reports:

- **Council Announcements:**

- 12/6, 5-630 Bayside Church Community Meal

- **Committee Reports**

- **Transportation:** (Tim Davis)

- Excited that letter was approved by KCAC, looking forward to that moving to commissioners
- Work planning coming up
- Latest [TIP decisions released](#)
  - Commissioner Rolfes: Commissioners were disappointed because there was no new projects, due to increased costs of
  - 104/Hansville Road intersection improvement. Commissioners bookmarked funding for Lindvog to Elementary school to work with the state to plan for these improvements
  - Q: is the money that is supposed to fund the right turn lane from Hansville onto 104 from Arborwood?
    - A: no. Wetland there that the state says will require a roundabout. No further information from the state. Public Works has been asked to work more collaboratively with the state.
  - Wolfle right turn onto 104 also needs state permission before any planning can take place
    - WSDOT has been working with Wolfle. The light is great but the eastbound light is too close to the turn, state has agreed to relocate this light.
  - Marla Powers: the tribe would be interested in reworking the 104/Hansville intersection. Also working on trails to the Casino. Please include the tribe in future conversations.

- **Community Services** (Chris Gilbreath)

- Looking to improve communications in our area. Met with Miranda Smallwood (Kingston High Principal)
  - No PTO at the high school. Depend on booster clubs and the tribal education coordinators
  - Parent Square: app used by the school district. Investigating how to use this to communicate with the high school about community activities
  - Will continue to invite other principals and PTO presidents from the other schools
- Every year, librarian at Kingston High has done a book fair. No longer the librarian. Book fair proceeds will go PGST
- Community meal with Kingston Cares–August 2025
- Affordable Housing (Cynthia)
  - Met 10/21, 14 attendees. Update on Spring Hill

Development. Impacts developers having on DCD, request for hearing to be submitted to the commissioners.

- VG Adjacent property–timeline discussed. Open house on 10/26
- Next meeting is Monday, 11/18
- **Environment & Land Use** (Beth Berglund)
  - Comment from Commissioner Rolfes: Vote on issue from our last letter will likely take place on 12/2, official public comment is no longer being recorded.
- **Parks, Trails, Open Spaces:** (Mark Libby)
  - KPTOS to KCAC liaison Griswold is in CA
  - Next work party is 11/16 at Carpenter lake cleaning up boardwalk
  - October Nike Park party canceled due to high winds
- **Organization Reports:**
  - **Port of Kingston:** (Steve Heacock)
    - Lots of lights coordination taking place right now
      - Looking for volunteers–look at portofkingston.org
      - 3 weeks until they're ready
    - Tree from Henry Tree Farm
      - Placeholder for 3 more trees in future years
    - Permit for new restroom is very close to being issued
    - Fellow commissioner, Laura Gronnvoll is in the audience
  - **Kingston Friends of the Library** (none)
  - **Chamber**
    - Kingston Cove Christmas, 12/7 from 3-8 at Mike Wallace Park
    - 2025 visitor's guide coming out in January
    - 11/14, 5-7 after hours event hosted by Tim Davis Images

**Kiwanis Club** (none)

**Rotary Club** (Chris Gilbreath)

- Busy time for fundraising. Auction is 3/1
- Funds raised now are for grants and scholarships next year
- Holiday wreaths being installed on Saturday, 11/23

**Village Green Foundation** (Beth Berglund)

- Long term visioning exercise. What would the community like to see more or less of
- Remember the monthly newsletter, which you can get in paper or electronically

- Artist featured in the hallway–Kim Drew. Their art will be in the hallway through December
- Holiday handmade gift fair: 12/7
- Seniors luncheon third [xxxxx] at noone

**North Kitsap School District** (no representative present)

- <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)

- Planning Assoc of Washington bootcamp with 30 attendees, including county and state officials. Talking about open space planning and wildlife corridor connectivity
- Salmon tours were a couple of weeks ago.

**Guest Presentation: Kari Hunter Program Manager Assessment and Epidemiology, Kitsap Public Health District**

- **Community Health Assessments**

- KPH conducts every 5 years, CHA, leads to Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) (which is what’s coming next for us in this cycle)
- 4th cycle this year–Kitsap Community Health Priorities
- Last cycle went from Fall 2022 to the beginning of 2024, longer than usual due to extensive community support
- Multiple smaller assessments partnering with many community organizations
  - Kitsap Community Resources
  - St. Michaels
  - KPHD
  - John’s Hopkins for assessing healthcare systems in Kitsap
- Priorities from the many assessments:
  - Meeting basic needs.
  - Access to healthcare
  - Healthcare workforce
  - Mental health and substance use
- Lots of community discussions
- [kitsappublichealth.org/data](https://kitsappublichealth.org/data)
- [kitsappublichealth.org/epi/reports](https://kitsappublichealth.org/epi/reports)

- Findings/Data re: North Kitsap DEMOGRAPHICS

- Kitsap Co growing, 2.8% from 2020 to 2023, which is slightly slower than WA state. More due to moving into the county than births
- North Kitsap (school district area) had 52k inhabitants–18% of Kitsap County. Slightly slower growth rate–2.4%
- 46% of North Kitsap is 50 or older
  - 0-19: 21%
  - 20-34: 16%
  - 35-49: 18 %
- Racial demographics
  - Kitsap as a whole: 70% white/non-hispanic
  - North Kitsap: 77% white
    - 0-19 (61% white)
    - 65+ (90% white)
- Languages spoken at home:
  - 92% English (entire county)
  - Spanish, Tagalog have biggest percentages
  - Similar percentages for North Kitsap
- Only 3.3% of Kitsap residents report that they speak English “less than very well”
- Findings/Data FOOD
  - Food insecurity
    - Students eligible for free or reduced price meal eligibility (37% county wide of students qualified)
      - 32.4% for North Kitsap (which is the highest, other than Bainbridge, 7.4%)
      - Bremerton is 72.4%
    - Question: state of Washington numbers? We align closely with the other counties in Puget sound, other than King (because they measure neighborhoods). Nationally, there is huge variation
- Findings/Data HOUSING
  - MEDIAN GROSS RENT:
    - Median gross rent (contract rent + utilities): \$1.6k/monthly in North Kitsap.
    - Central Kitsap and Bainbridge are both around \$1.9k
  - OWNED/RENTED: 70% of Kitsap housing occupied by owners, 30% renters.
    - BB: 81%
    - Bremerton: 52%
    - Central: 66%
    - North Kitsap: 79%

- South Kitsap: 76%
  - RENTAL VACANCY RATE: has been decreasing over time in Kitsap, has gone down by almost 25% in last ten years. Higher vacancy rate in North Kitsap
  - HOMELESSNESS AND INSECURE HOUSING:
    - Population increasing state wide, more in Kitsap, King, Pierce
    - Students: public school students whose family has had to move at least one time during the school year due to insecure housing. 97 students in North Kitsap last year.
- QUESTIONS
  - Beth: would ASL be called out as a separate language.
    - A: not included in the questions that they ask
  - Glen: Is less English spoken at home a trend that compares with national numbers?
    - A: we don't see a lot of people who don't speak English at home. Has stayed pretty consistent over the last 10 years. Not the same as national trend, where there has been an increase
  - Marla: Where are Native American languages accounted for in your numbers?
    - A: In addition to the languages shown on the slide, very small percentage of "Native American languages".
    - Bias in who is called on the phone as part of the survey process—would the numbers have been different had different individuals been called.
  - Ben: do you have actionable recommendations based on your data?
    - A: her team is focused on data collection. Prioritization process done as a community is more clearly identified
  - Tim: how is this data collected?
    - A: surveys done nation-wide
      - Washington state department of health
      - Survey released to the community as well, with about 8,000 responses
    - Nationwide surveys are often telephone surveys
    - Kitsap surveys—libraries links in computer areas, all electronic
  - Audience: how does the need for the participation in physical activity compare to the availability of the services that are available in our community? Is there a correlation?
  - Glen: how to incentivize healthcare providers living in our

community?

- A: there's an access to healthcare workgroup.

- OPIOID USE

- Deaths are up in the state and in Kitsap County since 2019
- Questions:
  - Costs incurred related to addiction and mental health?
    - A: no
    - Commissioner Rolfes: 80% of people booked in county jail have fentanyl in their system
    - Our county is the first to get a grant from the state to provide medical care for people in jail. Hope is that this care will start their treatment while they are waiting for the next step in the law enforcement process (starts in June).
      - Source of the funding: Jail comes from federal and state medicaid reimbursement. Opioid settlements—\$70M/year for the next 12 years
    - County has partnered with all fire districts outside of Bainbridge. Social worker accompanying EMTs to connect with people who are having a mental health crisis, which has led to a measurable decrease in emergency room visits.

**Closing Items:** none.

Public Comment:

- About public health—can we address the public health consequences of stationary RVs being permanently occupied on Kitsap properties? Especially ones with no septic tank, sewage treatment, or utilities services.
  - Q: does See, Click, Fix apply to occupied vehicles?
  - Q: can they be ticketed?
    - A: you can have an RV for 3-6 months. Permits are required, which will verify that there are septic connections and potable water supply. Can find permits in Kitsap Co parcel search.
  - Commissioner: ongoing friction between need for housing and need to have people follow the law
  - Who to contact if someone is out of compliance? Link on the permitting website, report (can be anonymous). If out of compliance, owner is notified. Purpose is trying to get compliance, not typically
  - In a right of way—yes See, Click Fix
- Homeless encampment complaints: 1-2 people who live in the woods continually who seem to be accepted and taken care of. Received a complaint recently and forwarded it to the county homeless team. Most of the aggregate homeless settings have been dealt with so there was time for the team to investigate the situation in Kingston. If it's the same RV moving around, a similar remedy can be applied.

**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.

Motion to adjourn–Tim Davis, seconded by Alena Wolotira

*Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.*