

Kingston Community Conversation

February 24, 2018

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kingston Village Green Community Center

Sponsoring organizations:

Kingston Cares

Village Green Foundation

KCAC

85 ± Participants

With connections to many community organizations *e.g.* Kingston Cares, Kiwanis, Kingston Citizen Advisory Council, Kingston NK Rotary, Village Green Foundation, NK Schools, NK Fishline, Kingston Christian Church, NKFR, Port of Kingston, Port Gamble Tribe, Kingston Beautification Committee, Coffee Oasis, Windermere Foundation, Stakeholders, Stillwaters, Garden Club, Friends of Library, Village Green Cold Weather Shelter, Wild Society, Kitsap County, Suquamish Tribe, Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Village Green Community Center.

Notably, about one in four participants described themselves as “resident / self” without specific local affiliations.

14 topics were identified in the Community Overview brainstorming session (*Facilitators*: Kirsten Jewell & Mary McClure), which were clustered into 8 topics for smaller Table Discussions:

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|--|---------|
| A. Affordable Housing & Homelessness (<i>Facilitator</i> : Steve Heacock) | page 2 |
| B. Economic Vitality & Support for Local Business (<i>Facilitator</i> : Jim Pivarnik) | page 4 |
| C. Transportation / Parking / Traffic (<i>Facilitator</i> : Mary McClure) | page 5 |
| D. Trails & Walkability, Open Space (<i>Facilitator</i> : Kathy Caldwell) | page 7 |
| E. Community Vitality (<i>Facilitator</i> : Jane Mack) | page 8 |
| F. Growth (<i>Facilitator</i> : Linda Fyfe) | page 10 |
| G. Youth Services (<i>Facilitator</i> : Chris Gilbreath) | page 12 |
| H. Community Services & Food Insecurity (<i>Facilitator</i> : Ruth Westergaard) | page 14 |

The following sections present the notes from the eight Table Discussions, typically combining two sequential discussions on the same topic. Each Table discussion proceeded idiosyncratically; differences in approach are apparent. For each, Actions & Goals were brainstormed. At some tables, the participants assigned themselves specific follow-up assignments. Contact information was gathered for each participant so that members of each topic group will be able to follow up with their fellow discussants to determine the next best steps.

Table Discussion Notes

A. Affordable Housing & Homelessness *Facilitator: Steve Heacock*

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Emily Gustafson	Tania Issa	Bill Paine
Mary Jane Gilbreath	Michele LaBoda	Nels Sultan
Stuart Grogan	Noel Leary	Tanya Sultan
Marta Holt	Beth Nichols	Sue Tyson

What are we trying to solve?

Low Income Housing

Homelessness

How to balance / leverage new housing & growth to address affordable housing

50% of Kitsap County population is 'housing burdened' (30%+ of income for housing)

Difficult to define size and scope of problem

Barriers exist for some individuals *e.g.* mental health

Lack of resources, lack of responsiveness [Bifurcated County resources ... no calls being returned by Housing Solution Center]

Need transportation to facilities with vacancies

Impact of GMA density restrictions & prices increase

Lack of flexibility with ADU's

Communication /coordination among providers

Recognize there are people who will always need help, may never improve or be able to contribute, but we will be measured by our compassion and support for them at all levels

Solutions:

Triage system for individuals in need ~ Housing Solutions Center (at NK Fishline)

That without measure, remains undone.

Rural densification / Google search County Code Publishing & Date Stamp

Enclave of Tiny Houses in Kingston (+/- 10) + all Cities & Central Kitsap

Code exception for ADU's and family care

Requirement for enforcement of low income deed restriction tracking

Conversion of motels / hotels

State law change to allow flexibility on septic / health for tiny homes & ADU's

Deed restrictions & enforcements (not always successful ~ see Bainbridge Island)

Incentivize developers' creation of affordable units (impact fee breaks?)

Large project requirements to set-aside affordable units

Could we create regulations / fund so that developers support affordable housing *e.g.* pay into fund directly or provide on-site units within development?

Participate in current programs & policies for homelessness plan & update?

Kitsap County allows 30 years ... move mobile homes on site for family members or as long as needed

Any good projects we could copy?

 Watson Furniture has huge community action program to create micro-housing

 See Poulsbo Mayor about converting old Albertson's to micro-housing

 What are best practices for rural communities to deal with homelessness?

 Housing First is powerful national model we could look at

 Father Joe's Village is a very powerful model

Create a Home Share Program NK and countywide

Concentrate affordable housing in UGA's to assure access to services and transportation

Apartment building to assist with the affordable housing problem & inventory

Kitsap County has transitory housing ordinance ... can do how?

In North Kitsap, not enough affordable available units / rooms for single and small families

Need permanent housing for people moving out of homelessness

Vouchers ~ do we have enough? Can we get more?

Boarding houses ~ County ordinances support it in rural areas ~ code is silent, which means it's allowed with no occupancy limits, subject to Kitsap County inspection

Mobilize churches to support

Incentivize County regs & fees to incentivize church / public / private housing alternatives

Anything to improve or incentivize improvement of derelict homes for housing

Can older structures be re-purposed for housing?

Pockets of affordable housing ~ lots of small solutions

Incentivized through impact fees

Need more / better communication about resources in the County for shelter, housing, services

Need coordination of support, housing services, providers for people in crisis

County staff work with County to get the word out re: programs ~ publicize better at DCD

Need emergency response options (and list of possibilities) that are only for a few days, week, month

Work with shelters & volunteers to create list of short-term options for people in need

Need more volunteers at Severe Weather Shelter

Make it easier to build houses, reduce regulations and processes to ease supply

Consider incorporation for densification and housing options

C. Transportation / Parking / Traffic *Facilitator:* Mary McClure

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Rex Lee Carlaw	Jennifer Leach	Scott Pennington
Laura Gronnvoll	Bert Jackson	Bim Prince
Doug Hallock	Tecla Legge	Ed Strickland
Doug Hayman	Kristine Libby	Cindy Webster-Martinson
Marta Holt	Phil Merritt	Dave Wetter

What are we trying to solve?

Need coherent local access ~ Comprehensive plan for traffic ~ Nothing else can happen without it!
 Need clout to make it happen ~ break the cycle of nothing gets done
 Prepare for increased bike traffic & tourism ~ no longer a sleepy little town
 A crisis point! Speeding through town ~ motorcycles at 70 mph

Solutions

Fast ferry parking spaces

Ferry holding lot with ticket system

Parking & SR 104 are intertwined

Total number of cars

Sidewalks to Lindvog

Connection to South Kingston development

Barber Cut-off traffic & sidewalks

Extra car lanes in town

Traffic signal probably needed at Barber Cut-off and at South Kingston

No parking = no downtown business

Business needs local traffic ~ current traffic is useless to businesses

Ask businesses what they need

Can't we hold off growth until infrastructure catches up?

Kingston is an Urban growth Area ~ a magnet for regional growth

Fast ferry: we voted and are committed to the plan → more cars

State Legislature committed \$500,000:

Automated tally system (pseudo reservation system) +

Tally wait time signage +

Right-of-Way on SR 104 +

Cameras on the toll booth

What about restrooms / Randy Cans?

Kitsap Transit improvements:

Shuttle (possible Port of Kingston & Business involvement?)

Service to Kingston Passenger Ferry **and** elsewhere *e.g.* Poulsbo, Indianola

Kingston representative on Advisory Committee, KT Board, KRCC TransPOL?

Spend some money on improving quality of bus service **and** carpooling

Noted that Kitsap Transit is having difficulty finding drivers

Pay attention to aesthetics

Entrance to Kingston ~

Logging mitigation ~ Leave trees

Think about aesthetics

Multi-modal solutions needed

How encourage WA State to participate?

Stakeholders are working on SR 104 and Parking issues

Share 1990 traffic plan

Share Stakeholder information

D. Trails & Walkability *Facilitator: Kathy Caldwell*

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Bill Beaudoin	Naomi Maasberg	Svetlana Skalican
Jim Dixon	Gary Mager	Cindy Webster-Martinson
Helen Hoover	Forrest Nichols	Bruce Williams
Mark Libby	Henry Schroder	

What are we trying to solve?

Difficult to Get Around Kingston on foot / bicycle ~ need map for walkability & rideability

Not walker friendly

Lack of paths

Obstacles: Private / Public land fences

Outside trails developed

Walking in town insufficient ~ sidewalks insufficient & in poor repair

Connections between upper & lower Kingston ~ ability to walk in Kingston and between the "2 Kingstons" very difficult for all ages

County Trails Plan should include Kingston / local Trails

Solutions:

Need overall vision for trails ~ bring all entities together who have overlay plan for trails ~ bring all pieces together including schools & developers ~ need a plan so can apply for county funds

Need to be part of strong regional plan

Safe Routes to School is an example of available WA State Grants

Safe Shoulders

Update Map Tracker ~ tie to Kitsap Comprehensive Plan 2018 Amendments

Identify public access via road ends

Our existing plan lacks specificity ~ connect to all schools & retail

Trail to Gamblewood from "Y" at SR 104 / Bond Road

Recognize that each segment is unique

Seek Legal advice about	Private landowner	Recreation vs. Connector
Liability for:	Easements	County ownership
	Donated land	School District Trails

Action Plan:

Work with KCAC's Kingston Parks, Trails, Open Space Committee (KPTOS)

Learn all the overlay pieces

Don't compete with KPTOS ~ add to what exists!

Email to this group: Trails map List of projects

2018 Schedule: work parties Feedback from Meetings & Groups

Also post information & materials on webpage, Facebook, Next Door apps

Get feedback from community on needs

E. Community Vitality & Connection *Facilitator: Jane Mack*

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Beth Berglund	Rob Gelder	Stan Mack
Ginny Carosso	Mary Gleysteen	Mike McCown
Alan Chessman	Bert Jackson	Stacy Mills
Sally Christy	Jim Leary	Rebecca Pirtle
Jenny DeWitt	Lynn Leggett	Svetlana Skalican
Josh DeWitt	Naomi Maasberg	Bruce Williams

What are we trying to solve?

- Finding points of contact
 - Community where everybody knows your name
 - Many Kingston groups but no connectivity of local organizations
 - Resource & Volunteer coordination
 - Need non-profit to oversee all agencies here
 - One Call for All [non-profit funding model ~ Bainbridge Island]
 - Formal meeting of agency directors to connect
 - Utilizing our Community Center to re-invigorate community participation
 - Connectivity with our Tribes!
- Communication & Information
 - Keeping track of community activities
 - Accessible website for information
 - Create a hub for expanded content
- Kingston as destination [not just a throughway to somewhere else]
 - Need a Kingston brand *e.g.* Big Chairs
- Quality design & planning
 - Design standards / new construction aesthetics
 - Requirement for diverse housing *e.g.* handicapped accessibility & all income levels
 - Downtown Zoning Working Group
 - Governance , incorporation [lack of incorporation is an obstacle]
- Culture Identity *e.g.* respecting all cultures / inclusivity
- Vital farming community / more farmers at Kingston Farmers Market
- Community Meal at Village Green

Long-Term Solutions:

- Establish Time bank
- Village Green-paid Coordinator Position: Community Volunteers & Services
- Strategic Plan → involvement & implementation of sub-area planning and bringing it down to our specific community area

- Incorporation:
 - Self-sustaining tax plan
 - Resource net
 - Balance support & viability
 - Long-term discussion and education about incorporation in general

Short-Term Solutions:

- Monthly in-person meeting of various organizations in Kingston
- Annual Government / Public Agency Director meeting
- Community Coffee Klatch
- Local Directory *and* Community Calendar maintained by Chamber/Village Green ~ Partnering with Port of Kingston reader board
- More comprehensive version of Port newsletter
- Community meal, promoting community togetherness
- Volunteer headquarters/referral coordination *e.g.* VolunteerKitsap.org
- Volunteer bank / time bank

2018 Actions:

- Community Meal @ Village Green Community Center
- Kingston Cares Community Meal
- Community discussion @ Community Meal
- Combining local groups' "horsepower"
- Monthly Meeting of local organizations
- Keep volunteering & create a service directory
- Coffee Klatch involvement
- Time bank
- Communicating

F. Growth *Facilitator:* Linda Fyfe

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Beth Berglund	Michele Laboda	Scott Pennington
Juan Carosso	Jim Leary	Bim Prince
Shawn Gibbs	Kristene Libby	Henry Schroder
Denise Giuntoli	Mike McCown	Marie Schroder
John Goldsmith	Phil Merritt	Svetlana Skalican
Doug Hayman	Beth Nichols	Jon Sole
Jimmy James	Bill Paine	Ed Strickland

What are we trying to solve?

Fear of what growth looks like

Impact of fast ferry

Incorporation / City life

Effectiveness of government representation

Local planning, effectiveness, & citizen involvement

Not enough notice about specific projects ~ Communication channels

Enforcement of Kingston Design Standards

Impact of Olympia & Kitsap County dictates vs. Kingston citizens

Is growth controllable or inevitable? Most other issues will be determined by growth

Need for controls ... Coordinate growth instead of trying to control it

Property values will go up ~ that's a positive ... isn't it?

Services will increase / cost of services will be spread among more people

Consider impact of 23 disparate associations, committees, organizations

Incorporation

Does Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan represent Kingston citizens' expectations & desires?

Yes = good. No = What to do about it?

Comp Plan: do Kingston requirements actually make it in? Who decides?

Get more involved in Comprehensive Growth Planning

Create a group to articulate Kingston's Vision 2030?

Engage thought leaders on appropriate implementation of growth ala citizens' direction

Better access / connection with County website ~ missing for North Kitsap

Cultural diversity

Impact on traffic & services placement

Explore referendum on growth based on development size

Look at (cumulative) impact of total number of developments happening at once

Solutions:

1-3 years

Organize Committee to gather information as to whether planning is accurate for community

Organize Committee for Kingston Vision 2030

Set meeting with Rob Gelder?

On-line presence: visibility/accountability to bring disparate efforts to light

Find out from County the connection between information & development

Code enforcement

Support HB 2904 ~ organize letter

Look into pros & cons of incorporation

Reality of Meeting Outcome / Impact?

4-9 Years

Infrastructure & Quality of Life Plan

G. Youth Services *Facilitator:* Chris Gilbreath

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Mark Baze	Tania Issa	Forrest Nichols
Constance Borgomainerio	Deanne Jackson	Sue Tyson
Nancy Garing	Daniel Kluth	Tomi Whalen
Gayle Hiester	Lynn Leggett	Cindy Hare Willis
Helen Hoover	Stan Mack	

What are we trying to solve?

Problem 1: A lack of opportunities for kids/youth to meet and engage in social activities within the community.

- Issues: Lack of open public spaces... Seasonal hindrances (weather)... Library hours are limited... Non-school related activities are rare... Some public events not age appropriate or of interest to all groups... Not enough constructive activities... ACE's appropriate... Adults don't understand what kids are going through... Adults don't understand what kids want to attend... Lack of funds or transportation can limit involvement... Kids have nothing to do... Lack of positive alternatives can increase use of drugs and other destructive behaviors.
- Suggested Solutions: Community organizations could include youth related activities in their plans for public events. Representatives from the community could meet with student representatives from Kingston Middle and Kingston High Schools as well as other interested individuals. The intent would be to determine interest in and types of activities desired. Youth pastors, local sports clubs, parks and recreational agencies, and businesses could provide input and possible support. If a series of events are considered desirable locations and transportation possibilities might help reach more individuals. Other suggestions include a concerted effort to contact the Kitsap Regional Library in effort to extend local hours.

Problem 2: How do we best address the needs of homeless and at risk youth?

- Issues: A safe place to stay... Meals... Shower and laundry facilities... Life skills instruction is needed... The Coffee Oasis Program can meet many of these needs but it needs community support... Needs include: (pre-opening) funds to assist with increased county construction permitting demands, possible assisting with construction tasks... (post-opening) volunteers, mentors, continued funding support...
- Suggested Solutions: As well as meeting the needs listed above, The Coffee Oasis Program utilizes case managers, crisis intervention devices such as a Crisis Line and a "Text-follow-up" program, to meet immediate needs. In general, it views long term relationship building as critical, thus placing volunteers and mentors as a critically important component. Likewise, intern possibilities are desirable. The more our civic groups can work collaboratively with the Coffee Oasis staff and volunteers, the more we will achieve a healthy youth culture in our community.

- Furthermore, a KCAC Community Services Subcommittee action plan goal is the creation and distribution of a directory of public services. Such a directory could assist in publicizing the services and opportunities for our at-risk youth.

Problem 3: All communities including the Kingston community have a need for Parenting Assistance Training. Yet our community as part of Kitsap County may be missing an opportunity to utilize grant funds to facilitate such a program. These skills could be of great benefit for a number of families and at risk youth.

- Issue: Deanne Jackson from Kitsap County Human Services shared that funds have been available through the county to fund such a program in our community. Difficulties of coordination with a variety of agencies have hindered full utilization of these funds. Quoting Deanne, “I am still trying to find ways to use it and the funds have not been officially returned. The opportunity to use the funds this year has been lost. With little remaining time this fiscal year we are forced to scramble to find ways to deliver an effective alternative...as not to have to return funding and waste valuable resource for our community.”
- Suggested Solution: A meeting with interested community representatives including KCAC Community Services Subcommittee members and Deanne Jackson may clarify if future funding may be available. Furthermore, a consideration of how other communities have been able to successfully initiate such a program would be beneficial.

Problem 4: Access to and information about available health care services in our community

- Issue: Cindy Hare Willis shared that with the opening of the Peninsula Community Health Clinic, new services may be available to our area’s youth. Education about these services could be a great benefit.
- Suggested Solutions: Initiate a conversation between Cindy and Kingston School’s guidance and health instruction staff.
- Again, completion and distribution of a KCAC public services directory would reinforce local health services knowledge.

Problem 5: Kingston High School students have identified that a local lack of paid and unpaid internship opportunities is a problem.

- Issues: Students needing job/life experiences beyond school are limited locally. Likewise, opportunities for observing/tracking skilled workers are needed. Furthermore, limited public transportation sources make such experiences in Kitsap County difficult to access.
- Solutions: *To be discussed...*

H. Community Services & Food Insecurity *Facilitator: Ruth Westergaard*

Participants in 2 Table Discussions:

Carol Anderson	Josh DeWitt
Elsa Brown	Mary Gleysteen
Louisa Brown	Forrest Nichols
Jenny DeWitt	Tomi Whalen

What are we trying to solve?

Table Round 1:

- Access to services = resource constrained
- Nutrition, food quality
- Stigma of not having enough food
- Emergency food security
- Children, elderly, unemployed unable to provide for selves or others

Table Round 2:

- Without food, kids can't learn
- Two food banks – who is doing what where

Possible short-term solutions:

- Better understanding of what is available locally, *i.e.* what are the services in Kingston and vicinity
- Nutritional/cooking education in schools, at food banks
- Giving Garden – growing and education at schools
- Sharenet partnering with Fishline

Possible longer-term solutions:

- Initiate “One call for all” model used by Bainbridge
- Partnering with Kitsap Agricultural Association
- Re-institute agricultural programs in schools, especially at middle and high school levels, as a viable career /education path
 - Ag classes incorporate math, science, chemistry
 - More vocational emphasis
- Address issue of disaster food insecurity through preparedness / Map Your Neighborhood type of approach
 - Side benefit to MYN would be promotion of day-to-day community connectivity

How would you see the people and organizations represented at the table involved in working on solutions during 2018?

- Barn Swallow Meadows Farm will reach out to Kingston Farmers Market
- Sharenet will partner and reach out to continue filling a hole where there's a need, *i.e.* nutrition education
- Work with Bayside Community Church to add a meal site to be held at the Village Green Community Center

Possible short-term solutions & longer-term solutions:

- Publicizing Kingston Rides
 - Making sure people know details, routes, how to access, cost
 - Making sure community services, e.g. food bank, PCHS, etc. have access to free ticket program and/or have a supply of bus tokens
- Better locations or transportation to Food Bank, e.g. set up a central pick up at the Village Green Community Center for people needing to go to Sharenet
- Library/Village Green/Boys and Girls Club have bins with food packets – provided by Stand Up for Kids
- Coordination of fresh produce and growers
 - Networking to get excess growers stuff to foodbanks, etc. who can use it without undercutting farmers
 - Organize farmers and provide volunteers and vehicles to pick up extras and get to those who need
- Village Green meal program – use food bank-inspired products and include printed recipes for guests to take with them so they can prepare at home
- Provide efficient cooking tips/education on preparing foods to avoid waste
- Revitalize Kingston Farmers Market – emphasizing the farmers
- Set up collection program to distribute restaurant leftovers to food bank
- Set up a gleaners network and those who are willing to be “gleaned”
- Establish a community “time bank” – exchange of skills for skills
- Develop a one pager of community services
- Start a weekly community newsletter – what’s going on, list of services
- Establish Village Green Community Center as a single point of entry for access to and information about community services
- Bolster existing services and knowledge of them