

# MINUTES

## **West Hill Cambridge Neighborhood Council General Membership Meeting**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Fire Station - 26512 Military Rd S, Kent, WA

### Introductions & Welcome

At 6:05, the meeting was called to order by co-president, Lanae Miller. She welcomed Councilwoman Brenda Fincher; Tracy Taylor from the mayor's office; Chad Bieren, Kent Public Works; Division Chief Pat Pawlak, Puget Sound Fire Authority; and Kristin Rajala from Ezee Fiber. Approximately 50+ members were present.

### Minutes Approval

The Minutes from April 23, 2024 General Meeting were approved as submitted.

### Treasurer's Report

Dawn Genzlinger, treasurer, shared that we began 2025 with \$1103.00, then received a communications grant from the city for \$642.00. We spent \$414.40 for website fees (two years' worth of expenses). Currently, our council has \$1289.02. Dawn reminded neighbors that we are a neighborhood collective that works together for the welfare of our community and shared that donations are always accepted, reminding that these are not tax deductible.

### Presentation – Kristin Rajala

Kristin is a representative of Ezee Fiber, a fiber optic contractor that will begin work in the Kent area soon. She shared information on the product and what this would offer West Hill residents as well as a possible timeline. Kristin fielded questions from neighbors and shared that mailed information will be coming soon.

### Speakers – Pat Pawlak and Chad Bieren

The subjects of fire protection and safety, and water supply for such has been concerns of neighbors for several years. Pat and Chad presented good information on process, procedures, projects and supply of water relative to West Hill homes and their residents. They agreed to keep the Council posted on developments of all sorts related to water and public works projects. Chief Pawlak shared information on safety improvements in protection of houses from fire. He will forward a listing to the Council for publishing.

During the question-and-answer part of this agenda item, many concerns were raised, some related to other issues such as gunfire coming from the skate park area and lack of good infrastructure connections for neighbors using Century Link and lacking land line service. Tracy and Chad took a lot of notes and will look further into some of these issues. Neighbors were encouraged to use the sign-in sheets to note concerns that need addressing as well as indicating willingness to participate in the work of the Council.

### Elections

The following slate of officers was presented to the membership for approval. Lanae Miller and Dennis Hampton, co-chairpersons; Dawn Genzlinger, treasurer; Holly Isaman, secretary; and Gaby Hampton, Alex Lepeska, Mark Videen, and Kim Wise; Officers at Large. The floor was opened for additional nominations and members were encouraged to join the planning team.

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**MOTION** (passed by voice vote)

The slate of candidates including **Lanae Miller, Dennis Hampton, Dawn Genzlinger, Holly Isaman, Gaby Hampton, Alex Lepeska, Mark Videen,** and **Kim Wise** was approved by the members present and all candidates were elected for a one-year term.

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Brenda Fincher

Councilwoman Fincher shared information of a teddy bear program. Children may participate in the helpful learning event taking place on May 17 at 1:00 pm at the Fire and Police Training Center (24611 116<sup>th</sup> SE; Kent – fire station 74).

Brenda also announced that she will not be running for office in the next cycle. The Council offered great praise for her service and superior representation of the West Hill neighborhoods and residents.

Direction / Ideas / Plans / Concerns

😊 Chief Pawlak along with Mark Videen and Kim Wise encouraged members to consider participating in the October CERT training and why having a neighborhood team of CERT certified people trained and ready to assist with emergency coordination during crisis, would be of great welfare to the neighborhood.

😊 Other events were mentioned and will be promoted by the Council: June 7 and September 20 clean ups (Lanae suggested the development of a coordinated garden club); a summer collective garage sale (July 26 – call Lanae or email council to participate); and National Night Out (August 5) were mentioned.

😊 On May 21<sup>st</sup>, we will sponsor a [Sidewalk Session](#), a program developed by the City to get neighbors together to discuss public works type issues. More information will be posted as soon as a plan is firmed up.

😊 Gaby encouraged neighbors to help her coordinate with the fire authority to bring a fire truck drive through event to our neighborhood this December. These events collect donations, usually food and money. She will continue to plan this for this year.

😊 Holly asked if there are other [block watch](#) groups active within our neighborhood. Somerset Ct and Cambridge Ct and the only two known. Encouragement for developing more coordinated groups was expressed.

😞 Another concern that seems to be prevalent within our neighborhood is excessive parking: street, driveway and yards. There is concern that with the passing of [HB 1337](#), property adjustment to other than single family homes may bring uncomfortable problems related to traffic and lots of parked vehicles. There is also concern over industrial vehicles and equipment parked all over the neighborhood and the hazards and blocking that they bring.

☹️ Some members expressed concern over home remodeling that eliminates garages, alters internal structure and adding additional site buildings that likewise bring extra parking issues as well as possible strain on utility services.

☹️ A member reported that a home (maybe on Princeton Ave) foregoes trash collection services creating a sightly trash problem. This needs to be reported to the City as this is unlawful.

#### Future Meetings

The next board meeting is June 24<sup>th</sup>. Any member is welcome to participate in these planning meetings.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned about 8:00 pm.

If ever you have questions or wish to communication with the organization, please email the Council leadership at [whcncouncil@gmail.com](mailto:whcncouncil@gmail.com).