After everyone had signed in and applied nametags, the meeting was called to order by Chair Anna Rising at 7:06PM. All attendees introduced themselves.

Our first speaker was Dave Thomson of SRM, who gave us an update with words and drawings on the growth of the Google campus. Among the things discussed and described were:

1. The size of the new building – 180,000 square feet. It should be completed by about October. It is being built to a LEED Platinum standard – a rare achievement.
2. Cross Kirkland Corridor enhancement in the area where the trail crosses Google’s campus. There will be benches, grassy areas, and controlled crossings for any vehicular traffic across the trail.
3. A 6th St S ‘Kid Connection’ path across the trail and campus to provide a more secure route for Everest children on their way to Lakeview Elementary. It apparently will include a small play area.
4. A new traffic light at 6th St S and 9th Ave S, paid for by SRM, installed by the City. Construction should start this Fall.
5. New sidewalk on the West side of 6th St S, North of the Google campus.
6. A study of the commute traffic on 6th St S. that shows peak morning traffic at 8AM. Most Googlers arrive between 8:45 and 10AM.
7. The old ‘Red Rock’ play field at Lakeview Elementary will have artificial turf installed. In return, it will be open for community, and Google employees, to use when school is not in session.

SRM has done development projects in various communities, such as Seattle, Bellevue, Coeur d’Alene, and Spokane. They feel that Kirkland understands better about how to work together on projects in a mutually beneficial way.

Our second speaker was Jim Neal of Talon Private Capital LLC, the partner, with Prudential Capital, for the redevelopment of the Park Place Center.

Basically, the project is only half the size of the previous plan, with no hotel, but with provision for about 260 apartment units, including about 10% designated as ‘Low-Income’ housing. Size of the complex is much reduced from the previously approved plan because the current developer determined that the site would not support a development of that scale.

Features include:

1. A new 100% larger QFC store. By contract this must be built before the old one is removed.
2. A new movie theater.
3. About 3200 underground parking spaces.
4. Two acres of open spaces.
5. Existing office building to the East will be retained, with a new exterior and interior.
6. No hotel is planned as studies showed that existing capacity is sufficient.
7. There will be a total of about 620,000 sq. ft. of office space; total employment at Park Place will be about 4000.
8. There will be about 6 restaurants of various sizes and types.
9. There will be about 220,000 sq. ft. of retail/entertainment.

There will be traffic mitigation done, much of it along 6th St, and at the intersection of 6th and NE85th. Parking is being provided according to code requirements for each use. It would have been possible to reduce parking capacity by the ‘sharing’ of parking spaces between the various users at different times of the day. This would have resulted in the provision of about 1000 fewer spaces. Spaces provided for daytime office workers will be available for public use in the evening, however.

They will appear before the Planning Commission this week, and if successful, will appear shortly after before the City Council. Best case, could appear in March before the Design Review Board. That process would probably take the rest of the year. Meanwhile, they will create architectural plans and apply for permits. Conceivably they could be able to break ground about April, 2016, and finish the project 20 months later. Economic conditions may cause the time line to lengthen, with a phased building process.

We then discussed the Neighborhood Safety Program options. Last meeting, we had come up with three projects that we described and submitted to the City for analysis and budgetary estimates. There is a total of $50,000 available that we might be able to obtain, following KAN and City analysis.

These projects include:

1. A pedestrian connection between the CKC and the area of the North end of Everest Park.
2. Installing flashing warning lights to lessen the risk of collision when turning from westbound Kirkland Way to Railroad Ave.
3. A crosswalk at 6th St S and 5th Ave S to get to the West side of 6th St S, primarily to access the bus stop on the West side of 6th.

We voted to ask for 2 & 3, at a total estimated cost of about $50,000.

The final subject on the agenda is our two-year grant from the City that funds things such as our annual picnic, the newsletter, the website, plantings at the two Neighborhood signs, etc. The main requirement is that any money received from the City must be matched by in-kind donations to the Association and by volunteer hours worked on Neighborhood activities. The hours accumulate at the rate of $21.79 per hour.

A tentative budget was proposed at about:

Picnic - $800; newsletters - $650; website - $40; curb painting - $40; bulletin board near the Everest park small shelter - $125; maintain Neighborhood sign plantings - $125; rain barrel for the North sign - $50; upgrade the kiosk -$75; misc - $139.

This allocation of the funds can be modified somewhat during the year; the proposed budget was adopted by acclamation.

There have been some recent break-ins in the neighborhood, in the morning, with people still home. Motion sensor lights are suggested, as well as keeping valuables in the bedroom at night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM