



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

September 12, 2007

Kathryn Hanowell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Mayor's Boardroom on September 12, 2007.

APPROVED MINUTES

1.	<p>Introductions – Kathryn Hanowell, Neighborhood Services Coordinator Erik Lowe introduced himself as new AS VP, nominee for WWU MNAC rep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes: Note corrections/Review/Approve <p>Brad Rose moved for approval with clarification; minutes approved.</p>	
2.	<p>Items from the Neighborhoods</p> <p>Edgemoor – will not be working to get plan done by Dec 1, 2007, will work on next year. Looking at issue of multiple residents in single family homes. Seeing little response from Police/ city in regards to issue.</p> <p>Birchwood – plan update, rearranging plan to match comp plan format. Will work on plan, turn over to neighborhood for comment, hope to have done by Dec. 1. Will use committees to work through harder issues.</p> <p>South – survey out in October. Hope to have something move forward on parks, open space, and character on Dec. 1. Developers of Chuckanut Ridge put letter in Herald – neighborhood responded to that letter. Hoping that letter will be published as well. Asked for letter to be attached to minutes.</p> <p>CBD – DRN preparing for fall/ winter holidays – putting together new map, business directory for downtown. Working on nightly noise issues. Watching the waterfront redevelopment closely, maintenance of downtown sidewalks. Morse Square, BHA complex, met on pedestrian/ transportation issues. Will soon be getting “slow” signs.</p> <p>Sunnyland – Successful neighborhood picnic. 2 fire trucks showed up. Finalized orders for tree planting project – sold out. Neighborhood sold trees at half cost, will deliver to home, plant, and stake. Used nursery that Parks Dept advised.</p>	



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	<p>Roosevelt – working on time banking project – where neighbor helps neighbor, another neighbor helps someone else. If you help for an hour, you are owed an hour. Suggested that 4th corner exchange does that and may be able to help.</p> <p>Fairhaven – Working on neighborhood bylaws, comp plan. Trying to get all-inclusive neighborhood. Worked on group facilitation to include everyone in neighborhood – which City helped groups establish. Fairhaven Neighbors backed out of process, feeling it was not what they agreed to. Asked for open meeting at neighborhood meeting where all stakeholders could speak. City has agreed to make available registered parliamentarian to work on bylaws. KH noted that press has been interested in what all neighborhood associations are doing. Story may be coming soon on what all neighborhoods are doing.</p> <p>Sehome – Continuing working on neighborhood plan update. Design guidelines committee met w/ other neighborhoods w/ historic character. Working w/ several other neighborhoods. Noted Multi-Family guidelines book that city has. Will use visual inventory to document character of neighborhood. Will use ranking system to achieve what people want. Traffic committee – has implementation phase of their plan done w/ tremendous detail. Samish Way – speaking to every business, doing individual meetings if need be. Sustainable Connections helping. Will submit whatever they have on Dec. 1, will continue to evolve work on Samish Way before it goes to Planning Commission.</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – first full meeting on Sept 11th – 60 people attended. Active group working on neighborhood plan update. Disaster Preparedness committee met. Having trouble getting MYN off the ground. Looking for other approaches, how to deal w/ privacy concerns.</p> <p>Roosevelt said they hold dinner parties w/in group of 20. Pam noted that many of the residents want the privacy/ isolation. Meeting w/ LuAn Johnson for some recommendations.</p> <p>This summer board voted on focusing on Sterling Drive. Update transportation issues. Also bringing to school board – include Bakerview Mobile Estates – children get dropped at opening at fence and go across vacant lot. Working w/ school board. Kathryn noted work that Safe Routes to School is doing to alleviate some of these problems.</p>	
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<p>South Hill – Had neighborhood picnic; want to have picnic twice a year. Working on neighborhood plan amendments. Noted Bob Ryan's comments from last meeting on developers and attorneys becoming involved with neighborhood associations. Scheduled to go to council on Oct. 22 to present plan amendment. Will disagree with planning commission's recommendations. Hope City staff will give comment/recommendation at council meeting. Q on what was PC's major issue. Cathy said PC had question on democracy. Kathryn noted this would be good question at Technical Assistance Workshop – how do you achieve democracy?</p> <p>Silver Beach – Sept 13th, open house for neighborhood plan review. Have plan for facilitation. Focus is on protection of Lake Whatcom and preservation of neighborhood character. Mary Dumas facilitating process. Concerns w/ creosote railroad ties being used for landscaping.</p> <p>Samish – Moving forward on amending entire plan. Working w/ planning staff on plan. Still insist that infrastructure by concurrent with development. Would like to see new ordinance re: subsurface drainage. PC has reviewed plan. Also working on revising bylaws. Small and Simple Grant for welcome signs. Had annual picnic. Kurt commented on work with Samish – very valuable work. Want to coordinate work sessions.</p> <p>Whatcom Falls – Council approved rezone of area 8. Reduced minimum lot size; street requirements; allows shared driveways w/ no restrictions. Minimal public testimony heard/ allowed at council meeting. Discussion of taking zoning code out of neighborhood plans. Tim commented that might be good to have planning staff present at next meeting to discuss issue further.</p> <p>WWU – Provided info on student alternative transportation fee that students approved; gives all students bus pass and access to late night shuttle. Addressed some of neighborhoods concerns w/ late night shuttle. Runs throughout campus/ York/ downtown. Shuttle is only accessible to WWU students.</p> <p>Columbia – Fountain Park – meeting w/ ReStore on design over next several weeks. Hoping park will serve as a gateway to neighborhood. St Paul's Episcopal School will be putting up middle/ high school on Victor Street. Made changes to conditional use permit. No public</p>	
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	<p>transportation for school, concerns with traffic. Tim asked if they were prepared to not allow parking. No – they will charge students to park. Another issue of idling trucks on Squalicum.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – good picnic.</p> <p>Cornwall Park – Parkview celebrating 50th anniversary. Cornwall Park renovating certain areas. Talked with business owners in Fountain District. John McGarrity has insurance policies for all those who signed up. Talked to Chris Comeau about next steps in traffic calming. Will hold neighborhood meeting to talk about results. See if neighborhood agrees before calming devices are implemented.</p> <p>Alabama Hill – First public meeting on Sept 15th. Sent survey out to 1200; 100 replies back. Meeting Saturday at Bloedel Donovan to discuss input.</p> <p>Puget – General meeting on Sept 20th to solicit input on plan. Happy w/ sidewalks at Fraser and Puget.</p> <p>Happy Valley – Meeting and picnic last Sunday. Commented on downzone; 3700 square feet lots.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Information from the City</p> <p>A. Remarks from City Council Member, John Watts</p> <p>John remarked on high attendance at meeting. Intent on committee is to be meeting ground for neighborhoods. See ways to find common ground on issues. Group should be sounding board for problems as well as genesis for solutions. Commented on changes with election season. This group will need to be constant to help bridge the gap. Keep doing positive work. Commented on neighborhood plan updates. John was one of people who suggested to change how plan was working in previous years.</p> <p>One of council goals is developing better neighborhood based system. With planning, transportation, etc. Complicated by fact that code system needs to be updated. Feels that clean slate is a good thing every once in a while. Neighborhoods need to find good way to represent themselves and their issues; requires groundwork on neighborhood's behalf. Future goal – maintain quality of life we enjoy here. Need to find a way to manage growth. Requires patience and creativity.</p>	



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	<p>B. Neighborhood Association: Student Board Member Discussion, Lara Welker, Campus Community Coalition (possible ASWWU student in attendance)</p> <p>CCC's mission is to promote communication and cooperation amongst students; finding ways for students to be more accountable within neighborhoods. Beneficial for neighborhoods to have students on neighborhood assoc. boards. Want to develop ways for AS to recommend students to boards. Certain neighborhoods already have student positions. One possible way to proceed: AS refers interested students to various campus boards; AS could refer to neighborhood associations. AS could screen and make referral; students could be given contact for neighborhood president.</p> <p>Discussion on bridging the gap between involved students and not-so-involved students.</p> <p>Allen said CCC doorknockers have been helpful. At this point that's only focused on York, Sehome and Happy Valley.</p> <p>Thom – q on what role students can play in association. Erik said that role could be left up to neighborhood association.</p> <p>Discussion of referring to student rep as ambassador or ex officio. Would be good opportunity to give young adults who want to be engaged. Boards can define how that role is filled.</p> <p>Kathryn said members should contact Lara or Erik if they're interested. Good approach would be to put students in contact simply with neighborhood president.</p> <p>C. On Neighborhoods: Kathryn Hanowell, Retiring Neighborhood Services Coordinator</p> <p>Kathryn prepared comments for last meeting.</p> <p>D. Reports from the Mayor's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Officers Report <p>Reported on selection process for Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Received 54 applications originally. 8 finalists will be interviewed on Friday Sept. 14th.</p>	
4.	<p>Neighborhood Plans, Comprehensive Plan Work</p> <p>A. Puget Neighborhood Plan Amendment Proposal (Muljat), Kurt Nabbefeld, Planner (tabled from August 8)</p> <p>No strong opinion amongst neighborhood association on project. Kurt</p>	



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	<p>commented on work that applicant did with neighborhood. Planning's recommendation was to go forward because it fits with the comp plan. Contract rezone, requirements will make it more pedestrian focused development. Mixed use components. Close to Lakeway Urban Village. Had transportation planner look at volume of traffic from drive through coffee shop. Met concurrency requirements. Contract rezone helps define expectations. Meets comp plan because of mixed use.</p> <p>Motion to support proposal made by Howard, second by Doug.</p> <p>Discussion from Patrick – read part staff report that turned down proposal from earlier this year. Clarification on how proposal got back on docket after being turned down. Kurt clarified plan and changes that have been made. Different application than previously submitted. Changed to reflect concerns of staff. Residential on busy street on first floor doesn't always make sense. Discussion of density of proposal.</p> <p>Approved: 7 Opposed: 8 Abstain: 2</p> <p>Committee will NOT recommend approval of proposal to Planning Commission.</p> <p>B. Discussion on future process for MNAC review of plan amendments (continued from August 8). Patrick McKee, Sunnyland will present ideas on an approach. (Postponed to next meeting)</p>	
5.	Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.	