



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

October 10, 2007

Linda Storck called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions – Linda Storck introduced Linda Stewart, new Neighborhood Services Coordinator. Linda Stewart spoke to the group. 	
	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Substitutions: Birchwood (Laurie Saling), CBD (Sue Thomas), Columbia (Edie Norton), Edgemoor (Pam Went), Samish (April Markiewicz) Absent: Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz), Sehome (Allen Matsumoto), York (Thomas Scott), WWU (Erik Lowe)</p>	
	<p>Minutes: Mike Robinson moved to approved minutes from September 12, second by Howard Steiner, minutes approved.</p>	
	<p>Neighborhood Insurance – John McGarrity Neighborhoods need to notify us immediately if incident happens. Policy paid for by City for those that chose to participate. Will need to be funded for next year.</p>	
2.	<p>Items from the Neighborhoods</p>	
	<p>Alabama Hill – working on neighborhood planning process. Getting bylaws up to date. 3 priorities: maintenance of neighborhood as mature neighborhood; traffic concerns; concerns with crime – malicious mischief, car break-ins, rentals, etc.</p> <p>Birchwood – Working on update plan process. Working on putting plan in proper format. Working on MYN efforts. Don Davis will attend Oct. 23rd meeting to discuss MYN. Diverse neighborhood – growing concerns about crime, drugs, etc.</p> <p>CBD – Issues: parking, public safety, waterfront connection. Late evening/ night noise/ behavior issues. Very happy with bicycle police.</p> <p>Columbia – planning for fountain in Fountain District. Plan should be completed in November. Will spend \$1000 prize from PSE Award on trees. Had one MYN training so far.</p> <p>Cornwall Park – shared concerns w/ bordering neighborhoods. Permit issued for youth center bordering Lettered Streets. www.northernneighbors.org. Fountain district meeting – met w/ city planners on policy change for urban village in Meridian/ Broadway area. Possibility for substantial housing. Hospital has expanded under IMP.</p>	

	<p>Edgemoor – Focused on CSN candidate forum held last week – very successful.</p> <p>Fairhaven – spoke about newspaper article on Sunday regarding neighborhood plan updates. Thom says MNAC needs to talk about the issue of working with developers. Moving along with neighborhood plan.</p> <p>GM/ Cordata – 3 concerns: Parks, public safety, traffic. Public safety in regards to crime and disaster preparedness. Spoke of concerns w/ privacy amongst citizens.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – concentrating on Old Town. 3 priorities: rezone, Old Town, outreach programs to keep people involved.</p> <p>Puget – PC passed Muljat proposal w/ conditions. Happy w/ continuing improvements on Puget Street. Parks and Rec Board Update – reviewed potential neighborhood park sites in north side of city, still in pre-negotiation stage.</p> <p>Roosevelt – Projects: resource center, time banking, MYN. 2 right turn lanes being installed this week on Woburn.</p> <p>Samish –Had worksession w/ PC on plan in September. Used South Hill's section on views and inserted into plan. People show up at meeting that haven't been involved in process. Had to explain how to address issues. Mayor Tim saluted neighborhood efforts, and April's leadership, on diligence and work on plan.</p> <p>Silver Beach –Working on neighborhood plan. Silver Beach would like more support from the City – particularly in regard to legal issues.</p> <p>South – Working on getting in touch with older residents in neighborhood. Richard Dietz spoke to group on elder friendly neighborhoods. Doing outreach with 55+ mobile parks, etc. Resulted in people wanting to do MYN. Spoke on Chuckanut Ridge EIS. Will participate in scoping process. Want City's help getting neighborhood involved in scoping process. Plan on hold until next year, after EIS happens. Want to work with plan in conjunction of what happens on Chuckanut Ridge.</p> <p>South Hill – working neighborhood plan update; interested in view preservation – height and bulk, vegetation. Interested in historic preservation. Working on improving website.</p> <p>Sunnyland – priority is successful rezone on WSDOT property; holding 2 public meetings in October on set of guidelines w/ owners of site. Dealing with density on site. Hired dispute resolution to facilitate 2 meetings. Spoke on Trader Joe's opening. Planning didn't increase any parking from earlier use. Affecting King Street.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Information from the City</p> <p>A. Waterfront Planning—Len Johnson, Waterfront Manager Len has background in large scale redevelopment projects with similar issues as our WF redevelopment. Public partnership is key in this project.</p>	

Moving forward ultimately towards Master Plan. EIS is state-mandated under SEPA. Port is lead agency. Schedule allows for a lot of public involvement. Final EIS will likely have preferred alternative that will be expression of public involvement.

* Meeting on Oct. 17, Wed 6 p.m. – review where we are in project – public forum.

Key project issues: infrastructure, phasing, forecasting financing.

Planning bridge access points.

Discussion.

Q on cleanup – clean up has to come first. All this planning is under the assumption that clean up is completed – over next 2-3 years. Clean up is decision of Ecology – already issued.

Tim spoke on various infrastructure pieces; desire to have working waterfront.

Challenges are resolved w/ good design. Len doesn't see it as a matter of time, but a matter of quality in terms of design.

Tim spoke of obligation to get LIFT funds – need to move forward to secure that \$\$.

B. Old Town Master Plan Proposal for MNAC Review: Tara Sundin, Development Specialist

Master Plan was presented to group at previous meeting.

Group's opportunity tonight is to review and comment before PC on November 8th.

Area is part of 2 neighborhoods: Lettered Streets and CBD.

Creating subarea plan for area; sets policy for area. Will bring forward development regulations at same time as plan presentation. 50 % of area is in public ownership – either through public rights of way or parks.

Within code, one section on this area. Uses: eclectic mix of uses.

Area has reduced parking overlay.

Staff made sure that what is being proposed can actually be built by developers.

Variations on building height and bulk, depends on FAR choice.

Discussion on FAR.

Q on what is tallest building – city proposing not to exceed 75 feet (7 story building).

Q on current landowners' expectations? City has been working closely with large property owner in area. Developer is comfortable with plan.

Q – same process for other urban villages? Old Town would become template for urban villages.

Relationship of overlay between 2 neighborhoods discussed. Old Town is part of City Center Master Plan. Lettered Streets proposing downzone in part of their neighborhood; PC will look at in conjunction with Old Town master plan.

C. Reports from the Mayor's Office

• Council Member Remarks - Terry Bornemann, Ward 5

Last addressed MNAC in spring. Discussed Landlord Accountability Ordinance. Council did get update on Monday Oct. 8th on where City is at on issue. Council has asked staff to put together funding for new enforcement officer to target problems w/ illegal boarding homes. Discussed issue of ADUs that came up previously – similar enforcement problems. Discussed density in urban villages. City needs to establish trust/ credibility that we will

	<p>enforce existing codes so that people are willing to help with other issues. Terry asked that neighborhoods continue to monitor this issue. Q on what failed with Fairhaven as model urban village? Old town had problems at the beginning as well. Fairhaven is distinct; property owners and neighborhood association members working individually. In next year, Terry wants to bring Growth Forums back. Pam Went suggested that education will help in issue of rooming houses. With a good enforcement officer comes education. Mayor Tim – 3 main complaints that may relate to this issue: litter, noise, parking.</p>	
6.	Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.	