



**City of Bellingham  
Mayor's Neighborhood  
Advisory Commission**

November 14, 2007

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission was called to order by Linda Stewart, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVED MINUTES (AS AMENDED)**

	<p><b>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance:</b>  <b>Substitutions:</b> Cornwall (Bill Hadley); Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Pamela Sorensen); Mt Baker (Elaine Cook); Samish (Garey Vodopich)  <b>Absent:</b> CBD (Vacant); Happy Valley (Jeff Sawyer); Whatcom Falls (Vacant); WWU (Erik Lowe)</p>
	Minutes from October 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting approved
	Linda discussed format of meeting. Kurt Baumgarten expressed that neighborhood discussion time tends to drag on sometimes. Advocates for timing sections in the future to allow for everyone to speak. Others in group agreed. Linda discussed using time to discuss common interests. Cathy Cameron commented that there should be happy medium, important for neighborhoods to speak in group. Linda agreed that happy medium will need to be struck.
	<b>Ice Breaker</b> – Linda introduced group exercise.
	<p><b>Neighborhood Roundtable – Updates and Information</b>  <b>Fairhaven</b> – open house, presented neighborhood plan to neighborhood, 60+ signed in, more showed up, took suggestions from everyone, will submit to City on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.  <b>Sunnyland</b> – Completed tree planting project.  <b>Mt Baker</b> – Priority #1 is how to divide large neighborhood  <b>GM/ Cordata</b> – Working on Sterling Drive area safety issues, working on new transportation plan for north end  <b>Roosevelt</b> – successful trick or treating route, right turn lane at Alabama/ Woburn almost complete. Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center gave award to neighborhood for work the association is doing to improve neighborhood.  <b>Birchwood</b> – meeting on Nov 27. to go through neighborhood plan update, housekeeping. Working on scheduling for next year.  <b>South</b> – didn't come to consensus on survey, will look at next year.  <b>Silver Beach</b> – Voted on neighborhood plan, made necessary changes, will go to Planning Commission soon. Wonderful support from Planning Dept re: work on N. Shore Drive between Alabama and Britton.</p>

	<p><b>Sehome</b> – draft language on plan done, working to incorporate comments to get done by Dec. 3.</p> <p><b>South Hill</b> – neighborhood plan text amendment on view preservation and height and bulk passed City Council. Moving on to view preservation with trees and vegetation, working on civil discourse.</p> <p><b>Cornwall Park</b> – Small and Simple grant project completed, beautification of medians on Broadway. Noah Booker has been key in helping w/ project. Project was also way under budget. Lettered Streets/ Cornwall/ Cornwall Park – considering joint motion for Urban Village at Fountain District. Working w/ Sunnyland on DOT site. Broadway Youth Center opening soon. John noted – 10<sup>th</sup> year of Cornwall Park association.</p> <p><b>Samish</b> – Working on enacting Rule of 3 ordinance; Comp Plan.</p> <p><b>Puget</b> –Lakeway rezone going to council on Monday (11/19/07). Parks and Rec Board update – City in process of leasing Lake Padden Golf Course. Big Rock Park committee looking for new members.</p> <p><b>Columbia</b> – Fountain District fountain planning is completed. 2 Map Your Neighborhood meetings so far. Howard Steiner noted – Fountain Project has one more meeting on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. 3 options left.</p> <p><b>York</b> – Issues w/ late night shuttle (WWU); didn't communicate w/ neighborhood prior. Goes down residential streets. Communicating with WWU. Process of drafting letter for Samish Way urban village proposal, working w/ Sehome. 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Caroling. Tree planting coming soon. Thanked planning dept for help w/ neighborhood planning process. (Cathy Cameron said York should be hearing from WWU.)</p> <p><b>Whatcom Falls</b> – Iain is only member, thinking about closing board down for a couple months.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> John McGarrity – clarification of insurance policy. Suggested having insurance committee to plan for next year. Linda spoke on importance of insurance policies; said having this policy will help neighborhood associations do business with government agencies. Suggestion (by Tom Scott) to have bulleted list of why having insurance policies in place is so important.</p>
	<p><b>Staff Reports and Information</b></p> <p><b>Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program – Advanced Planning – Chris Comeau</b>  Chris went over plan for next year. Cycle begins again in January to submit top 3 priorities for PW to do traffic counts on residential streets.  Would like neighborhoods to submit concerns by April 1. Explained how process will work. All documents will be sent out electronically, posted on website.  Steve – collector arterial – 2 in current neighborhood don't meet criteria (under BMC definition) of collector arterial.</p>

Chris – use definitions in BMC and Comp Plan. Clarified, asking for 2 things – NTSP and TIP.

Kurt Baumgarten – how to address issues w/ arterial streets? Chris – City manages arterials in much different way than residential streets. Police presence can help. Also need to look at what is generating traffic.

Suggestion that City do counts in May/ early June before students leave. Chris asked that those neighborhoods concerned w/ student population contact Chris to discuss scheduling.

### **Greg Aucutt, Planning – Why zoning ordinances need to be separated from Neighborhood Plan**

Used South Hill as example. Policy statement on views, architecture. Look at existing design standards, regulations.

Discussion on single family/ multi-family rezone process. Can amend zoning without amending neighborhood plan.

Q on spot rezone. Discussion on recent Whatcom Falls rezone. With Whatcom Falls, density didn't change, but lot sizes changed. Discussion on rezones, density, neighborhood plans.

Neighborhood proposed changes they think might implement the policy.

Tom discussed issue of 2 parallel processes – neighborhood plan update, amendment.

Linda suggested Greg come talk to group regularly to discuss this issue.

Sunnyland – doing policy statement and regulation to implement policy at same time. Can submit those things separately.

Q – budget for Planning Academy? Linda has brought question to Tim Stewart. Will have answer soon.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Tim Douglas – thanked everyone for energy in making Bellingham a great city. Has had chance to watch group over last year in action, group's work is tribute to Bellingham.

Transition plan in place for Mayor Dan Pike. Tim feels very optimistic about Dan Pike taking on role. Spoke on confusion of Planning processes; some portions of plan need to be fixed.

Added significant amounts to 2008 budget: working on urban centers; helping neighborhoods update plans.

Spoke on high numbers at various neighborhood meetings he has visited.

### **City Council Update – Barbara Ryan, Ward 6**

Council will do more in depth thinking about lakes, water quality, working with the County, Sudden Valley.

Tumultuous year in many ways – Comp Plan, and challenge to Growth Management Hearings Board; campaign; transportation issues (WTA has significant ridership increases.)

Added money in budget for Council Policy Analyst. Specific research projects come to council that they may not have time to delve as deeply into. Said MNAC has also been helpful in analyzing process. More money also for training for council w/ new councilmembers.

\$250,000 more for planning dept to develop TDR (transfer of development rights) program (watershed); bringing in expertise on urban centers.

Steve raised concern that people would like to see more long-range planners in dept.

Discussion. Mayor Tim – focus on what results we want and how to get there. Cautions on leaping to conclusion that adding more bodies is the solution. More of an issue of

managing resources.

Q – full-time council rather than part-time council? May have research analyst look at cities of similar size.

**Administrative Officer Report, Linda Storck**

Met with Mayor-elect Pike this afternoon. Concerned on neighborhood issues, supports full-time NSC. Reaffirms his value that every department in the City is a neighborhood department.

**Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report, Linda Stewart**

\$2500 Planning Academy funding – any unspent (once we have adopted budget) funding will carry over into 2008 to continue neighborhood plan update work.

Linda in process now of encouraging people to submit reimbursement requests.

\$1000 Neighborhood Support Grant – Will not carry over into 2008. Need to submit expenses soon. Have been able to carry over some expenses/ switch from Planning Academy into Neighborhood Support Grant.

At December meeting, Linda will hand out balance info. Neighborhood Assoc will have to sign Memorandums of Agreements to set up agreement to lay out what types of expenses are allowed.

Met with several neighborhood associations already. Asked people to contact her to meet with groups.

Workplan concept – listening, addressing issues of common interests, inter-related issues, build trust, cultivate relationships, enhance synergy around areas of interest, collaborate, facilitate process.

Brought up retreat. Will bring up issue in December. Asked members to think about issue in meantime.

Discussion on inviting new school superintendent to a MNAC meeting – impacts of schools on neighborhoods.

Proposed discussing items at next meeting to take to superintendent.

Reminded group that neighborhood plans are due December 3, 2007 by 5:00 p.m.

Presented info on new newsletter. Establish way for neighborhoods to contribute, reflects user-friendly format.

Has been important information vehicle, but difficult to find information within it.

Presented group with 2 new formats and rating sheets. Wants members to take options out, get comments, and return rating sheets to us by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Linda will email rating sheets, and link new concepts to website.

Iain – said ABN is working on bulk mail permit.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.**