



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

December 12, 2007

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

APPROVED (as amended) MINUTES

	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Absent: Happy Valley (Jeff Sawyer); Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz), Sehome (Allen Matsumoto), Whatcom Falls (Vacant)</p>
	<p>Linda welcomed Gary Vodopich as the new Samish neighborhood representative, Eric Weight as the alternate for Samish Congratulated Allen Matsumoto on reappointment; congratulated Cathy Cameron on new position as South Hill President. Said goodbye to Thom Prichard, welcomed newly nominated Fairhaven reps – Michael Lilliquist and Vince Biciunas</p>
	<p>Minutes: Cathy Cameron commented on November minutes. Greg's presentation <i>on the current city policy of separating the zoning ordinances from the neighborhood plans</i>. Proposed changing minutes to "why zoning ordinances <u>are</u> separated from Neighborhood Plan." Move to approve as amended by Brad Rose. Minutes approved.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Roundtable – Updates and Information</p> <p>Samish – would like to be included in City insurance policy. Neighborhood plan approved by City Council. Steve Wilson asked for clarification on plan's approval. Didn't seem like council fully understood plan. Gary said they probably will be readdressing zoning.</p> <p>Puget – appliance pick up through RE-Use Works. Parks and Rec report – working on update to Parks Rec Open Space Plan; in process of filling Stan Snapp's vacancy on board. Linda noted that Leslie Bryson is going to come to January meeting to discuss open space plan. Steve asked who consultant is: Edie said Hough, Beck and Baird. Contract is currently being negotiated.</p> <p>Edgemoor – Obtaining resources for planning academy.</p> <p>Silver Beach – election of officers. Fritz Anthony (PW) coming to talk about North Shore Drive re-surfacing project. Paying attention to how they handle stormwater. Proud of Silver Beach board. Started out w/ zero 1 year ago, very successful year.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – Garden calendars are done – fundraiser for next year. \$12.</p> <p>South Hill – Cathy is new president. Had meeting in November on view preservation, trees, vegetation. Wanted polite, civil discourse in meeting. Went successfully.</p>

WWU – successfully ran late-night shuttle for 1 quarter. Met w/ County Auditor to work out placement of ballot box on campus for 2 days for next year's election. Problem with shuttle has been resolved (will move shuttle back to arterial).

Birchwood – Trying to move people from snail mail into e-mail. Linda said ABN did secure bulk mail permit. Richard Maneval has more information, or aobn.org

Fairhaven – Fairhaven Harbor did get approval for building. Did get neighborhood plan update submitted on time. Working on writing into bylaws attendance requirements. Cathy asked if City could help somehow on guidance for this issue. Linda said we may be able to provide more guidance and leadership in presenting options for neighborhoods to choose. Thom noted that wording was very inclusive. Tom – distinction between being member and being in association. York has requirement to run a project, and attend certain number of meetings. Michael Lilliquist – problem in Fairhaven came with *definition of "business operators" vs. "business owners."*

Guide Meridian – got 2nd amendment to plan turned in. Scholarships for disaster preparedness planning. Hoping that 7 acres of park land the county has agreed to sell to the city will go through. Adjacent to 20-acre park. Lots of development happening – requires 2nd transportation study. Would like to see Kline road straight thru to Guide, city doesn't agree. Transportation study will be long discussion, possible contention. GM/ C accepted language Kathryn suggested – includes owners and managers of businesses.

Roosevelt – hosting 2 programs for Get Moving program in January. Read Aloud program rec'd award.

Columbia – President Katie Hinton will step down as President at next meeting.

South – City has issued EIS notification for Chuckanut Ridge, for scoping meeting in January. Will give opportunity to comment on EIS and scope. Have areas in neighborhood to provide for growth. Plan to deal with growth in own neighborhood. Added several hundred housing units in neighborhood since '80s. Area (Chuckanut Ridge) is difficult to develop. Discussion on recent editorials in Herald. Kurt – question on when zoning was changed – lack of public record. Kurt asked how that zoning change happened without a record. Asked City to produce documentation that changed zoning from single-family. Linda said she is familiar with issue and will help Steve to get a response. Garey asked about Chuckanut Mtn Park District.

Sunnyland – complete neighborhood plan amendment, submitted on Dec 3.

Cornwall Park – Youth Center is going smoothly. Looking for cash donations. Near the middle school to keep kids busy after school. Working with surrounding neighborhoods on Fountain District.

York – Late Night shuttle – changed. Want to work with committee in advance. Newsletter is self-sufficient (The Yorker). Garden Club had progressive dinner. Submitted Letter of Support for Samish Way urban village concept (Sehome). Looking for student reps on board. www.yorkneighborhood.org.

Staff Reports and Information

2008 Small and Simple Grants Process – Travis Cary

Last year, 11 out of 23 grants went to neighborhood associations. Associations can apply, can partner with organizations. Identify public benefit. Occur within City of Bellingham. \$35,000 available total. Amounts between \$500 and \$2500.

Deadline – Due Friday, February 15th.

Individuals cannot apply at this time – need to go through organizations/ associations.

Match requirement – 1 to 1. If asking for \$1000, project should have value of \$2000.

Doesn't have to be cash match. Can use volunteer hours, in-kind.

New this year – volunteer hours worth \$15/ hour. Looking for projects that will get people to come out and get involved in n'hood.

Competitive process. (Last year funded \$44,000 in projects through funding from other departments.)

Reimbursement grant; funds need to be expended first.

Q- newsletter? A – yes. Promoting neighborhoodassoc. for the good of the city to have strong n'hoods.

Q – website development? A – probably; look at how it will provide public benefit.

Travis is available to help with any questions.

Q on doing project on city-owned property? Need to work with department responsible for that area. Ex – if planting trees in right-of-way, need to work with Public Works.

Library Planning Update – Pamela Nyberg Kiesner

Pam is willing to come to neighborhood association meetings to talk about libraries.

Library usage increasing each month. 2007 – 1.3 million check outs. Trying to meet community need.

August – began partnership with WCC for drop off and pick up. Public Library patrons can use some of resources at WCC.

WCC library not open during school breaks. But open 65 hours a week during school.

WCC asked if Public Library would be interested in partnering on new building on campus to have public library space. Library board voted yes to explore idea further.

Waiting to see if funding is approved by state.

Working on east side with Barkley Village. Expect to open with limited hours – 20 hours in spring. 1000 square feet for pick up/ drop off. Some computers, children's. Space offered free or little charge. Main expense is in staffing costs.

South side – Fairhaven branch. Structural improvement and historical updates will cost about \$2mill – plan to include in ballot measure.

Central Library – consultants working on description of central library. Developed with lots of community input. 2 open houses held so far. Survey. 4 focus groups, key stakeholder interviews. Launching telephone poll this week. All public responses are on library's website – www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org

Size of central library and costs available by January. Time line is to have ballot measure in spring or fall 2008. Begin design work if bond passes. Grand opening expected in 2012.

Steve – q on Fairhaven's structural review 25 years ago. Building is 103 years old. This recent conditional assessment was more comprehensive. Costs also include more historical update.

Q on historical renovations – why included in library bond? Pam said that conclusion

hasn't been reached definitively. Appropriate way of funding those improvements.
Q – any contact w/ WWU to do same thing? Not at this point. Q on advertising drop box at WCC? Want library use to be as convenient as possible.
Advertise through website, flyers, people on campus. Use is growing.
GM/C association is very interested in having branch. Is board working on idea?
Board is still studying idea. Working with experts on what support a community can give a library. Pam thinks in the future we will need a branch. Currently board is looking at opportunity to partner with WCC as exciting opportunity.
John McGarrity mentioned using schools as possible branch libraries.
Pam – open to talking about all alternatives. Particularly working with schools raises security concerns. Email Pam at pkiesner@cob.org

Mayor's Report – Mayor Dan Pike

Thanked attendees. Also thanked Linda Stewart. Great resource to connect community resources. Many concerns in community, growth, infill. Wants to work on open space issues more generally, how we deal with growth as a community. Issues around the city about access to open space; needs to be provided in equitable fashion. Thanked group for contributions.

Q on logo – where does he stand? Mayor thinks we will revisit issue, committed to using local talent

John McGarrity commented on collapsing partnership between city and n'hoods at the time – has been reestablished. Remaining concern – b'ham is 2 cities, older white, wealthy single family homes, and poorer, apartment dwellers; is city putting aside capital to fund larger population – urban villages?

Mayor Pike – committed to “complete streets” – can't build something if you can't afford streets and sidewalks.

Mike Robinson – city-county joint watershed project; is county moving along? Mayor Pike met w/ County Executive and Deputy Administrator. Pete Kremen and Tim Douglas had verbal agreement.

Believes they have reached agreement. Interlocal ready by mid-February. Possibility of hiring person, nation-wide search, to be point person for lake issues.

Administrative Officer Report – Linda Storck

Been working on newsletter and work plan. Working on how to get information to people more concisely, electronically.

Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report – Linda Stewart

Newsletter Project Update:

Revealed winner of 2 choices. #1 won. "Neighborhood News" for name.

Real copy to come in January. Will get to Bellingham neighborhoods through MNAC reps. Info will go out electronically. Linda went over process for changing newsletter.

Primary distribution will be electronic, but will be easily printable.

Want info to be timely and accurate. Want to help people plan for future events.

Will publish last week of every month. Would like MNAC to be venue to decide information that gets published in newsletter.

Cathy – current newsletter goes out w/out any work from members, problems with proposed concept.

Linda – new way to be more collaborative with neighborhoods. Way to promote event, activity in neighborhood.

Kurt – compromise to solicit ideas via email to put in newsletter; doesn't want to take time away from meeting.
John McGarrity – look at set format. Vehicle to provide ways for neighborhoods to raise issues. Discussed history of newsletter.
Linda will come up with some criteria, come back with mock up in January. Will email criteria.
Discussion of how best to choose items for newsletter.
Julie Guy - Suggested utilizing BTV10 – “Newsletter Now Available”
Steve – discussed setting agendas. How do we set an agenda for something that comes from neighborhoods?

2007 Close-Out/ 2008 Planning

Discussed developing job description for MNAC members.
Discussion of strategy session/ retreat/ establishing priorities. Steve, Kurt, Edie, and Tom volunteered to meet with Linda to discuss.
NSC Updates –
Questions on timing of traffic counts; doing traffic counts when school is in session for areas that are affected. PW will make every effort to make that work.
NTSP – April 1 is deadline for top 3 priority list. Chris will come back in January to give further info. 6- year TIP deadline is March 1. Linda will be contacting people to find out who traffic contacts are.
Linda congratulated everyone on the work they did on neighborhood plan.
21 plan updates were submitted. Learning from experiences last year. Review committee includes staff from Parks, Planning, Public Works, and NSC.

Planning Academy Grant contract modifications have been mailed out. Deadline to receive those is this Friday, Dec. 14.
Extends time you can spend \$\$.
\$1000 Neighborhood Support Grant – approved. Requires task order; that will be sent out to neighborhood presidents. Need 2007 invoices by Dec 31st. New instruction sheet will come out.

David Doll, DC of Police – Increased police emphasis related to residential burglaries/ car prowls on south end, Alabama Hill. Suspicious activity should be reported to 911. Bellis Fair security reports increase in vehicle prowls. BPD is working with Bellis Fair security for increased emphasis.

Doug - Traffic calming – none met threshold last time; but traffic calming device was placed on Vining Street.
Can Chris send out chart to group before next MNAC meeting?
Is it possible to remove devices?

Discussed changing meeting time – group sticking with 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.