



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

January 9, 2008

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

APPROVED MINUTES

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| | <p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Absent: Alabama Hill (Vacant); CBD (Vacant); Happy Valley (Jeff Sawyer); Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz); South Hill (Cathy Cameron); WWU (Erik Lowe) Substitutions: Birchwood (Barbara Campbell); Whatcom Falls (Iain Davidson)</p> |
| | <p>Minutes from December meeting approved as amended.</p> |
| | <p>Linda welcomed Michael Lilliquist as the new Fairhaven Rep; Vince is new Fairhaven alternate. Linda acknowledged Doug Bestle as outgoing Alabama Hill rep; Rebecca Johnson has been nominated as new rep. Welcomed Dean Kahn, Bellingham Herald. Linda congratulated Julie Guy on Herald Recognition</p> |
| | <p>Neighborhood Roundtable – Updates and Information Sehome – Celebrated submitting plan in December, met w/ Planning to work on Samish way urban village update. Fairhaven – New community boating center being established; community members talking w/ Port as part of WF update process. Green power community challenge – Fairhaven was winner – buy in from various groups to give away free bus passes. CSN meeting to provide input on scoping hearing on Fairhaven Highlands. Cornwall – starting emergency preparedness work. Kicking off urban village planning for fountain district. Edgemoor – Also talking about scoping process for EIS for Fairhaven Highlands. New 4,000 sq foot addition to 4,000 sq foot house. Goes against 5500 sq foot limit. Columbia – working on yearly planning, applying for small and simple grants, spending green power prize money. GM/ Cordata – Working on planning Cordata park. City and County negotiating more land to be added to park. Applied for small and simple grant. Summit meeting in April, inviting businesses. Picnic in July. Concerned about narrowness of Cordata parkway between roundabouts at Kellogg and Westerly. Concerned w/ congestion in area. Library presence at community college isn't sufficient. Concerned about rush for infill without amenities. Roosevelt – One resident earned award for Read Aloud program; developed brochures</p> |

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| | <p>for time-banking.</p> <p>Sunnyland – Next meeting NWCAA will attend to answer questions on industrial odors.</p> <p>Puget – general meeting in February.</p> <p>South – general membership meeting on Jan. 30. Kick off n’hood survey. Participating w/ CSN on EIS scoping.</p> <p>Silver Beach – working on goal setting for the year. WTA will be running bus service up Barkley Blvd.</p> <p>Birchwood – crime increased in neighborhood. Problems w/ police dept staffing. Will also be working on survey. Barbara asked other neighborhoods to share their surveys. Iain noted there is collection of surveys on ABN website.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – working on small and simple grant; looking forward to PC next week w/ Old Town update.</p> <p>Mt. Baker – Now have all pertinent parties in City – input on dividing neighborhood.</p> <p>Samish – Presentation on re-zone request at Elwood and Lincoln Streets – mixed use. Talked about zoning issues.</p> <p>Alabama Hill – planning group met. Board meeting later in January.</p> |
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| | <p><u>Staff Reports and Information</u></p> <p>Mayor’s Report Report on what City is doing to support neighborhoods. Thanked group for work they do. Discussions w/ staff of neighborhood code and character task force; second planning academy – link into development code update project. Received 21 applications for neighborhood plan amendments. 7 came from neighborhood associations. Currently being examined by inter-departmental team. Currently accepting apps for small and simple grants. Great project - exemplifies what he thinks is great about Bellingham. Mayor Pike thanked Linda for the work she is doing. Steve Wilson – question on inter-departmental review – get to all this year? Mayor Pike – would like to get to all this year. Would like to get out of process of getting all at one time. Mike Robinson – question on leadership style? Consensus building; talking through problems. Certain situations demand moving forward more quickly. More brains engaged in ideas, the better. John McGarrity – DOT site on Sunset, how handling 2 proposals. Mayor Pike is aware, but hasn’t given a lot of thought at this point.</p> <p>Parks, Rec and Open Space Plan, Leslie Bryson Update park plan every 6 years. WA wildlife and rec program – gives grant \$\$, require update every 6 years. Steering committee – Parks Board, Greenways, County Parks. Work done 2 years ago on N. Bellingham trail plan – will go into new plan. Identified</p> |
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some trails in north area. Last year, Greenway input process; helped ID projects needed, will also be incorporated in plan.

Also want to hear new ideas.

Will be looking at LOS for Bellingham. Combination of many parks as well as environmentally critical areas. 3200 acres currently – includes some watershed properties.

Discussion on comp plan, capital facilities plan.

Discussion on differences between management/ operational decisions. Leslie is happy to come to neighborhood meetings.

Port will be included in Park plan.

Linda commented on more opportunities for public involvement. Will work on getting info on meetings out better.

Neighborhood Transportation Planning, Chris Comeau

Soliciting info from neighborhoods. Restructures and re-formats process for traffic requests. Callers do get re-directed to neighborhood contacts. Process attempts to get consensus from neighborhoods. Information is all online.

Commented on doing counts when WWU is in session in certain neighborhoods. Chris will do everything he can to get counts done at appropriate time. York, Sehome, Sunnyland have requested counts during school year. Chris asked people to email him with those requests.

NTSP Deadline is April 1st.

Discussed differences between residential streets and arterials.

Discussion on counts. Last year – 40 street requests. 5 qualified for Phase 2. Will come this year to propose traffic calming. 2-year process.

Discussion on particular neighborhood issues. Counts aren't just based on volume; based on variety of factors.

Chris offered to work with neighborhoods on issues.

Contact Chris with more questions.

Linda put together document that compares and contrasting NTSP and TIP.

6 Year TIP. Appropriate place to make request for item such as a sidewalk. TIP should be #1 priority for big capital projects. Competes city-wide w. other projects.

TIP Deadline is March 1st. 6-year TIP draft goes to council in April. Needs to be submitted to state by end of June.

MNAC and BPAC priorities both looked at.

Chris suggested that people look at project list in comp plan to decide priorities.

Project list is dependant on money needed.

City Council Update, Louise Bjornson

Thanked group for hard work. Neighborhood picnics, street tree projects, etc.

Commented on how nice trees are for community.

Commented on growth – issue goes back many years. Group's efforts to keep neighborhoods good place to live are vital. Emphasizing mixed-use, residential downtown, recognized efforts of Sehome Neighborhood on Samish Way.

Waterfront – need to keep working on Waterfront to ensure it fits with what Bellingham wants. Visions of Bellingham – looked at pictures of what we liked and didn't like.

Neighborhood Services Coordinator Update, Linda Stewart

Planning Academy – plan to have additional Planning Academy.

New push to revise the way we review plan updates and work with neighborhoods on plan updates, and Mayor Pike's 100-day plan.

Discussion on getting people involved. Boards can identify issues. Ways for City to work

on training.
Questions will be vetted by MNAC at next meeting.
Q – on when PA might be held? Don't know at this time.
Linda thinks late Spring. New boardmembers/ elections. Requires new paperwork.
Please let Linda know when elections occur and new members.
Newsletter – software glitch w/ newsletter update. Update should come in February.
One issue is making newsletter easily downloadable.
Send Linda your neighborhood newsletters.

Dean Kahn, Bellingham Herald

Dean will have own blog – “Now and Then” – referring to local history, and neighborhood information, city life, transportation, growth, etc. Place also to post calendar events, info about neighborhood association.

2008 Planning

Linda discussed 2008 retreat plan

Objectives:

- Review and clarify MNAC role
- Refine process of working together
- Initiate 2008 MNAC work plan

Beneficial to decide in retreat session. Sketch out 2008 work plan and bench marks.
Communication and Integration with other Boards and Commission.
Presented functional continuum.
Work is outside mandate connected to Comp Plan.

Does group think this is a good way to spend time together.
Tom – spend more time on priority list; limiting time on mission statement.

Will work w/ Mayor to mesh ideas of what he wants. Group can formulate a work plan.
½ day session.
Way to clarify work for the year. Way for group to be reflective.
February 23rd – Saturday a.m. works for group. 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Linda would like reps and alternates to attend. If rep can't come, please send alternate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.