



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

February 13, 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

	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Absent: Alabama Hill (Vacant); CBD (Vacant); Mt Baker (Robin Hitz); Whatcom Falls (Vacant); WWU (Erik Lowe) Substitutions: South (Paul Olmstead)</p>
	<p>Minutes approved from January meeting.</p>
	<p>Linda discussed new authorized signature form for neighborhoods to update.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Roundtable</p> <p>Sehome – Planning dept is recommending neighborhood plan to go forward – focus on Samish Way Urban village. Putting together agenda for the year. Working w/ Planning on roles and responsibilities for process.</p> <p>Birchwood – plan did not get recommended to go forward. Hoping for future direction. Kurt is new neighborhood president. Traffic committee active; land use design committee.</p> <p>York – several committees meeting on regular basis. Traffic taking priority</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – plan did not get recommended to move forward. Feel they didn't get good direction from Planning Dept. Will come forward again. Working on new park design. Working on transportation issues. NW/ I-5 Intersection – very dangerous. Working to try to alleviate problems.</p> <p>Columbia – submitted small and simple grant proposal for tree planting, new bench on West Street. Updating neighborhood plan in conjunction w/ Fountain District.</p> <p>Fairhaven – established environmental stewardship committee – Padden Creek. Been working on Padden Creek issues for several years. Plan did not get recommended. Haskell property in Fairhaven did go through.</p> <p>Roosevelt – planning for year: picnics, parade, etc.</p> <p>South Hill – need help w/ bylaws & membership voting requirements. Questions on membership dues. Discussed having several meetings on one night. Request that City pay more attention to neighborhoods and in terms of scheduling meetings. Request consistent notification on permitting. Doesn't think application notification was thorough. Working on transportation improvements. Attended session at WWU on growth mgmt act, UGA; one comment was that Fairhaven Highlands had zero safety factor.</p>

	<p>Cathy did say her comments aren't directed toward City staff; has problems with the system. Mayor said we're trying to do better.</p> <p>South – Neighborhood plan not recommended to move forward. Working on next steps. Preparing to mail neighborhood survey. Quite a response to Fairhaven Highlands scoping. Tim – working on scope; received approx 800 comments. Paul thanked Tim for holding scoping meeting. Mayor Pike also asked that people take info back to the city.</p> <p>Sunnyland – Working on 2 small and simple grants – tree planting & soccer goals for Memorial Park.</p> <p>Puget – Working on transportation, updating neighborhood plan. Park & Rec update – serving as steering committee for Park, Rec & Open Space plan. Discussed public input process -- survey. More opportunity for public input on <i>April 7</i>.</p> <p>Samish – Thanked BPD for helping get drug house out of neighborhood. Rule of 3 keeps coming up; wondering where process is at. Linda - plan going to Council on Feb 25. Mayor – new policy recently put in place for reducing hook up charges for sewer line.</p> <p>Cornwall Park – Meeting soon to discuss urban village. Held last meeting at new Youth Center. Center geared toward middle school youth. Thanked Linda for touring neighborhood. Working on disaster preparedness.</p> <p>Silver Beach – Healing wounds from fall. Trying to come up w/ ideas for participation. Possibility of absentee ballots for major decisions. Asked if group had experience. Don Davis presented to group on MYN. Neighborhood plans are not going forward. City wants neighborhood to get together and come up with one plan. Discussed problems w/ Herald's allowing people to post comments anonymously.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – Working on small and simple grants. Old Town coming to council on Feb 25. Rezone on March 3.</p> <p>Happy Valley – Jeff noted city-wide increase in graffiti.</p> <p>Linda commented on questions about voting, bylaws. Said City is committed to providing some technical assistance to neighborhoods. Working w/ Legal Dept. on those issues. Individual neighborhoods can choose how to operate, and bylaws need to reflect that. Linda will put together some options for people. Discussion.</p> <p>Q on city policy - recognition of neighborhoods. Will discuss at retreat; also discussing w/ neighborhood presidents.</p>
	<p>Items from the City</p>
	<p>Community Policing, David Doll Spoke on serious armed robbery series. Will take help from citizens. Reiterated to group that they should call 911 if they see something suspicious. Re-doing community policing program w/ officers. David spoke on new outreach program. Assigned 2 sergeants to each neighborhood. Suggested to send email to sergeant w/ issues. Linda will help get contact info out. If you have problems – start w/ sergeants assigned. If that doesn't get a response; contact Lt. Steve Felmley – 778-8731. Noted that each officer has about 4 neighborhoods. Assigned to lead problem solving in neighborhoods. Takes effect now.</p>

	<p>If still not getting anywhere, contact David Doll: 778-8604. David would like someone from BPD at neighborhood meetings. Great way to relay information between department and citizens. Q on reinstating police academy? Yes. Q on National Night Out – always had partnership in past. Neighborhoods will take over coordinating national night out. Richard will work w/ Linda on coordination. Linda thanked David for coming and talking about program. Will get group more info on upcoming training. David may be contacting reps from time to time regarding situations.</p>
	<p>- Break -</p>
	<p>Linda handed out BPAC TIP Priority List. Want neighborhoods to think about coordinating their TIP priorities. Q on submitting TIP Priorities – submit to Linda.</p>
	<p>Mayor's Report Supporting Neighborhoods & Mayor's 100-Day Plan Apologized for not giving MNAC more advance notice of UGA issue that went before of a heads up on that issue. Discussed press release on Planning Academy and Code & Character Taskforce. Making appointments to C&CTF. Named appointees, need MNAC rep. Achieve infill, protect neighborhood character. Limited length taskforce – approx 3 sessions to hammer out what Planning Academy will look like. Plan is to have C&CTF start work in a month. 3-month process; done by end of summer. Taskforce will help build curriculum for next Planning Academy – focused on sustainability, tools for infill, neighborhood character. Academy will continue to be exchange of knowledge. Want to develop list of tools that neighborhoods can use to propose infill that enhances the neighborhoods. Used issue of detached ADUs as example of something that may work in some neighborhoods that won't work in others. Make definitions available to be discussed. Q on how watershed plays into infill? Mayor – careful about growth in watershed; maybe look at mitigating runoff. Looking at issue of sustainable development. Need those tools and techniques in development code. Need to have dialogue on terminology. Goes along with code update. Menu gives series of boilerplates. Patrick – discussion on allowing different types of development in single-family zoning. Tim - Proposed zoning still has to follow the process. Mayor – we need to look at infill, not just in single-family neighborhoods. Committed to not expanding the UGA. Have to look at other ways to accommodate growth.</p> <p>Way to come up w/ items appropriate for that neighborhood. Tom clarified – talking about tools, and how we use them.</p> <p>Michael, Kurt, Tom are nominated to be on C&CTF. Each nominee gave a brief speech.</p> <p>Meetings are Tuesday 3:00 – 6.</p> <p>Kurt is elected to serve on C&CTF.</p> <p>Jeff- brought up Happy Valley's neighborhood update 7 years ago – very contentious. Don't want to go through process again. Discussed issue w/ ADU across the street from his house; impact of carriage houses, ADUs, etc. on neighborhoods.</p> <p>Mayor said he knows of a lot of examples where this type of housing isn't a good idea.</p>

	<p>The exercise is an opportunity and a challenge to look at infill and impacts of that infill. Need to balance variety of needs. No easy answer to address challenges.</p> <p>Allen – clarified this menu also provides protections from infill people don't want.</p> <p>Tim – used example of Old Town and Lettered Streets – successful to tie both rezones together.</p> <p>Allen – suggested going across neighborhood boundaries – trade one thing for another.</p> <p>Pamela – several different kinds of infill recently in neighborhood – revitalized neighborhood.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Plan Updates</p> <p>Tim spoke on annual review process. Had 23 proposals in this year. Don't want to raise expectations.</p> <p>Focusing on 4 planning efforts.</p> <p>2 Major Neighborhood Updates:</p> <p>Sehome Neighborhood – for design and entitlement of urban village along Samish Way. Darby Galligan will be project manager.</p> <p>Samish Neighborhood – worked very hard and diligently to get plan approved. Heard over and over about concurrency. Neighborhood wanted to preserve natural resources. Kathy Bell will be project manager. May allow alternate types of housing w/out increasing density – to preserve natural environment.</p> <p>2 site for creative design and infill:</p> <p>Haskell Site in Fairhaven. Zoned industrial. City will initiate and support design charette with neighbors, property owners, city. Come out w/ development agreement. Some work has already been done in the neighborhood on some designs – Michael asks that that work not be lost.</p> <p>Sunnyland – WSDOT Site. Same design charette plan.</p> <p>City resources will be used for these 5 big projects (PA, 2 neighborhood plans, 2 site specific plans)</p> <p>Kurt – what should neighborhoods that weren't selected do?</p> <p>Tim – need to set up expectations.</p> <p>1- pay attention to planning academy; 2- identify 3 big issues in neighborhood; 3- Identify when City has resources to get to you.</p> <p>Linda stressed to group that Planning is the technical expert. Contact Nicole. Tim is happy to come to neighborhood meetings to discuss.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report –</p> <p>Linda will follow up with group via email.</p> <p>Reminded people of MNAC Retreat.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>