



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

March 12, 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: CBD (Vacant); Mt Baker (Robin Hitz); Whatcom Falls (Vacant) Substitutions: Sehome (Charles Dyer); Silver Beach (Kate Grinde); South Hill (Bob Christman); WWU (Dan McLafferty)</p>
	<p>Agenda Update: Code Enforcement Update postponed.</p>
	<p>Minutes approved from February meeting.</p>
	<p>Health Counts Community Conversations – Susan Sloan, Whatcom County Health Department Sent out invitation to Health Counts Community Conversations to member. Susan Sloan presented to group. Handed out overview of project. County is developing comprehensive health plan. Purpose is to be guidance document for county, or for anyone in county. Hoping for citizen-driven process. Holding forums to get citizen input. Health committee formed in council. 4 areas to focus on. Conducted key stakeholder interviews in variety of areas. Conducting focus groups. Handed out sign up sheet. Would like neighborhood groups to form focus groups. Holding 9 public forums. First one – Wed, March 19th 9-noon at St Joseph community health education center. Not a presentation format, ability to provide input in small groups. Handed out flyers on upcoming forums. If anyone wants posters, contact Susan Sloan at 676-6724, x50838 or ssloan@co.whatcom.wa.us</p> <p>Group discussion.</p>
	<p>Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, Jim McCabe Quick update on public process. Leslie presented in January on PROS Update. Gets updated every 6 years. Public meeting on April 7th, 6-8:30 at Library Lecture Room. Online survey at www.cob.org, also conducting phone survey. Preview of draft plan. Goes to Council. Opportunity to give input on what you like, don't like about parks, open space, etc.</p> <p>Pamela commented that residents are very pleased w/ online survey. Steve – asked if Jim thought MNAC should review? Jim felt people were pleased with ways they can give input. Jim is current chair of Parks Board, which is serving as steering committee. Steve - Question on how the Parks board and MNAC function? Is Parks Board review effective mechanism? Jim – similar role of advising the city.</p>

	<p>Kurt – Q on Little Squalicum Park ownership – goes through Parks Dept. Kurt encouraged Parks board to look into that issue. Variety of problems going on at park. Steve – if someone in neighborhood has something to bring to Parks board, what is best way to do that? Jim suggested people contact Paul Leuthold.</p>
	<p>Linda welcomed new appointees – Pamela Sorensen (Guide Meridian Rep), Judy Van Woudenberg (Guide Meridian Alternate), and Rebecca Johnson (Alabama Hill Rep)</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Roundtable</p> <p>Birchwood – working on comment letter re: Squalicum Lofts. New board members. Put together community night at Shuksan Middle School – very diverse, good turnout.</p> <p>York – working on neighborhood plan & NTSP.</p> <p>Lettered Streets – Cornwall Water main replacement, F Street. Concern about WF plan wiping out Granary Building. Old Village Trail work party on April 12, 9-noon. Old Town Subarea plans went through council.</p> <p>Roosevelt – Holding Spanish/ English exchange gathering. Slavic community meetings every Saturday.</p> <p>Fairhaven – sent 2 letters thanking City for work on trail to Padden Creek – immediate, wonderful response from Parks Dept. Other for middle schools students volunteering for trail cleanup. Haven't given up on plan being docketed. Main argument of not having sufficient resources isn't a good enough reason not to docket. Charette on Haskell Property. March 29 – Fairhaven Plant Sale</p> <p>WWU – Discussed recent push from BPD to step up parking enforcement – causing stress for students. Weren't informed of enforcement. Enforcing 24 hour limit. Concerns about ordinance. Lack of parking. Ideally, would like something done w/ ordinance. Or would at least like more information.</p> <p>Sehome – Plan is going forward; working on sense of community within Sehome. More community activities. Samish Way Urban center is time-consuming. Supposed to come up with new name. Also tracking what's been happening in Old Town – may be similar process.</p> <p>Puget – new officers elected. Park board update – connector under I-5 – Bay to Baker Trail Corridor; Big Rock Garden presentations – improvements.</p> <p>Sunnyland – Patrick received inquiry about house w/ complaint filed – re: 3 unrelated. House is a Clean and Sober House. Nothing can be done to enforce Rule of 3 w/ these houses. Suggestion to contact County Health Dept. Linda will follow up with Patrick. Linda will work w/ getting the group some more information.</p> <p>Happy Valley – Elected new officers. Presentation on new community garden on east side of 21st St & Larrabee. City property. Group was questioned if they had asked the city, but didn't think they had.</p> <p>Cornwall – new boardmembers elected.</p> <p>Silver Beach – Working on plan update.</p>

	<p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – Plan was put forward, still needs a lot of work. Meeting attendance is growing. On March 22nd, conservation district is having native plant sale at new location of Co-Op. working on business conference.</p> <p>Samish – elections soon. Recent car prowler/ burglary/ mail box smashing.</p> <p>South – sent out survey in February. Putting results together. Working on website development. Held MYN event. Found out through grapevine that house at Rose Garden has been put up for sale. Disappointed they didn't hear news from Parks Dept. Scoping summary was issued yesterday for Fairhaven Highlands EIS. Encouraged to see something in print. 10 alternatives proposed.</p> <p>Columbia – Linda congratulated Edie on new position as neighborhood president. Looking for a few more board members. Community Sergeant attended last meeting. Very happy w/ program. Also sending comment letter on Squalicum Lofts project – concerns w/ environmental impact. Organizing street tree protect. Plan update – coordinating w/ Fountain District Planning. Encouraging 3 (LS, Columbia, Cornwall) neighborhoods to work on visioning for project. Fountain Park is moving forward. Asked for small and simple grant for project.</p> <p>South Hill – Tim Stewart attended last meeting.</p>
	<p>- Break -</p>
	<p>Group Discussion – Debrief on Retreat, Linda Stewart Handed out priority list from retreat. Group felt the retreat was productive, worth the time. Updated from 2006 workplan items. Items came out of small groups at retreat. Showed breakdown of number 1, 2, 3 rankings. Linda wants group to focus on what priorities might be. Discussion on ranking system. Purpose of list is to look at what group is going to work on. Linda noted progress on a couple items. Linda has ideas about specific action steps that she will bring to group next month. Linda will send out that workplan prior to next meeting. Group discussion. Linda – neighborhood plan proposals are posted on website, input can still be made. Forum can be provided if that is what group wants to work on. Suggestion for next time – build review into workplan. Next September/ October. Proposes looking about how we might review plans. Work plan item. Build time for workplan check in at MNAC meetings. Pamela – reminded people that individuals can submit their own plan proposals. Suggests people keep an eye on individual applications. Patrick – need subcommittee to discuss process to review submittals. Should be given list shortly after Dec. 1. Pamela Sorensen, Patrick McKee, Iain Davidson, Michael Lilliquist, Tom Scott volunteered to be on subcommittee. Linda will set up meeting w/ volunteers. Edie agreed to work w/ Linda on draft orientation packet, handbook for members. Rebecca & Iain also agreed to help w/ review of materials when developed.</p>
	<p>NSC Items (6 Year TIP, Neighborhood Assoc Meeting Calendar, Updating Authorized Signature Form) Need 2008 Updated Authorized Signature Form. Linda needs help getting these back.</p> <p>2008 Meeting schedule – still need info from Alabama Hill, CDB, Cornwall, Happy Valley, Sehome. Trying to help people get word out about meetings. Can't do that w/ incomplete list. Communication needs to be two-way.</p>

	<p>Newsletter – working on format for neighborhoods to have input. Very easy, low level of work for neighborhoods. Linda is working on managing electronic information. Newsletter will go out 1st day of the month.</p> <p>Community Oriented Policing Workshops – RSVP by March 28th.</p> <p>6 Year TIP Submittals – didn't receive very many. Chris Comeau asked if group thought this was worthwhile? Yes. Brad – worthwhile if they see work getting done from submittals. Might be seen as waste of time. Linda commented that some years it will be worthwhile. NTSP due April 1st. Chris C will come to April meeting.</p>
	<p>Mayor's Report, Mayor Dan Pike <i>Planning Academy II – Green Bellingham; Achieving Infill & Enhancing Character.</i> Thinking about submitting Planning Academy 1 for AWC innovative awards.</p> <p>April 30, May 21, 28 – 6 pm to 9 pm. Want to stimulate conversations between neighborhoods, developers, others in community. Opportunities to achieve infill while maintaining, enhancing neighborhood character. Starting in April – location tbd. Before PA starts, Code & Character taskforce will work on curriculum. Planning for 80-100 people to attend Planning Academy. Think about how we can do things better. Working on processes for improvement. Want people to commit to PA II. If people sign up, they need to commit to attend. 2 slots per neighborhood, per session. Want broad participation. Business representatives. Question on filming/ broadcasting? Yes. Kate - Last time, some of info didn't get passed along to rest of neighborhood. Want info to get out, be less exclusive. Allen Matsumoto & Kurt Baumgarten are taskforce members – suggestions should be sent to them. Topics should be out 2 weeks prior to meetings. Taskforce will set topics. Mayor just came from WAG – Port and City are becoming more in alignment.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.</p>