



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

April 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

	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Absent: CBD (Vacant); Happy Valley (Jeff Sawyer); Mt Baker (Robin Hitz); Puget (Jim McCabe); Whatcom Falls (Vacant); WWU (Erik Lowe) Substitutions: Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Judy Van Woudenberg);</p>
	<p>Minutes from March meeting approved.</p>
	<p>Update on Code Enforcement – Deputy Chief Flo Simon</p> <p>Flo discussed code enforcement issues, specifically the “rule of 3.” Ryan Anderson in City Attorney’s office is working on research. Flo is working on protocol to report violations related to parking, trash, etc. Q on clean and sober houses. A – separate issue (Linda will bring information to June meeting) Comments on livability and character issues and concern. Only 1 litter control officer currently; may bring on more code enforcement people depending on workload. Activities & behaviors would trigger contact, rather than “counting numbers” of residents. Garey – houses not inspected by Fire or Health Dept. Some houses with bedrooms w/out windows. Who is liable?</p> <p>Tom – issue of parking. Parking enforcement ticketed residents parked more than 24 hours. Focusing on wrong problems. More about acts rather than who they are.</p> <p>Flo – spoke on issue of parking. Will deal w/ issue on case by case, won’t do blanket ticketing based on 1 complaint. Want to get rid of problem parkers. Tom – spoke on people parking in neighborhoods who use the bus. Residents are being punished. Michael – Q on wisdom of 24-hour criteria? Is this the best threshold for problem parking? Flo – 24 hour rule was for junk cars parked on street. Discussion on that issue is ongoing. Tom – how to deal w/ problem of people parking to catch the bus? Flo – nothing really to address that issue. No RPZ parking in York. Where to direct questions? Contact Flo; she will route questions fsimon@cob.org Q on graffiti – who to contact? House/ business, call 911 – police will come out and make a report. Work crews go out twice a year to repaint businesses. Hardware Stores sell clean up material. City property – call 911. Howard – concerned about direction to use 911; requested clarification. Flo – explained how dispatch works; can route non-emergency calls. 676-6911 can be used for non-emergencies. Linda reminded group about sergeants assigned to neighborhoods. Sergeants willing to help w/ different issues.</p>

	<p>Theresa – prevalence of kids riding motorized scooters. How to deal w/ problem? A – contact an officer.</p> <p>NOTE - All issues can be routed through sergeants.</p> <p>Linda – noted the positive aspect that police won't be doing blanket ticketing.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Transportation Planning – Chris Comeau</p> <p>Linda discussed City's desire and commitment to making transportation planning process better. Encouraged continued collaboration with Public Works and communicating with neighborhoods about transportation priorities.</p> <p>Chris - How is process working? He thinks it's more efficient and works better to working with the neighborhoods to establish consensus on transportation priorities. Some streets may not have qualified because issue wasn't as big as people may have thought. Some streets effected by WWU schedule. Working to remedy that particular issue this year.</p> <p>Spirited discussion about 6 Year TIP and NTSP – only about 50% response from neighborhoods. City wants to know and understand neighborhood transportation priorities and also why many neighborhoods didn't submit proposals. Chris noted that transportation reps do experience confusion between the two programs. Emphasized the commitment to helping neighborhoods understand the differences.</p> <p>Discussion about needs not matching requirements (example, want traffic calming on arterials).</p> <p>Public hearing for TIP in May. Need to submit to state by July 1.</p> <p>Q – Is there a way to add space on the transportation planning forms for needs that don't fit program requirements, as a way to at least communicate them to City staff? Camille – if neighborhood doesn't have anything, does he want to hear that? A – Yes, Chris wants to know what priorities are being identified by the neighborhood(s). Patrick – likes approach. Stimulated discussion of needs in neighborhood. Thinking strategically, working with other neighborhoods. Tom – also likes approach. Neighborhood not selected last year, but continue to submit in hopes of funding.</p> <p>Chris - Regarding traffic calming for arterials, there are other ways to calm traffic which don't involve physically altering street.</p> <p>NTSP – Chris has heard that some residents want traffic calming on arterials. Calming means constructing something – speed humps, chicane, etc.</p> <p>Michael – Has heard trees and planted meridians cause people to slow down. Chris – states that is street enhancement which visually narrows the street but is not sure of effect.</p> <p>Linda would like to organize and offer a transportation workshop in Fall, in collaboration with Public Works. Target would be neighborhood association boards and transportation reps. Group support and expressed that it would be of community interest and value.</p> <p>Suggestion to establish an earlier submission schedule and use one form for both. Group thinks one form would be helpful. Linda asked group to send her some ideas on transportation planning. Chris commented that group can contact him directly – 778-7900; ccomeau@cob.org</p>

Neighborhood Roundtable Updates/ Information

York – general planning.

Sunnyland – will participate in traffic calming session – King Street & Grant Street.

Cornwall Park – Broadway Youth Center is opening this week – storytelling classes. Next general meeting – Fountain District urban village – May 20th. Parkview 50th anniversary.

Alabama Hill – reorganizing association. Meeting w/ Parks Dept about St Clair park

South – collecting data from survey. Will use at annual meeting. Went to Parks Advisory Board about Rose Garden House – “stayed execution” by 4 months. RFP will be put out. Opportunity for community input.

Fairhaven – Waiting to hear about form and timing for planning charette for site specific neighborhood plan. Assigned Steve Sundin as project manager.

Columbia – Received small and simple grant for tree planting and bench on west street. Working on developing info on Little Squalicum Park trail’s difficulties. Inter-jurisdictional “web” of problems.

Lettered Streets – Historic Research Survey Group presentation. Did NOT receive small and simple grant.

Guide Meridian – Community gardens. All community gardens currently in south side. Fulfill important need for community. MNAC should discuss if this should be a priority. Huge number of apartments in area. Great learning experience for children in neighborhood. Meeting on master planning for new park for Cordata.

Linda – asked if group would like this item on agenda. Yes.

Steve – research history of community gardens would be helpful. Cheryl (GM/ Cordata) – will do research. Allen – get someone from Parks to attend meeting to discuss.

Camille – suggestion – to volunteer with Whatcom Volunteer Center to work on gardening.

Birchwood – www.birchwoodneighborhood.org launched. Tim Stewart attending next plan update meeting. Officer Brock Crawford spoke to association. Suggestion that officers should bring handouts, cards, contact info, etc.

Sehome – Working on Samish Way project. Allen is stepping down as president to focus more on Samish Way project. Working on more community-building; e.g. caroling, community gardens. Project manager assigned to Samish Way.

Edgemoor – pass

Roosevelt – Holding Board Game night. Spanish/ English exchange every Wednesday. Tearing up 3 yards to install community gardens.

Samish - Neighborhood signs will go up in 3 weeks. 34th & Connelly, corner of Elway & Samish. Mid-month, hoping council will take direction of “rule of 3.”

Silver Beach – completed new neighborhood sign. Neighborhood plan was docketed; waiting for redline plan to come back from Planning. Will work on that this year. Working w/ emergency preparedness.

	<p>South Hill – Focusing on historic preservation. Building height & Bulk, code changes. View preservation, trees & vegetation. Contentious issue regarding trees, but group is coming to agreement. Difficulties w/ Planning Academy – disappointed how PA is calendared.</p> <p>MISC Linda commented on hearing what associations are doing; excited about community-building opportunities. Going beyond plan neighborhood updates will build resident involvement in neighborhood association meetings and activities. May is community action month. Agenda next month = someone from Opportunity Council, Family & Community Network, and targeted trash pick ups. Allen – Is the trash pick-up the City-sponsored program? A - Yes. Kurt – noted that York neighborhood has been doing this kind of project (trash pickup) for years.</p>
	<p>Code and Character Taskforce update – Kurt Baumgarten & Allen Matsumoto Allen - Taskforce clarified purpose of PA. Growth management requirements; certain amount of infill to plan for. Many examples of design standards exist that our city's code doesn't currently allow. Study in 2004 by MAKERS. Review of residential planning code. Framework for PA. Defining options that can be put in city limits to accommodate growth. City will create glossary. City has taken stand to accommodate growth. Suggested that group think broader about what PA is trying to accomplish. "Where" growth will go will be done through discussion with neighborhoods. Neighborhoods can choose what they want, which is positive. PA will discuss process of how "where" gets determined. Edie – when does code get changed? A – end of year. PA informs that process. Steve - Would PA be good place to bring up idea of protecting critical areas? Kurt – yes. Group discussion. Kurt – desire is to have process that will best benefit neighborhoods. Thinks this will be successful. Q on who attends planning academy – different people attending each session? No, consensus of taskforce was to have same representatives attend each session. Kurt – doesn't believe City is trying to stuff more development in city just for the sake of it. Way to do infill appropriately. Also want to make sure review is in place so it fits with character. Talk about design review board. Send questions on Code & Character taskforce to Allen & Kurt.</p>
	<p>MNAC Process for Reviewing Changes to Comp Plan/ Neighborhood Plans – Michael Lilliquist, Tom Scott, Patrick McKee</p> <p>Issue came up at retreat about reviewing neighborhood plans. Will take devoted time on agendas, at meetings. Michael – statutory responsibilities of MNAC. Neighborhood plans are public, can review. Ignore what statute says at the moment. If 23 applications come in, no way for MNAC to review in 1-2 month's time. Review when they came in; MNAC would decide which ones they would review, establish criteria. May need to prioritize in order to weigh in meaningfully.</p> <p>Patrick – keep process simple. Deadline is Dec. 1. MNAC members should get copy of all submittals soon after Dec. 1 to review proposals. Any concerns/ red flags, should come back to MNAC. Each neighborhood would focus on proposals within neighborhood.</p>

	<p>Linda noted that City won't provide copies – all proposals are posted on website.</p> <p>Tom – process; review shortly after Dec.1. In January, meeting would be put aside for filtering out plans to review.</p> <p>Steve – Q – is this just neighborhood? A – no, all proposals. Purpose of review is to formulate recommendations to Planning Commission.</p> <p>Group discussion.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Linda – should group continue meeting to discuss process about putting this on workplan.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Goal – develop for MNAC consideration process and timeline; MNAC has timely opportunity.</p> <p>Issue is tabled for further discussion with MNAC and workgroup.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>