



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

May 14, 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); Samish (Garey Vodopich); Whatcom Falls (Vacant); WWU (Erik Lowe) Substitutions: Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Judy Van Woudenberg);</p>
	Minutes from April meeting approved.
	<p>Neighborhood Services Update, Linda Stewart Linda ran into Kathryn Hanowell – she passed her regards on to everyone. June MNAC meeting – info on clean & sober houses coming. Discussion on final work plan – developed priorities at retreat. Will have one more conversation w/ Michael, Patrick & Tom re: review of comp plan. Orientation handbook final for consideration to June meeting. Email coming to MNAC & Presidents – KMRE project; small & simple grant to do interviews w/ assoc. reps. Features success stories of neighborhoods. Looking for reps from each neighborhood to be interviewed. Series will be broadcast later in 2008. Want to start interviewing in late May. Linda will send out information soon, including sample questions. Neighborhoods will decide who to send.</p>
	<p>Planning Academy II Update, Linda Stewart Linda asked participants for feedback, impressions, questions. Group discussion – need more time to discuss issues, very rushed. Theresa – need more time. Feeling very rushed on discussion on issue. Patrick agreed. Rebecca noted how meetings are run. Small group tables. Noted variety of knowledge levels. Facilitator got cranky. Appreciated diversity at table. Challenging, but likes it better than first. Edie – info is very good. Lots of energy. Hard to hear people in room (too echo-y). Lots of conflict at table. Michael – noted how loud people had to talk. Allen – materials for first week were good. Laid out motivations for stakeholders. Nicole commented on PA II. Want people to grapple w/ issues. Policy direction is very clear on infill. Next session – Revised based on participant feedback. Want everyone to provide individual input. Main focus is neighborhood infill forms. Discussion on presentations. Allen – laid out in context of what GMA says, and how we want to meet that. Camille – way to develop toolkits? Q on what covenants may allow in some neighborhoods? Nicole – covenants not in BMC. Nicole welcomed people to call her & give feedback about planning academy. Steve – while PA is going on, Council has been asked to deal w/ public facilities in critical areas. Allows things to happen infill-wise. Q - Will you be dealing w/ impact on critical areas in regards to infill? (This will be followed up in June) Allen – Noted that Nicole has been incredibly responsive w/ concerns.</p>

	<p>New Development Regulations – Patrick McKee At last PA, Tim Stewart said he intends to bring forward new development regulations that would allow use of new housing designs. Nicole - not true. Nicole - Housing forms will not be allowed in single-family area. New housing types will be put on books as definitions. Patrick suggests that before definitions be placed, be published on city's website 60 days before PC hearing so that neighborhoods can discuss definitions. Nicole – possible to get definitions out, may not get staff report. Will do best to accommodate that request. Concepts are on website currently. Are there drafts available of current code update project? Phase I of update to code is underway. Definitions are not available. Development code update is burdensome project.</p> <p>Patrick read resolution – Nicole offered to help Patrick draft language to do what he wants. Patrick wants more time for discussion. Motion made to support direction of Patrick's resolution; changed to research and revisit issue in June.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Surveys – Michael Lilliquist Discussed whether or not MNAC should do something to create uniform process for surveys? Need to make sure there is enough flexibility to fit all neighborhoods. Tie in with City survey. Allen – agrees with direction. Toolkit led by current City form. Rebecca – noted difficulty w/ designing non-scientific surveys. Steve – surveys provide ways to create dialogue. Brad – sent out; good turnout, but didn't know how to apply to neighborhood plan. Need guidance. Linda – part of workshop series city is developing deals with how to do surveys. Internal conversation about survey info from neighborhoods – what do we do with it? No traditional process for how City handles neighborhood surveys. Big next step is incorporating neighborhoods into City's priorities. Linda advocating for neighborhoods to be creative and different; set City-wide standards, but allow creativity. Linda wants to provide skill building. Need for training, and need resources for training. Iain offered to collect surveys on ABN website. Workshop series starting in September. Rebecca – encourage city to give technical assistance for writing surveys. Michael – is there interest in doing more with this group? Linda –add into June MNAC work plan discussion.</p>
	<p>Coordinated Neighborhood Trash Pick Ups, Chad Bedlington, PW Superintendent Program was done years ago. Objective is to hold household waste disposal events in neighborhoods & WWU. \$20-25,000 in budget this year. Enough to do several neighborhoods, probably not all. City will provide supplies to neighborhood. Want assistance w/ coordinating dates from neighborhoods, design, locations, communication to neighborhood. Definitions: Does this include furniture? Appliances? Want to work within neighborhoods for litter pick up – household waste. Want to avoid hazardous waste collection.</p>

	<p>Linda – sorting of recyclable materials? If neighborhoods want to do recycling, then we can with this program. Discussion. Contact Chad, Linda, or Darren Sandstrom (BPD; litter complaints) with any questions. Further discussion on definitions. Chad’s contact: 778-7700 or cbedlington@cob.org</p>
	<p>Community Gardens Discussion, Leslie Bryson Leslie presented on issue of community gardens. Background – 3 existing are operated by City: Fairhaven, Happy Valley, Clean Green site. Not a lot of request or input in last 15 years, until recently. Currently updating Park, Rec & Open Space plan. Is this a community priority? Think about as people are updating plans. Think about cost. As city is looking new land for parks, may want to consider. Soils may need to be amended. Need access to water. Parking. Annual maintenance funding. Neighborhoods should discuss amongst themselves about desire. For more specifics – contact Leslie. Some current yard sites came from neighborhoods getting together, finding land, working in partnership with City. Vince - what to do to work on Rose Garden? Need to look at what other opportunities go away with putting garden in. Contact Leslie - 778-7000 or lbryson@cob.org PRO Plan going to council on Monday. July 17th, public hearing planned.</p>
	<p>Opportunity Council, Sheri Emerson, Director of Public Relations & Community Outreach The Promise, role in community, services they provide, partnerships. May is Community Action Month – 1000 community action agencies in country. Help people help themselves to achieve efficiency. Design programs and services to meet needs of the community. Services – early learning programs, hot meals program, housing programs – homeless, transitional, weatherization services. Networking & Partnerships – Interfaith Community Health Center; developing homeless service center. Faith communities help provide facilities. Service clubs. One of roles is to advocate for low income residents. Promise of Community Action – sums up what OC is about. Long tradition of helping people. Make community better for everyone by providing services. Community action agency; provide range of services; help people help themselves; strong network. How are they funded? Mix of federal, state, local, and private donations & grants.</p>
	<p>Whatcom Family & Children Network, Adrienne Battis Most of the work they do is neighborhood organizing. Find out what people want to do and support efforts. Funding comes from state & federal funds. Engage communities to support children & families. Neighborhoods need certain tools to be able to deal with certain issues. Working on toolkit for organizing community. Offering training. Need to hear what kind of info neighborhoods would like to learn about. NW training institute will be conducting surveys. What can they offer as training to do work better? Will be sending out survey – through MNAC reps.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Roundtable</p>

Puget – Park Board update – progress on PRO Plan update was at park board; Puget working on parks; Issue of chickens came up.

Sunnyland – 2009-2014 TIP has Sunnyland's request – improved crosswalk at Grant St.

South – Annual meeting last month – 50 attendees. Board elections; Steve is no longer President; Christopher Grannis new president. Moving forward with rose garden caretaker's house. Need to get proposal by July 2.

Edgemoor – pass.

Columbia – Food for Tots project. Would like help communicating within neighborhood. May move from quarterly meetings.

Silver Beach – MYN project underway. Trying to finalize survey. Waiting for return of neighborhood plan. Held Hazardous Waste pick up at Bloedel Donovan park. Stan Snapp help Q&A session w/ people – went very well.

Birchwood – Delivered newsletter. Working on survey, may change schedule based on what City is doing.

Lettered Streets – Had presentation from PW on Cornwall bike lanes at last meeting. Linda noted that PW is still seeking input from 3 neighborhoods on issue.

Guide Meridian/ Cordata – Picnic on June 28th. Moving forward on new park.

Roosevelt – Will be in Ski to Sea parade. Working on community gardens. Working on Spanish-English exchange.

Fairhaven – Plans on city-sponsored design charette – working on communications. Ski to Sea – sponsoring music stage. Working on bylaws. Free bus ridership program kicking off. Discussion of WTA program.

South Hill – Spoke on Planning Academy; handed out comments from their neighborhood participants.

Cornwall – Discussing changes to Cornwall at upcoming meeting. Comments can be made via email/ letter. Broadway youth center – does have wish list – located at: broadwayyouth.org
Cornwall bike lane issue is going to council on June 23rd

Sehome Hill – Annual MYN organization meeting recently. Using block watch captains. Samish Way. Cross walk into TIP. Darby Galligan – has project plan put together for Samish Way project. City holding meetings Thursday nights in June. Darby said she will print notices for other neighborhoods who want it, or may help with mailing. Let Linda know if other neighborhoods are interested.
Neighborhood plan has been pushed back a year. Samish Way comes forward a year.

York – Working w/ Sehome. TIP proposal – number of unanswered questions. Chris Comeau attended; questions still unanswered. Conflicting info from year to year. Traffic surveys done during session or specifically in Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.