



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

June 11, 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: Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz); WWU (Erik Lowe) Substitutions: Birchwood (Barbara Campbell); CBD (Cindy Meche); Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Judy Van Woudenberg); Puget (Laurel Cook); Samish (Eric Weight); Sehome (Charles Dyer); Silver Beach (Kate Grinde)</p>
	<p>Minutes from May meeting approved.</p>
	<p>Linda Stewart, Neighborhood Services Coordinator Noted we are now sending out minutes 3-5 days after meeting. Welcomed Cindy Meche as new CBD alternate; Leslie Langdon is new CBD primary rep.</p> <p>Linda asked that members leave the Mayor's office area when meeting is over. Welcome to stay in City Hall to finish conversations.</p> <p>Linda discussed issue of non-MNAC members taking up excessive discussion time during the meeting. Primary purpose is for MNAC reps to discuss and problem solve issues. Intent is not to limit ability of non-MNAC members to participate but to limit speaking time for non-reps addressing the group on issues being discussed.</p> <p>Motion – Linda as facilitator will limit the speaking time allowed for non-MNAC reps. This means primary and alternate MNAC reps given priority for discussion time during meetings. If that doesn't work, we may consider adding a designated time. Motion approved.</p>
	<p>KMRE Neighborhood Project Update – Alena Feeney-Adam KMRE partnering with neighborhood associations. Community –related content grant. “Community Connections” Want to focus on neighborhoods & focus on identities. Set of interview questions went out to neighborhoods previously, with invitation to schedule an interview with Alena. KMRE is a low-power radio station – 10 mile radius. Working on show for October line up. Interviews will be every Monday night until end of July. Contact Alena if you haven't schedule time yet or have questions about interview format. At Radio Museum - 1312 Bay Street ; 1-hour show; Q – Just one person to be interviewed? A – yes, preferred, since it's a conversational-style interview. Contact Alena for further discussion about alternate approaches to the neighborhood interviews.</p>
	<p>Bylaws Training Preparation – Ann McCartney Put together Bylaw Refresher Course. Open to two (2) reps from each neighborhood. Saturday, June 28, 9 to noon in Fireplace Room, basement of Municipal Court Building. Test of this training; will do it again in the future. Training will be structured around neighborhoods' needs.</p>

	<p>Discussion of challenging issues & neighborhood's needs. Will discuss hierarchy of documents at training. Question of representation? Ensuring that association represents neighborhood.</p> <p>Linda and Ann will put together curriculum.</p> <p>Eric asked the electronic copies of training resources or hand-outs be distributed to neighborhood reps.</p>
	<p>Planning Academy II – Edie Norton & Cathy Cameron Cathy addressed group. Wanted to discuss responses from South Hill attendees. Went over statistics on housing – sales going down, inventories going up. Cathy says South Hill has likely already met goals. Probably over if current ADUs were made legal. Discussed documents brought back from PA II. Concerned about timeline for approval. May not fall into 60-day comment period. South Hill feels that other housing units are probably inappropriate for them and not necessary. Steve – did reps feel they had chance to share thoughts at PA? Cathy – no. South Hill reps were disappointed with dialogue. No consensus. Other MNAC members offered that consensus was never requested during PA II but there was still some uncertainty about the purpose. Laurel – noted presentation was clear and thorough and informative. Edie – Q – will there be support resources for reps who went to academy to disseminate information from PA? Linda handed out the PA II resource list, which was distributed during the last session. Planning will re-convene Code & Character Taskforce to discuss PA II. Discussion among group about how neighborhoods are disseminating information about PAII.</p>
	<p>Random selection for “Muffins with the Mayor” on September 25: Sehome Edgemoor Alabama Hill Samish Lettered Streets Silver Beach CBD Columbia Puget</p> <p>Invited neighborhoods should assign one representative from their neighborhood to attend. Neighborhoods not randomly selected this time will automatically be invited to the next opportunity set aside especially for neighborhoods. (To be announced at a later date.) Members asked to RSVP to Torhil by September 5.</p>
	<p>Code Enforcement – Statement from Garey Vodopich – tabled.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Roundtable Sehome – City has been presenting workshops for Samish Way Urban Village. First session very good session. Urban Village area is from Bill McDonald Pkwy to Maple Street. Allen M has stepped down as president. Roosevelt – Formed teen association board to plan and carry out activities.</p>

Sunnyland – delivered newsletter to neighborhood; one resident hand-carried 500!

South – will host first night out against crime – 4th Wed in July. May host at manufactured home park. Steve asked for people to contact him with ideas. Noted difficulties of neighborhood plan. Don't get communication about Fairhaven Highlands – have to go through public disclosure.

York – successful trash pick-up day last weekend.

Edgemoor – Recycling discussed. Other major cities use one big bin for recycling. Agreed with lack of info being provided by City on Fairhaven Highland on website.

Happy Valley – Held Earth Day trash pick-up in an effort to increase participation in neighborhood; focused on neighborhood and school partnership. Shared some ideas

Alabama Hill – Trying to grow board. Broken association into quadrants. Recently had new president orientation lunch w/ Linda.

Birchwood – board worked on survey. What percentage of return should they expect, what would be meaningful?

Michael – noted 15% gives scientifically valid results.

Linda – asked Barbara for newsletter piece for using WWU interns.

Samish – New board – 20% new members. Growing pains – split on issues/ differing opinions. Concerned about growth. Want info from City. E.g. - Transportation planning w/ undeveloped acreage. Want City to educate association. Concerned about City's lack of disclosure.

Guide Meridian/ Cordata – Picnic on 6/28, noon – 4, Whatcom Community College. Found Middle School jazz band to play. Jack Weiss spoke at last meeting re: big box stores. Concerned about urban village concept. Planning department continues to allow development that is not urban village concept – e.g. Bakerview.

Linda noted small annexation taking place in GM/ C.

Lettered Streets – chose interviewee for KMRE radio interview – Michael McAuley.

Silver Beach – collected items for food bank at last meeting. MYN efforts ongoing. Hazardous waste clean up successful. Discussed watershed construction moratorium. David Webster did amazing job of presenting issues and acknowledged diverse issues and concerns. Questions were answered, concerns voiced.

Brad – any way to put disclaimer about the watershed when selling land? Kate – thinks realtors should be responsible for relaying that information to buyers.

When is public comment on moratorium? **Follow-Up:** The public hearing for the watershed construction moratorium is scheduled for July 14th. Notice of the hearing will be mailed out to all MNAC members, as part of the larger public notification process. Waiting for plan to get redlined & returned.

Fairhaven – 2 non-profits presented at last meeting: Project Labyrinth. Bellingham Bay community boat center. www.sailpaddlerow.org. Family boat building workshop coming up. Snowed on day of annual plant sale. City's rezone at Haskell Property – city is working on charter, public involvement plan – design charette. Neighborhood's concern is that participants need to understand process and be educated about the issues.

CBD – Downtown neighborhood association works mainly with businesses. Trying to

	<p>reach out to residents as well. DRN is holding series of forums – just held one on transportation. Linda – noted she is meeting tomorrow w/ Opportunity Council & WF office – to look at existing services that may be impacted by WF redevelopment.</p> <p>Columbia – board meeting agendas so crammed – now meeting once a month. Want more people involved. 2-3 projects going on drawing in new people. Bench on West Street. Tree planting project. Will also hold food bank drive. Kate – noted that food bank can do much more with cash rather than food donations.</p> <p>Puget – turnover on board. Working on transportation and green space segment of plan.</p> <p>South Hill – Lowell Elementary school wants to dig up paved parking lot and put in play ground – looking for donations. PTA is organizing.</p> <p>Cornwall Park – many people attended last meeting – voted on Cornwall bike lanes – voted for removal of parking on Cornwall. (Council having public hearing on June 23rd) Comments should go to Ravyn Whitewolf in Public Works. Eric –noted bike lane issue came up at their meeting – city-wide issue.</p>
	<p>Follow-Up: New city council email is CCmail@cob.org.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Services Coordinator Update Code Enforcement Code enforcement issue will be on council agenda on June 23rd. Legal has been preparing info for councilmembers.</p> <p>Neighborhood Training Needs Assessment Electronic survey from Whatcom Community and Family Network coming out next week, to assess what neighborhoods need to build capacity to effectively conduct association business and increase membership. Training will start in fall.</p> <p>New Development Regulations – Patrick – at last meeting council gave staff direction to add 30 days to review.</p> <p>Linda read informational statement, drafted by Nicole Oliver for MNAC: “Tim Stewart has committed to make available on line, 60 days prior to the scheduled Planning Commission hearing, a draft of the development regulations proposed for amendment as an output of Planning Academy II. We anticipate this will be on our about August 15th. The final proposal, which will include the proposed code amendments as well as a Urban Infill Handbook, will be available 30 days prior to the hearing as part of the Planning Commission packet. We are anticipating at least two meetings with the Planning Commission, maybe three, and at least two with the City Council, including a special work session. Our goal is to have final council approval of the Urban Infill Toolkit completed by the end of 2008.”</p> <p>Clean & Sober Houses Information was sent out to Samish neighborhood association on this topic last September. Nothing has changed since that time, according to legal and planning departments. (Eric authorized Linda to forward info to MNAC reps once electronic version is located.) No requirements to notify city that a clean and sober house will be occupied or situated within a neighborhood and city doesn't have intent to regulate. County doesn't regulate either.</p>

	<p>Patrick – someone wanting to rent a larger home can say it’s a clean and sober house, and run it as a rooming house. (Linda will follow-up)</p> <p>Neighborhood Covenants – Private neighborhood covenants are not enforceable by city. Brad consented to email sent to him by Nicole Oliver, about this issue, being forwarded to MNAC. Follow-up: “...private neighborhood covenants are not enforceable by the city, unless the specific covenant is included in conditions listed in a Conditional Use Permit or Hearing Examiner decision regarding the particular development (which sometimes they are). In order to enforce, you must go through the established process that applies to your covenants, or take a private legal action.”</p> <p>Other items –</p> <p>Linda passed around new reimbursement form. Items missed – discussion around work plan, member orientation & guidelines. Work plan, member orientation and guidelines over to July meeting. Work plan distributed. Motion to cancel meeting in August; approved. No August meeting.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>