



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

February 11, 2009

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Linda Stewart, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance:

Absent: Meridian, Central Business District and Whatcom Falls

Welcome New Appointments:

Birchwood - Barbara Campbell switch from alternate to primary

WWU - Lara Welker, Co-Primary

Visitors:

Tim Stewart (Planning and Community Development Director), Nicole Oliver (Planning and Community Development Department Communications Coordinator), Bellingham Councilmembers Stan Snapp and Jack Weiss, David Webster (Chief Administrative Officer)

Introductions and Roll Call

January Minutes approved with amendment

Agenda for meeting adopted

Plan Amendment Proposal Review

- Documents distributed: Flow Chart, Summary and Sample Letter to Planning Commission.
 - Explanation of documents general discussion. Revised Process Summary was approved.
 - Motion carried for a new Sub-Committee to be created every December for Review of Plan Amendments (members to include a minimum of three).
 - Committee agreed that they would request an MNAC member sign letters that go to the Planning Commission on behalf of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission.
 - Motion carried for approval of Letter to Planning Commission with revisions to include the agreed upon criteria (criteria agreed upon in December meeting) in first paragraph and change the outline of the letter to only include approved and not approved items.
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Planning Director Update on Plan Amendments

Tim Stewart distributed summary of decision for annual review neighborhood plan amendment updates for this year. This report is also online.

Full staff report available online. The Planning Commission will meet on this topic on Feb. 19th. Samish Way Urban Village meeting on February 26th.

Distributed draft Infill Toolkit, also posted online. Planning Commission is April 16th, which provides 60 days to review and comment. If possible, please provide comments/concerns in the next 30 days.

- Significance of 20.28.020.A and 20.28.050
- Type 6 Process outline will be sent out with MNAC minutes

Contact information from Planning: for NPAs (gaucutt@cob.org) and Infill Toolkit (Noliver@cob.org)

Neighborhood Services Update:

David Webster, Chief Administrative Officer:

Thank you for all you are doing. Planning Director mentioned resource challenges that the City is going through. Administratively the City will be doing things a little different through Neighborhood Services:

- Moving initiatives forward and rely on key people

- Mayor wants to be involved in MNAC more, but meeting is on the same Wednesday evening as Waterfront Advisory Group
- Linda is going to pinch hit for Waterfront – Sati Mookherjee is moving on
- Linda will have some help, but will still have major responsibilities in the neighborhoods
- MNAC meet on the same Wednesday as the Waterfront Advisory Group
 - o Options: Move MNAC meetings to first or third Wednesday

Motion carried to change MNAC meeting to the 3rd Wednesday of each month, beginning in March 18th

Retreat

Look for survey to MNAC members re: retreat and what type topics would like? Members will receive it prior to March meeting.

2009 Authorized Signature Forms:

Distributed and need help getting 2009 Authorized Signature Forms – include whomever has the president’s authority to sign on the reimbursement requests within your Association. Bring to March Meeting. Normally the Treasurer, but may get President’s, or anyone who can sign on a reimbursement request. Needs to be updated every year. Originals must be on file.

MNAC Membership Roster

Distributed updated MNAC membership roster, also online. The document should go into your member handbooks.

Still collecting the 2009 meeting schedules until March. Thanks to the people who have submitted them early. Will post on website in March.

Muffins with the Mayor

Invitations to neighborhoods for Muffins with the Mayor on May 19th at 8:00 a.m. If you were invited last time and couldn’t make it, then the next time this type of meeting is scheduled, you will be invited.

Linda Stewart’s Office is Changing

Linda is moving to Waterfront Office effective February 26th. Linda will still meet with you out in your communities, but if you drop by City Hall unannounced, she won’t be able to see you like she is now. If you need to drop off documentation or other information for Linda, you can still do so at City Hall and it will get to her.

Member Requests for Agenda Time

There was a scheduled presentation by Christopher Grannis, South Neighborhood, but will be scheduled in next month’s agenda. Christopher requests that the group review document he distributed, attached to the minutes.

Neighborhood Roundtable

Happy Valley – Distributed copy of newsletter; new slogan is “we do what we can”. Had a tour of the neighborhood with President of WWU (Dr. Bruce Shepard), Vice President of WWU (Steve Swan) and Linda Stewart along with members of the community. Both parties (students and residents) are working hard to improve communication. Padden Creek has been in crisis due to the flooding and closed while they remove trees. Map Your Neighborhood project going on. Started a program of having a community meal on Sunday nights – first one is next weekend 22nd. Free and open to everyone at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Center for Local Self Reliance – people that are doing it have good vision – Happy Valley has made the commitment to donate at least 100 labor hours to fix gardens and the house. This project will include gardening, canning, composting, etc. Go to Caretakershouse.org for more information.

Samish – Board meeting last night to change monthly board meeting to accommodate the MNAC meeting, so now that will need to change again. Annual Meeting April 1st at the Elks Lodge on Samish Way. Big issues that come up monthly are boarding houses and the Rule of 3. This rule is

not being enforced and the neighborhood is drafting a letter to the City to take a stronger stance that would create an ordinance that would hold the landlords accountable. If other neighborhoods are having this problem, we encourage your support.

Birchwood – Annual meeting with Bellingham School district on programs that might need to be cut. Had so many people come forward for neighborhood association board positions that an election was necessary!

Guide Meridian/Cordata – Working on community garden plan. Ted Mischaikov allowing use of land at the end of Cordata and neighborhood also received a grant. Forming a fundraising group and have plenty of people interested right now. Holding a gathering on June 6th for a celebration for the neighborhood.

Columbia – Welcomed three new board members. Started charging \$10 to become a voting member for joining. Welcoming businesses into the association who in turn can display “member of Columbia neighborhood...” sign at business and offer some discounts or deals to other association members.

Alabama Hill – Annual meeting a week ago at Bloedel Donovan and reelected the board. Highland Parks appears to be moving forward.

Mt. Baker – Invited all residents to recent association re-organizing meeting. Good turnout. So many people showed up, had to find larger venue for meeting at Pastazza.

Fairhaven – Annual meeting and reelected most of the board but also have some new Board Members. In the past had no dues, but now have voluntary dues of \$10. Relied on fundraising events, but running out of money. Submitted Small and Simple Grant and wrote two letters of support for other neighborhoods. In the Small and Simple Grant applied for an eel grass study.

Cornwall – General meeting 26th.

Roosevelt – Working with businesses that are being tagged with graffiti. Proposing to work with Roosevelt and Bellingham High Schools and have them draw murals over the tagging.

Edgemoor – Happy and proud to be partner with South Neighborhood for a Small and Simple Grant.

Lettered Streets – Annual meeting elections – new Treasurer. Worked on Small and Simple Grants.

Silver Beach – Held online elections due to the horrible weather in December. A new Board as of last night with the exception of a couple carryovers.

Puget – Annual meeting last night and reelected most of the board members. Still need a couple more. Discussed the survey related to the plan update. Jim McCabe will be stepping down as MNAC Representative and maybe be the alternate. Puget supports greenways strategic plan.

South Hill - Submitting Small and Simple Grant and the letter of support for South. Working on floor ratio and building height involved in structures.

WWU – Structure very different from the typical neighborhood association structure. New Vice President of University Relations at WWU, Steve Swan will be addressing some gaps in some campus-community relationships.

South– Thank you to the neighborhoods providing letters of support for the Small and Simple application.

Sehome – Elections this month and are losing board members. The presentation on Urban Village planning is going to be held on February 26th at the Elks Lodge on Samish Way at 6-8pm. Rocket Donuts is bringing donuts and coffee for their meeting in exchange for 1-1/2” ad in newsletter.

King Mountain – Linda did report. The neighborhood will be brought into the City effective early March. The Planning Dept is doing a census to find out how many people are in the neighborhood. Linda’s role is helping the association become organized. Inviting all of MNAC to an association organization meeting on Saturday, March 21st at the King Mountain Church on Kellogg Road 9-11am. Anything MNAC reps can do to welcome our newest neighborhood and mentor the fledgling neighborhood association would be great. Anyone who wants to attend on 3/21 and talk for a few moments about their association structure and purpose, let Linda know – Jimmy Kelsey volunteered.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.