



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

May 20, 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: South Hill

Welcome New Appointments:

WWU – Jane Vroman is replacing Lara Welker as the Primary Representative. Tonight is Lara Welker's last meeting.

Guests:

David Webster, Chief Administrative Officer

Les Reardanz, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Tim Hostetler/Sehome Neighborhood

Introductions and Roll Call

April Minutes approved

Revised agenda for meeting - Approved

- Reminder – We need the general association dates to put on the website roster. Missing Central Business District. Will post to the website without the information.
 - Distributed document from Planning on how amendments are docketed (will be attached to minutes)
 - WA State articles of incorporation – check your expiration dates
 - Fee for reapplication is reimbursable through the City neighborhood support services
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Waterfront Redevelopment Project Planning Assumptions and Framework Overview and Discussion (Les Reardanz & Mayor Pike)

- Handouts were emailed to commission with MNAC agenda
- Question and answer with Mayor Pike:

Question: What feedback/timing of feedback do you need from this group?

Answer: - Tonight is the night to have the discussion and get your answers about the framework
- We would like you to stay engaged in the process. Talk with your neighborhoods and ask them to stay engaged.

Question: Conceptual Agreement – ILA, Infrastructure costs? What has been agreed to? How will the “cultural” differences impact the process? Can the ILA be used against the City to get what the Port wants?

Answers: - The City will not sign something that doesn't protect their interests

Question: As learning process can “people speed not car speed” be used in other city developments?

Answer: - Yes
- There will be bike and pedestrian access available at the WF

- Mt. Baker Neighborhood would like this to be considered as an option in Northridge Park

Question: Historic structures – recommendation?

Answer: - The Historic Preservation has weighed in on the 5-6 structures
- The structures need to be analyzed to see if they will have other use
- Overall moving in the right direction. The road grid that is being laid out is not final, although it has been tested from an engineering perspective.

Question: What's happening now with the railroad?
 Answer: - Work continues to progress with the railroad. The rail alignment analysis and train speeds have been done. Sidings will be added (parallel tracks that allow a freight train to run slower and for a faster train to move beside it). PTS (positive train separation) is also being evaluated to help it run more efficiently.
 - Having the new tracks and railroad will help the economy on the entire West Coast.

Question: Are we on track for LEED-ND?
 Answer: Yes

Question: Cornwall? Clean-up connection?
 Answer: - 60% of design is done on the in-water clean-up. This is definitely a question that the Port could answer better. It is possible for the clean-up to come in under budget.

Question: Will Port plan to lease or sell the property?
 Answer: - They plan to sell the property. They need the cash flow from the sales instead of leases.

Question: Habitat vs people? Restoring healthy land and water - how far along on the thinking are we about the water's edge?
 Answer: - It's being talked about. Any restoration would be an improvement from what we have.

Comment: Boardwalks are really good to give people access to the water, but still allows restoration of the tidelands.
 Answer: - Very difficult to put boardwalks in because of contamination
 - Permits are very difficult and also address the significant historic structures
 - Questions of eel grass shading, etc. Very complex question and don't have all the answers

Question: Any additional news on NOAA?
 Answer: - NOAA is still in the mix.
 - Bellingham has more technical attributes, but Seattle has more voters.

Question: Is the Library still active?
 Answer: Yes – Mayor met with the Library Board at their April Meeting. Library board would like to look at the WF site along with a range of other sites, but WF has options.

Group was asked to complete comment cards with any additional input.

COB Performance Measures Project (Draft Legacies Developed by Council) (David Webster)

- City Council sets annual goals. City of Bellingham is improving the performance measures system.
- Legacy = 20-50 year commitments (future generations of Bellingham would benefit from)
- Each legacy would be approved and supported by strategic commitments
- Strategic Commitments would represent 6-20 years
- Community indicators we cannot accomplish by ourselves – need community

Hand-outs distributed (also sent out with minutes and as a preliminary and separate email to all neighborhoods). Please take these back to your neighborhoods and ask the questions that are on the back of the color worksheet.

1. Are there other legacies that your neighborhoods think should be added to the list?
2. Are the strategic commitments a complete list? Would you like other things to be considered?

There will be a public meeting on June 29th and City Council will be discussing this project.

- Neighborhoods registered concern they will not have enough time to take back to their neighborhoods and get feedback in time for the June meeting.

- This topic will be on June 17th MNAC agenda for further discussion.
- The Performance Measures Project PowerPoint presentation will also be added to the minutes.
- Recommendation to the City that it get started even if there isn't feedback from MNAC and then commit itself to have a review of the legacies, strategic commitments and indicators every 5 years and make sure that the neighborhoods have enough time to respond with feedback.

Comp Plan Amendment Proposal Review – Draft Samish Way Urban Village Letter (Howard Steiner)

<p><i>Motion</i> Draft email on the Samish Way Urban Village Master Plan be forwarded to the Bellingham Planning Commission prior to June 15th / <i>Seconded</i> / <i>Discussion</i></p>

Further discussion
Amendment

<p><i>Amendment:</i> Add “P.S. this letter was unanimously approved by resolution of MNAC Representatives at the May 20, 2009 meeting by all neighborhoods present.”/ <i>Seconded</i> / <i>Approved</i> / <i>Motion Carries Unanimously</i></p>

Member Requests - Creating a Yahoo Group (Meredith Murray)

- Would like to create a group Yahoo account for just the MNAC Representatives
- It would need to be kept small and meaningful. If it became too high volume, then it won't work
- No association presidents on list
- Greg McCracken volunteers to co-administer the Yahoo group and group will try it and see how it works. Follow-up at June MNAC meeting to see how it is working.

Neighborhood Insurance Policy Update (Howard Steiner)

- Linda reports that the City is providing the neighborhood associations with limited liability insurance. On current policy, it's paid through August 20, 2009. The renewal in August will take us through August 2010. Best guess is that the City will continue to support this program.

Direct all insurance questions to Kris Gillen. Her contact information is: **Kris Gillen, ACSR**, (360)734-8025 x 211, (800) 339-9270 Toll Free, (360)734-8496 Fax

Round Table

Edgemoor – pass

Fairhaven – pass

Samish – pass

Cornwall – had the last of the Fountain Urban Village meetings - two spots had unlimited heights (Haggen and Fountain Drug). Having focus groups to continue working on this because there are residential neighborhoods that are surrounded. Broadway Youth Center open house this weekend. Info on their website and the city website. Broadwayyouth.org Annual picnic on August 11th by the restroom facilities at Broadway Park.

South – quarterly general meeting with board elections. Nicole Oliver did a presentation on the infill toolkit. Police officer Dearborn did a presentation as well.

Happy Valley – board met last night and are having an interesting issue - we had someone deliberately take out a bunch of our newly planted trees. The trees were pulled and replaced with another kind of tree. The City has been contacted about it. Police have been contacted – talked to code enforcement. Coming to the end of our 4 experimental community dinners – next Sunday at the Lutheran Church on Harris Street is the last one for a while. Taking a break through summer and re-evaluating them later. Would like to continue them. Getting ready for picnic in August.

Sehome – meeting yesterday and heard from Nicole Oliver on infill toolkit. Sehome is very excited about the Samish Way Urban Village and will be making a formal presentation. Discussion of nine remaining forms on the toolkit for transition zones. In process of internal discussions for transition zones.

Silver Beach – The Silver Beach ordinance places limits on surface, vegetation. 20/20 Engineering did presentation and mechanisms to re-vegetate what they have. Have gone through committee review and hopefully results in 30 days. Looking at National Night Out on August 4th -

would like to combine the time with Mt. Baker at Bloedel and have a presentation by the police. National Night Out activities will be discussed at next meeting. Need more time to get info and have more time to get it shared with association and residents.

Birchwood – finished mailing random sample survey and got 50% feedback – thinks that it's the stamps that were used. The last research training workshop was so useful. Went last December and was the beginning of the process for the survey. Mailing probably cost \$2,000 total. Received 320 returns printed, survey monkey is online and anyone could fill it out.

Lettered Streets – pass

Mt. Baker – had quarterly meeting with 2 guest speakers – Leadership Whatcom and Pioneer Human Services. There will be an offender re-entry facility in Irongate. The main topic of conversation – increase awareness of Mt. Baker residents and that there is a president and MNAC rep who are completely capable and willing to help. Doing really well and optimistic.

Puget – had meeting last night. Presentation from Fritz Anthony – City Engineering Department. Transportation project – Fraiser Street and Pedestrian boardwalk this summer. Check out the new connection to the Whatcom bike trail - it just finished a couple weeks ago (Diehl Ford to Woburn Street)

CBD – June 5th – downtown art walk. First Friday night a month through summer. We have a downtown information center or if you know people that need maps, stop by (on Cornwall)

Columbia – had meeting this month – Whatcom Legacy Project was presented at meeting. Encourages everyone go to Elizabeth Park – Summer Concert June 25th weekly. Next general meeting July 15th including band and “Everybody ride a bike”.

WWU – Lara's last meeting. Jane Vroman will be primary rep and here next month. Office of University of Relations has been putting forth effort in fostering the relationships with community and WWU

Guide Meridian/Cordata – June 6th celebration for community gardens. Mayor Dan is going to be guest speaker. Contact Adrienne for raffle tickets (\$1 each) and can buy at the picnic

York – met several times to discuss City Gate Project. Preparing for June 6th Dumpster Day – SSC will bring dumpster for free. The City also has resources that they will provide (containers) for a neighborhood cleanups. Contact Linda if interested.

King Mountain/Linda reporting– Had their first association organizing meeting – Had the meeting in the parking lot and it moved to a person's deck because the King Mountain Church was locked. Next meeting is tomorrow all invited to come and support the new neighborhood. People have anxiety about the annexation. Meeting at 6-7:30 on Kellogg Road at King Mountain Church – bylaws, outreach.

Meeting adjourned 9:00