



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

June 17, 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: Alabama Hill, Samish, Columbia and Sunnyland
Welcome New Appointments:
WWU – Jane Vroman
Sehome – Tim Hostetler
Neighborhoods working on organizing associations:
King Mountain: Bruce Alexander and Kevin Waltz
Whatcom Falls: Dick Etter

Guests:

David Webster, Chief Administrative Officer
Officer Katrin Dearborn, Bellingham Police Department
Richard Maneval, Chair, Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods

Introductions and Roll Call

May Minutes approved with amendment

Agenda for 6/17/09 Approved

Handout: Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program FAQ's

Reminder: Bylaws workshop on Saturday, June 20th 9-Noon in the Fireplace Room on Halleck Street. City requires that all bylaws be kept up-to-date and this workshop is provided to give the support needed. The next opportunity will be in the fall.

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. 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?

Feedback:

- Louise Bjornson went to Birchwood neighborhood meeting and did a modified version of the PowerPoint presentation.
- Confirmed that the items are not in any particular order, in terms of priority.
- There are a couple of Council requested changes to the "Drinking Water" legacy that have not been incorporated yet. They will be changed when all the feedback is received from the neighborhoods.

- Since the Mayor changes on a pretty regular basis, who will maintain alignment with the legacies? this will happen in several different ways:
 - Legacies are affirmed by Council and hopefully subsequent Councils will agree with them
 - City departments will have these commitments built into their budgets
 - Citizens will be able to track whether we are following-up on these
 - Comments should all be sent to Tracy Lewis at tleywis@cob.org
 - Were these legacies formed by the previous council “visioning process”?
 - Yes. Those goals were incorporated them into this document.
- Community indicators – Are they quantitative and will the COB measures be as well?
 - There could be several indicators for each and we need to find a way to measure and do it in an affordable way. Work in progress.
- Wouldn't it be easier to prioritize the legacies so that they can be tracked? Clean drinking seems that it should be priority and some of the other legacies seem it would be hard to qualify or quantify. Does the Council plan on prioritizing the legacies?
 - Council hasn't been inclined to prioritize them, but will pass on the feedback
- What does “limiting sprawl” mean?
 - Priority is to protect the rural areas. Council had the request that it would be reworded and it will be.

Next Steps

- June 24th deadline for sending the feedback to Tracy Lewis
- July 13th Council Public Hearing on Legacies

National Night Out Community Events (Richard Maneval & Officer Katrin Dearborn)

National Night Out is August 4th (1st Tuesday of August)

If you have questions about organizing a Night Out event, contact Officer Kat Dearborn. She also has information on safety, locks, lighting and when to call 911. Phone – 778-8660 or email kdearborn@cob.org – when notifying of a Night Out event, she will need the following info:

- Contact name
- Neighborhood
- Location
- What type of event
- Timeframe

Reminder: Night Out expenses are reimbursable through the City Neighborhood Support Services

National Night Out Website Resources:

<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/>
<http://www.nationalnightout.org/natw/>

Comprehensive Plan Review Subcommittee Update

Didn't meet this past month. Need Planning Department to give a little more time on the scheduling. Right now they are only scheduling a month in advance and that's not enough time to meet as sub-committee and bring to MNAC for review.

At July meeting, this topic will be added to agenda for small discussion and then a larger discussion in September.

South Hill reports they were contacted by the Planning Department about their vegetation and they were informed there will be a public hearing to discuss the neighborhood.

Silver Beach reports Kurt Nabbeffeld is working on their plan and making presentation in July.

Member Requests for Time

South Hill Neighborhood Association View Preservation

They had a meeting to discuss floor area ratio (FAR) in single family residential zones. They have a historical preservation commission and wondering if other neighborhoods have sub-committees? If anyone has interest, please contact Cathy Cameron

Community Schools – Fairhaven

Discussed resolution and Neighborhood Schools Coalition

Representative from Neighborhood Schools Coalitions presented material and said best way to support:

- Call the School Board Members during working hours
- Write letters copying the superintendent and board
- Letters to the editor in various publications to let them know this isn't an isolated event
 - Subject line – Support of Neighborhood Schools
- Attend the Meeting on June 25th at 7:30 pm

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| <p><i>Motion: Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission to send a letter to the Bellingham School District indicating that as representatives from all Bellingham neighborhoods, we urge the school district to give priority to the support and operating funds for our existing neighborhood elementary schools / Seconded/Discussion – Motion Carries</i></p> |
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Reminder that the letter will reflect that MNAC agrees and supports the resolution by Council.

Michael Lilliquist and Warren Rosenthal are going to be the ones appointed to write the letter and a copy of the letter will be sent out to all Neighborhood Associations.

Big Box Stores (Judy Van Woudenberg & Adrienne Lederer)

Distributor on neighborhood's positions regarding big box stores. Asking for neighborhoods support. June 25th the Planning Commission is having a public hearing on the issue.

To get additional information, contact Judy or Adrienne.

Round Table

Roosevelt – distributed calendar – addressing tagging issues by painting murals over the tagging. Parties and BBQ every month. Getting ready for National Night Out - holding meetings.

York – successful dumpster day. Working on Night Out . York also had a presentation from the Historic Preservation folks. An area was selected to propose as a historic district in York and approved by the York Neighborhood Board (same as Lettered Streets).

Guide Meridian/Cordata – had the opening of the garden and everything going well. Water paid by association.

Puget – nothing new to report

Happy Valley - newsletters distributed / last of four community dinners and will do them in the fall. Doing Night Out event... working with south side neighborhoods. We don't want to emphasize the police aspect of it and more of the community togetherness. Make it different from picnic and do a informal potluck. Working on tree plans. Going before Planning Commission soon. Doing inventory of trees. Community edible garden will be available to the public. Maintenance needs to be addressed and a priority, but not clear how it will be moved forward this summer.

South – nothing new to report

Cornwall – Roeder Home – request for help – write to Pete Kremen. “Monster house” on Cornwall...wasn't supported by planning, so looks like it won't be constructed.

CBD - Downtown Sounds starts July 15th (5 nights this summer), on Bay Street. Bite of Bellingham will be on August 1st 12:00-4:00. Will continue the Art Walk first Friday (including July 3rd). Grant

received for learning how to be more effective in connecting with community. Started facebook... search Downtown Bellingham Partnership and sign up.

Birchwood -nothing new to report

Edgemore – preliminary draft EIS Fairhaven Highlands has been delayed because EIS wasn't accurate. No indication of when it will be released. When it is, there will be a 45 day comment timeframe and then public hearing.

Fairhaven – Chris Behee attended meeting to show how the GIS programs operate. The neighborhoods can now access similar GIS and mapping information.

South Hill – discussion of FAR.

Lettered Streets – Historic Preservation Committee picked a block to be the historic district.

Mt. Baker -nothing new to report

Sehome – first step in improving the Samish Way Urban Village Area Plan and it is a public hearing; very exciting.

Silver Beach – working on goal setting. Kurt Nabbefeld from Planning is working on our plan. Looking forward to see how the Silver Beach Plan and Ordinance match up. We are having National Night Out on August 4th and emphasizing the community. Request at next month's meeting to discuss income from ads, donations, newsletters, etc. tax questions, state/federal issues. Regarding ordinance, "length of notice" wasn't enough to get the whole neighborhood to review the proposal. Planning Commission votes and then the City Council is unlikely to vote otherwise. Need longer notification periods, so we can bring the Associations up-to-date and give them enough time to review and get comments back in an organized manner.

WWU – school is out; back in session next week for summer session.

Columbia – received association window stickers and membership cards for discounts. Last general meeting – Whatcom Legacy and City discussed infill toolkit. Annual picnic on July 14th.

King Mountain – no bylaws, no state certification, but working on them. Next neighborhood organizing meeting is June 25th 6-7:30 at King Mountain Church.

Whatcom Falls – nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm