



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

July 15, 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:

Neighborhoods working on organizing associations:

King Mountain: Steve and Kathy LeCocq

Guests:

Karen Funston, Attorney, Buri Funston Mumford, PLLC

Nicole Oliver and Pat Carman, Planning & Community Development

Council Member Jack Weiss

Jeff Haggren (Puget), Morgan Holmgran (ASB/WWU), Cathy McKenzie (South), Kelli

Pedersen (Roosevelt)

Introductions and Roll Call

June Minutes approved with amendments

Agenda for 7/15/09 Approved

Congratulations to Patrick McKee, Sunnyland on his reappointment

Responsibilities of Neighborhood Associations as WA State Non-Profits (Karen Funston)

In order to be eligible for City support services funding, associations need to establish and maintain current status as a Washington State non-profit. There is no requirement for neighborhood associations to attain tax-exempt status as a 501(c) organization. Resources will be provided to neighborhoods for fulfilling their requirements as Washington State non-profits.

Members were requested to consult with their associations and send questions on this topic to Linda, via email, by 9/1/09. Questions will be sent to Karen for further research and information will be provided to neighborhoods at a future MNAC meeting.

Northern Neighborhood Boundary Review Project (Pat Carman and Nicole Oliver)

Pat Carman did presentation on newly proposed boundaries for the northern neighborhoods (attached).

This is in response to the Guide Meridian/Cordata and Mt. Baker neighborhoods requesting their neighborhoods be made smaller and little more manageable. Planning has been working with them to come up with boundaries that are more workable. This is the very beginning of the process. Planning staff will visit neighborhood associations to present the proposed boundaries.

When coming up with this plan, they reviewed the following: transportation, existing zoning, vacant land zoning, existing houses and relationships to industrial and single/multi-family zones.

Next steps:

- Take the proposal to the affected neighborhood and collect feedback
- Take to Planning Commission for public hearing
- Planning Commission is set for October 22nd
- Planning Commission makes recommendations and reports findings to City Council in late November or early December if everything goes well
- Neighborhood Plan Amendments must be done by December

Please take the information back to your neighborhood associations and send all additional questions to Nicole Oliver at 778-8353 noliver@cob.org or Pat Carman at 778-8348 pcarman@cob.org.

Update on Infill Toolkit (Nicole Oliver)

In the Council Work Session on Monday, this item was tabled until the July 27th meeting. It was agreed to let town homes go to 35'. The Planning Department has proposed another variation that eliminates the "single family" wording all together.

Nicole distributed a document with wording that was developed from staff and some Council members (top of document) and the version from the Planning Commission (bottom of document). Document is attached to minutes.

Comprehensive Plan Review Subcommittee Update

Linda distributed a statement prepared by the subcommittee (attached to minutes).

Member Request for Agenda Time

Columbia – Yahoo group update The group has been created and there are 6 people signed up. It would be a more resourceful tool if everyone signed up and used it. If you need help, please contact Meredith Murray.

Sehome – Land Use Discussion tabled until September meeting.

Fairhaven – Fiscal Alternatives for Stability Task Force (FAST)

One of the recommendations was that MNAC be moved to meeting once a quarter. General discussion about the importance of MNAC and some positive feedback about the FAST report.

- Group believes that would be a very unwise decision to move meetings to be quarterly. Too much happens and there wouldn't be enough time to get the information out to the neighborhoods.
- None of the recommendations for boards and commissions have been accepted by the Mayor at this time.
- Right now it takes three hours once a month to get through the issues. If we met once a quarter, it would take all day.

Round Table

South – Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods is having a Candidate Forum on July 20th at 7:00 pm at Our Saviors Church on 19th & McKenzie. All primary candidates will be present for questions.

- CSN is Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods. They come together on common issues and it is a way to have more resources.

Silver Beach – In the middle of the planning process. Kurt Nabbefeld attended meeting and went through the process and planning committee is going to review them and have edits to review at September meeting. They are in the midst of the Silver Beach Creek project. National Night Out is August 4th at Bloedel Donovan. There will be a picnic, ice cream and a kayak that was donated to give away.

Lettered Streets – Would like to thank Linda for attending meeting. Anitra from Public Works talked about water conservation, meters and rain barrels. They also have worked on some door hangers to distribute to the neighborhood (an idea they got from Fairhaven) – it shows the meeting times for the next 4-5 months.

South – July 4th was unhappy for some people because they were bothered by the fireworks.

Fairhaven – August 9th is their picnic at Maritime Point Park at 1-4pm. They will be doing a mailing and door hanging. Association members can't vote unless they have attended two meetings.

Cornwall – Picnic is on August 11th at Broadway Park at 7pm. Had a disaster preparedness meeting and they toured the new fire equipment.

Sunnyland – The Sunnyland Sentinel newsletter was distributed. Group organizing art in people's yard this Saturday (Sunnyland Stomp).

Guide Meridian/Cordata – Have a park in the neighborhood, but trail won't be added until 2010. Were able to change the Council Legacies to "Access to All Parks".

Birchwood – August 2nd picnic – it will be part of National Night Out. Doing an outreach to apartment developments. Going to distribute surveys and have meet and greets. Squalicum is going to be discussed at the Planning Commission this week.

Alabama Hill – Meeting on Friday to talk about National Night Out – it will be on August 4th at St. Clare Park at 6:30.

WWU – It's summer quarter and a bit quieter. Summer Concert Series on Wednesdays for one hour on campus.

Sehome – Continuation of the plan for Samish Way. Board to meet Monday and discuss specifics. There will be a public hearing on July 23rd and then submit comments to Council.

Samish – Monthly board meeting last night and arranged for general meeting picnic – September 20th at Lake Padden from Noon to 3pm. Making good progress on website, should be up and running by the end of the month – samishneighborhood.org.

CBD – Tonight first night of Downtown Sounds on Bay Street. Bite of Bellingham August 1st.

York – National Night Out planning picnic in parking lot across from Methodist church. To follow-up on the Samish Way Urban Village – there were details that came out during the neighborhood review of this proposal that resulted in neighborhood taking a different position than when the MNAC vote was taken. There were inconsistencies and the neighborhood did not feel they had proper notification of the issues. Neighborhood requesting that the height limit be reduced.

Columbia – Picnic party last night 40-50 people showed up, very good event. They are proud of their newsletter, which goes out four times a year with several writers. Its hand delivered to all houses and apartments.

South Hill – A new website launched – southhillneighborhood.org. Going into the neighborhood plan amendment process, which is docketed by City Council for consideration which includes view preservation, trees and vegetation. First public forum will be on July 30th at 7:45 pm at the Firehouse Performance Arts Center. Thank you to City Council for consideration on all public input on the infill toolkit. It was very impressive how they were listening and trying to address everyone's needs. Got calls from neighbors about fireworks. It's really an issue and read other cities that have the ordinance of no fireworks sold or allowed. Very concerned for safety and property.

Puget – Website up and running – pugetneighborhood.org and doing the follow-ups for the surveys. The online results were comparable with mail. Restructuring the board.

WWU/ASB – There will be freshman and parents in town touring Bellingham.

King Mountain – In the process of doing bylaws, electing people and moving forward. Please forward any information you can offer on bylaws of what has worked and what hasn't to Steve LeCocq 671-2535. They don't want to reinvent the wheel.

Linda's Report:

Very little neighborhood support service money has been used this year. Linda is opening up funding for all neighborhoods even if you are close to going over your allotted amount. WE CANNOT TURN BACK ANY FUNDS or we will have a hard time justifying the need for 2010. Please be sure to include a proof of purchase with your submittals (copy of checks, receipts, invoices must show zero balance owing). A copy of invoice just marked PAID won't work for our Accounting Department, must be proof of purchase.

Process for Submitting MNAC Recommendations

Last meeting we discussed sending a letter to the school board. When in fact, we need to remember the MNAC role is to make recommendations to the Mayor, in an advisory capacity. In this case, the Mayor decided not to send the letter due to the many conversations he had with the school board on the topic.

1. In future, keep in mind that MNAC advises the Mayor and makes recommendations; Mayor will determine what action to take.
2. Contact person for MNAC work products should not be a City Staff person; should be one of the MNAC reps designated to act on the group's behalf.

No meeting in August. Next meeting September 16!

Meeting adjourned.