



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

September 16, 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: Samish and WWU

Guests: Richard Conoboy

Officer Katrin Dearborn, Crime Prevention Unit, Bellingham Police Department

Introductions and Roll Call

July Minutes approved with amendments

Agenda for 9/16/09 Approved

Congratulations to Andrea Haas, newly appointed primary Puget rep; Morgan Holmgren, newly appointed WWU co-rep; Adrienne Lederer, newly appointed primary Guide Meridian/Cordata rep.

Howard Steiner will facilitate the October MNAC meeting.

Please notify the Neighborhood Services Coordinator of association leadership transitions. Association Presidents and MNAC reps are the formal points of communication from the City to neighborhoods. In order for information to get to the right people, city mailing lists (email and U.S. mail) must be updated when new association presidents are selected. There are also authorized signature forms, etc., that need to be updated. There have been significant delays in making updates and information has not been relayed, because staff is unaware of transitions in neighborhood association leadership.

At the July MNAC meeting, neighborhoods were encouraged to submit requests for reimbursement above the \$1,000 annual allocation, since a number of associations had not submitted any requests to-date. The requests should be for allowable expenses. Because of the continued financial crisis facing the City, the following actions will take place immediately:

- **All reimbursement forms for 2009 expenses must be submitted by October 1st!**
Requests for reimbursement will not be processed during the last quarter of 2009 (October – December).
 - Proof of purchase and payment must be attached to the reimbursement request (copy of check, receipt indicating credit card payment, copy of bank statement showing check, or invoice marked "paid" by vendor).

The proposed 2010 budget reflects a reduction in neighborhood support services funding. Email will go out to Presidents and MNAC Representatives reminding them to turn in all allowable expenses by October 1st.

Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) - Officer Katrin Dearborn

Don Davis is no longer handling this task. Please contact Officer Dearborn if you have questions or need a presentation in your neighborhood.

Phone: 778-8660 / kdearborn@cob.org

The concept is to have 15-20 houses participate

- If you live in a condo or apartment complex – get to know your neighbors on that floor
- Find out who has what equipment that can be used in case of an emergency
- Find out if there is a home that small children or the elderly can go to for safety
- Find out about your neighbors – who have what skills that would be helpful in a disaster (nurse, paramedic, engineer, etc.)
- It takes one person to host the meeting (90 minutes)
- Get your needed supplies to be prepared – water, equipment, etc. (more ideas can be provided by Officer Dearborn)

If you have already completed MYN and want to further serve your community, you can attend the CERT program – it's 27 hours.

Q: Sehome had the question of what do you do in the situation where you have half rentals and half owner occupied? They are planning on using one of the local motels to hold their meeting – is that okay?

- There isn't a set place that it *must* be done. Just get together with your neighbors and get to know them and get prepared.
- Often people think that it won't happen to them or that it won't be that bad if something did happen.

Q: Has it been approved that "Disaster Notices" can go into rentals (like where to shut the gas and water off)?

- Officer Dearborn will check into that because she's not sure it's been passed yet.

The Red Cross also does presentations on disaster preparedness. If you would like the contact information, please contact Officer Dearborn.

Some businesses have been contacted for providing disaster preparedness kits. Officer Dearborn is still working on this, but Birch Equipment has agreed to do them. Contact her for more information.

Comprehensive Plan Review Subcommittee Update

South Hill – SHNA / Boundaries / View Preservation Presentation by Cathy Cameron

Motion by Howard Steiner: Move that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend the Bellingham's Planning Commission approve the South Hill Neighborhood Association's proposed text amendment to their Neighborhood Plan. Second / Discussion / Motion Passes– 1 opposed

This will be presented to the Planning Commission tomorrow.

Motion to appoint that Cathy McKenzie be appointed to represent the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission at the Bellingham Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for September 17, 2009. Second / Motion Passes Unanimously

Area 17D, Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association / Tin Rock

Adrienne Lederer spoke about the neighborhood's characteristics and what developers have done in the neighborhood, as well as neighborhood support of the continued development and rezoning.

Motion by Howard Steiner: Move that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend the Planning Commission approve the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment and rezone 45.7 acres in Area 17D of the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood Association. Second / Discussion

- Not in favor of eliminating industrial. The City of Bellingham needs industrial land
- Not in favor of every investor/builder that wants to build something; should be part of the character of the neighborhood or meet standards

Vote: 1 in favor / 16 opposed / 2 abstained / Motion fails

Adrienne added that the reason the Guide Meridian/Cordata Neighborhood started this was at the suggestion of the Planning Director.

Northern Neighborhood Boundaries

Mt. Baker Neighborhood Association had a meeting and unanimously approved the City's plan to split the neighborhood and create two new neighborhoods, Irongate and Barkley.

Guide Meridian / Cordata Neighborhood Association had a meeting and agreed to the City plan to alter the neighborhood boundaries *with the revision to include all of Whatcom Community College.*

Motion by Howard Steiner: Move that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend the Bellingham Planning Commission approve the Northern Neighborhood Boundary Review Project. Second / Discussion

- Not comfortable approving the King Mountain because that neighborhood is not present
- Linda stated that King Mountain has opted to not to comment on this topic until they have voted in their association board (next Thursday, 9/24)
- Suggestion to modify the motion to include the neighborhoods that are present and have commented

Motion that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend to the Bellingham Planning Commission to approve the Cordata, Meridian, Irongate and Barkley neighborhoods be altered as per the Northern Neighborhood Boundary Review Project. Second / Motion Passed Unanimously

Silver Beach Plan – Take no action on neighborhood plan at this time.

CBD Area 21 – Bandel Property adjacent to waterfront

Motion by Brad Rose: Move that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend the Bellingham Planning Commission does not approve this area for rezone from industrial to multi-family. Second / Discussion / Motion Passed (1 abstained)

Brad Rose to put the letter together to go the Planning Commission.

Question by Warran Rosenthal, Mt. Baker – Can we ask the Mayor to keep long term planning in mind and not jump at every opportunity that presents itself?

Linda has suggested that this topic be added to the agenda in October since the Mayor is scheduled to attend MNAC.

Round Table

Roosevelt – Had a very successful National Night Out – 200+ people. Working on Halloween Safe Route and a Healthy Girls Action for teens to be healthy.

Birchwood – Sent out a random survey to 600-700 people and received a 60% return – very excited. Kulshan Land Trust is possibly working on a piece of land to do an affordable housing project.

South – Christopher Grannis distributed a letter (attached to meeting notes) describing an issue with the City of Bellingham and North Chuckanut Estates Short Plan developer Steve Brisbane, with regard to a proposed “new” primary access road via California Street. The Center for Self Reliance is doing a fundraising rainbarrel class on Saturday September 26th at 10:00 a.m. (flyer attached to meeting notes).

Edgemoor - Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods is having a Candidate Forum in October prior to next MNAC meeting. All primary candidates will be present for questions. There is a proposal to divert or move a sewer main from South Bay Trail, across from Village Books, to Taylor Dock. Owners want to pay to have the sewer skirt around the property and onto a bluff. There are concerns of moving the sewer and the future of South Bay Trail. The public comment period ends next Tuesday.

Cornwall – Had annual picnic and it was well attended. The picnic had to be moved from Cornwall Park to Broadway Park and it was very nice. Roeder Home still needs volunteers.

Fairhaven – Further comment on Edgemoor’s report about the sewer – that area is zoned for 35’ and Fairhaven Neighbors are also involved in drafting a letter.

Guide Meridian/Cordata – They have been working on a door hanger to get more people involved. They will start distributing tomorrow. They printed 2,000 black and white and it cost just under \$300 through Applied Digital Imaging. They are having a Candidates Forum on October 20th.

Silver Beach – They had their picnic with National Night Out. They took flyers to 1,200 homes and got 65 people. Kurt in Planning is working on plan update. Had Clay Butler come and talk about fireworks. Be careful of how you present... it was full of fireworks. Elections are coming up. They had to change their bylaws based on what they learned at the bylaws workshop. Highly recommend attending a future bylaws workshop.

Mt. Baker – Nothing new to report

Lettered Streets – Missed the Cornwall Park event because it was the same night as their ice cream social.

Sehome – September 29th is their Fall Meeting. Going before Planning Commission – what is the residential transition to commercial use and how do you flow between the new and the existing neighborhoods. Planning Commission will be looking into this. Needs to be addressed in the new code. (Handout attached to meeting notes.)

Happy Valley – Cancelled their normal board meeting. Had a picnic in August and had a good turnout. Nice to have the church to help them and use their facility for free.

Columbia – They have business window slicks that are given out when businesses become a part of the association and are still getting new business sign-ups.

York – Had National Night Out and it was successful. This Saturday is their picnic.

Alabama Hill – National Night out picnic in the park – approximately 50 people in attendance.

South Hill – Cathy thanked Linda for making the laptop and projector available for their presentation. She also thanked Howard for the way he handled the comprehensive plan review process and making it happen along with the sub-committee.

Puget – Their meeting was postponed, so their planning committee could present to them.

CBD – Ongoing struggles trying to keep downtown clean, safe and beautiful. There was comment about the concert in the park series and how much it was enjoyed.

Internet Chat - Linda to send Meredith the MNAC Primary and Alternate's email addresses and Meredith will send them an invite to be part of the Yahoo Chat Group.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Next Meeting October 21st and Howard Steiner to Chair.