



City of Bellingham MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Kathryn Hanowell, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, on **Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

APPROVED MINUTES

1.	<p>ATTENDENCE: Unless noted below, all were in attendance. Substitutions: Sunnyland (Hugh Conroy); Robin Hitz (Mt. Baker)</p> <p>Absent: Columbia (Mark Robinson)</p> <p>Minutes Approved from October 11, 2006 meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Items from the Neighborhoods</p> <p>Silver Beach – Problem w/ mail stolen out of mailboxes</p> <p>Whatcom Falls – Concern about students getting to middle school not using approved crosswalks; no crossing guards, referred to Kim Brown, Public Works, Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator</p> <p>Lettered Streets – Michael McAuley announced his resignation from MNAC. Donna Auer thanked Michael for lively and intelligent input.</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – Frustrated w/ new park negotiations. Trillium not implementing traffic recommendations from City. Northside still without parks/ trails/ etc.</p> <p>Sehome – Trying to create RPZ on High Street.</p> <p>Puget – Question on property owners' responsibility to clear storm drains in times of heavy rain.</p> <p>Sunnyland – Update on neighborhood association activities. Working on getting Planning Academy funds. WSDOT property discussion on potential re-zone of property.</p> <p>Birchwood – Gave update on neighborhood association reorganization</p>	
3.	<p>Information from the City</p> <p>1. Mayor's Report</p> <p>Discussion with Mayor Tim Douglas. Tim spoke on why he believes the MNAC is important. It provides the City a key opportunity to have a two-way discussion with the neighborhoods.</p>	

	<p>Tim's priorities for next year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Importance of updating neighborhood plans. Spoke to fact that current plans are very much out of date. Process Tim Stewart and staff have provided should be very helpful in assisting with plan updates. 2. Waterfront Redevelopment –Central waterfront represents enormous opportunity for city. Lively discussion is needed. Counting on neighborhood representatives to push constructive discussion. 3. Lake Whatcom Watershed – Lake is a treasure to the community. Really must maintain water quality. Important time to address issues. 4. City/ County Partnership on Affordable Housing – Will be coming forward to city and county councils with recommendations on affordable housing programs. <p>Discussion with Mayor Tim on variety of issues.</p>	
	<p>2. Neighborhood Services Coordinator Update</p> <p>Kathryn Hanowell: Following up on Planning Academy work. Informational follow-up meeting Thursday, November 16 at 4:00 in Mayor's Boardroom. Finishing up on Neighborhood Association Recognition policy. Attending neighborhood association meetings. Please contact Kathryn to attend their neighborhood meetings.</p> <p>3. Chief Administrative Officer report</p> <p>Malcolm Fleming: Spoke on waterfront redevelopment project. Working with council on departmental budgets. Preliminary budget is on website. Working with council and Mayor to work on legislative agenda for upcoming session.</p> <p>Allen Matsumoto – Asked if Project for Public Spaces ideas is being incorporated into waterfront plan. Malcolm said this is one of the themes in the framework plan.</p> <p>Michael McAuley– Asked if the city/ port are discussing area as a “neighborhood”? Malcolm said it will become a neighborhood of great places; diversity of uses. Unique neighborhood characteristics. Certain parts will be incorporated into surrounding neighborhoods. Malcolm encouraged comments on all issues.</p> <p>Hugh Conroy – Question on legislative agenda on WSDOT property. Other state properties in area that might also be affected by change in law? Future benefits for other state-owned land? Tim said there is not a lot of state-owned property in city. Tim said we need to pay attention to DNR-owned land.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>City website re-design & new neighborhood web page – Marty Mulholland, Janice Keller, Nicole Oliver. Marty and Janice presented PowerPoint on City's planned website improvements, including an update of Neighborhood Page. Time frame – rollout in 2007.</p>	

	<p>Asked MNAC for input – contact Janice Keller at 676-6979, jkeller@cob.org</p> <p>Showed draft of new website redesign.</p> <p>Discussion on how to best support neighborhoods needs on website.</p>	
	<p>New Neighborhood Webpage – presented by Nicole Oliver</p> <p>Can be found on City's home page under Quicklinks – drop-down menu. Each neighborhood web page is accessed through the map of the neighborhoods. The web page for each neighborhood organizes all the resources regarding the neighborhood on one page.</p> <p>Requested that each member review their neighborhood's page and send comments to Cheri in Planning, CGleichman@cob.org</p> <p>Asked that members notify Cheri if you find glitches.</p> <p>Current site – like to be able to download sections of comp plan; would like to be able to have choice to download either section or entire plan.</p> <p>Discussion on what group would like to see posted.</p>	
5.	<p>MNAC Discussion</p> <p>Officers Issue – Moved to next (December) meeting.</p> <p>Report from Development Code Subcommittee – Donna Auer reported that the subcommittee met w/ Marilyn Vogel on Oct. 23rd to discuss revisions to development codes. Noted that an RFQ has been released for a consultant to work on the project. Expressed concern that MNAC/ subcommittee didn't have much input in process.</p> <p>Nicole provided information – Development code has been updated on an on going basis. However, this project is to look at a full scale update of the Code. Staff is just now at the beginning of the process; having issued an RFQ for a consultant to help with initial process of reformatting the code to make it easier for all to use. Need professional help to look at structure and formatting. This is a top priority of Tim Stewart. Planning Dept, Commission, and MNAC will all play vital role in this.</p> <p>Donna thanked Nicole for the clarification.</p> <p>Structuring this meeting item in future – Moved to next (December) meeting.</p> <p>Group would like MNAC minutes posted on Web.</p>	
6.	Adjourn	9 PM

****NEXT MNAC MEETING is Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. ****