



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, December 13, 2006 at 6:35 p.m.**, in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

APPROVED MINUTES

	<p>ATTENDENCE: Unless noted below, all were in attendance. Substitutions: Birchwood (Rebecca Schlotterback), Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Cathy Starr), Happy Valley (Deborra Garrett) Lettered Streets (Judy Buchanan)</p> <p>Absent: Alabama Hill (Doug Bestle), CBD (Marilyn Morrissey) Columbia (Mark Robinson), Mt Baker (Robin Hitz)</p> <p>Minutes Approved from November 8, 2006 meeting.</p>
	<p>Members were asked to let City know about any change in officers to neighborhood associations.</p> <p>Public Involvement Survey – City Council Meeting on Jan. 8; staff will present a report to council on public involvement results</p> <p>Kathryn is working on toolkit for neighborhood involvement</p>
	<p>Items from the Neighborhoods</p> <p>Birchwood – Revitalizing neighborhood association, 2 major spot re-zones, 72-acre annexation (N. of Bakerview).</p> <p>Cornwall – Working w/ Birchwood on rezone, IMP on St. Joseph Hospital just updated.</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – Spoke on recently lifted building moratorium. Neighborhood reps recently met with Trillium, sense of progress in issue. Mayor Tim added that City worked intensively to find a solution with Trillium on this issue. Jim McCabe noted that Parks board recommended trail plan for Cordata area. Will create trail/ bike network for north area.</p> <p>Happy Valley – WSDOT installed barrier when they closed off 32nd Street. New city park on Donovan street will be inaugurated soon. Tim spoke about meetings w/ WSDOT – improvements to off-ramps, etc. Tim said he would like to work w/ WSDOT to look thoughtfully at how these are implemented. WSDOT is currently seeking input from citizens on this. Recent street tree planting party.</p> <p>Puget – Puget/Fraser improvements (Phase 1) included street light at intersection as result of neighborhood input. Phase 2 will add sidewalks on section of Puget to Civic Field. <i>(revised)</i></p> <p>Roosevelt – Recently planted trees in neighborhood (60 people) on Texas and Carolina using small and simple grant. Traffic calming circles on Texas St. are complete.</p>

Samish – Board discussed and voted not to participate in Chuck. Ridge Park district overlay project. Would like to *exclude* Samish neighborhood from Park district – due to taxing issues.

Appreciate temporary speed humps that have been installed.

Sehome – Working w/ local realtor on old trailer park off Samish Way – proposed up-zone for that area. Concern about loss of affordable housing; realtor has expressed willingness to meet w/ Inclusionary housing experts on project. St. Joseph South Campus has asked neighborhood for input on new signage.

Silver Beach – Distributed Green Power Challenge door-hangers to neighborhood.

South – Concerned over condition of Fairhaven Park rose garden- house is boarded up, gazebo area is deteriorating, Surrounding neighborhoods may be interested in work party (Fairhaven, Edgemoor, South, etc.). What is planned future use of area? Submitted priority list to Port for Fairhaven Harbor Scheme improvements. Would also like to work with City in process.

South Hill – Working with Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods. Working w/ WWU (Kevin McClain) to work on alternative transportation issues. Participated in Block Watch Program offered by BPD (Mark Young). 16-unit condo going up on waterside of State St. No plans on website in Planning. (?got permit yesterday) Question about when that information is made available to public.

Sunnyland – Working on Green Power challenge. Working with Community Carshare. Asking for help with implementing community gardens. Discussed 3-acre parcel between Sunset and Illinois (owned by WSDOT). Neighborhood is asking to be involved in planning of land once it goes to private ownership.

Whatcom Falls – waiting to hear back from developers of proposed Whitworth Park.

York – \$150,000NIP Grant awarded to Franklin Park. Working w/ Sehome on urban village/ pedestrian connectors.

Fairhaven – Planned 10-story building has gone back to redesign, reduction in size. Working at being involved w/ various projects going on in Fairhaven. (Annexation of property? Protections to Padden Creek still part of it?) Neighborhood will be submitting new neighborhood plan to rezone. Received vague notice about building going in at gas station on 12th & Donovan. Concern about lack of details in notice

WWU – Early planning of adding new residence hall on south campus. Meeting on Jan. 16 with developer. Questions from reps on how their neighborhood can be involved with project. City will send letter to University to let them know that neighborhoods are interested in the project.

Information from the City

Reports from the Mayor's Office

Neighborhood Services Report

Recent Resignations/ Appointments to MNAC

Vacancy in Lettered Streets. Neighborhood association should be nominating new person in February.

Kathryn has been attending various neighborhood meetings. If people would like her to attend theirs, please contact her.

	<p>Silver Beach has been working hard at getting folks involved, Birchwood also working at revitalization.</p> <p>Traffic calming work session for MNAC/ neighborhood associations on Jan. 17 – follow up to last worksession; to discuss how to get traffic changes made. Fireplace Room at ITSD, 7 p.m.</p>
	<p>Celebrating MNAC/ Looking back at MNAC Accomplishments</p>
	<p>MNAC Accomplishments –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Attendance • Neighborhood Surveys • Communication Between Neighborhoods • Creation of Neighborhood Services Coordinator Position • Group has been taken more seriously • Executive Committee formed in April • Planning Academy • BMC Updates – making MNAC more democratic/ neighborhood-centric • Successful in helping City to see that group wants to be cooperative • Moved into advocacy role – more balanced communication • Helping New Neighborhood Associations Form – Sharing information • Participating in Planning Director Selection • Quality of Presentations – more on target with work being done. (Greenways, Transportation Concurrency, Emergency Management, Planning, ITSD) – Really good education about work City is doing.
	<p>Areas for Improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual conflicts – dual role that departments play (formulate policy, and listen to public as well) • Cut off from City Council – doesn't feel that City Council has strong understanding of what group does. Dragging subjects out too long sometimes • Officer issue – Becoming more involved in own agenda • Kathryn spoke on her position – report to council/ Mayor in April to vote on continuing position • Discussion on leadership role, officer roles. • Consider liaison to council • Bring people in UGA brought into group (Would require change to BMC) • Work plan/ Timelines • Agendas are too full • Group Retreat Discussed
	<p>MNAC Officer Discussion – Discussion on whether or not group should have a chairperson.</p> <p>Donna Auer suggested that the members consider a chair for MNAC in order to have a "point person" for the reps, as all other City advisory groups have - and that this would be someone who could be more objective and unencumbered by not being a City employee, and who would work collaboratively with Kathryn for the benefit of MNAC, for the purpose of giving a wider range to our advisory capacity. Discussion of pros and cons followed.</p> <p>Ayes – 3 Nays – 15 (alts – 3) Motion fails.</p> <p>Mayor Tim noted after the discussion that he appreciates how well the commission works together. Believes that it is important that representatives are all on an equal basis without one representative elevated.</p> <p>Group said they appreciate Mayor Tim's attendance at meetings.</p>

	Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings:

- **January 8, City Council Evening Session: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SURVEY REPORT PRESENTED (rescheduled)**
- **NEXT MNAC MEETING: January 10, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. -- Tim Stewart, Planning and Community Development Director, will attend. (rescheduled)**
- **January 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. (Fireplace Room at ITSD, 625 Halleck St.) SPECIAL MNAC MEETING with Public Works Staff on Traffic Calming Program and Neighborhood involvement in prioritizing. Neighborhood Association Leadership also invited.**