



City of Bellingham MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

March 14, 2007

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Kathryn Hanowell, neighborhood services coordinator, on **Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

APPROVED MINUTES

	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Substitutions: Kurt Baumgarten, Birchwood; Kate Grinde, Silver Beach; Paul Olmstead, South. Absent: Mark Robinson, Columbia; Andrew Connor, Sunnyland; Brady Dykgraaf, WWU</p>
	Minutes: Approved from February 14, 2007 Meeting
	Kathryn spoke on passing of Councilmember Joan Beardsley
	Items from the Neighborhoods
	<p>Alabama Hill – Working on meeting w/ other neighborhoods on transportation issues, moving forward w/ park issues.</p> <p>Birchwood – New elections: President: Jack Weiss, Vice President: Frank Ordway, Treasurer: Rebecca Schlotterback; spoke about Squalicum Loft rezone decision by council; work on revitalizing neighborhood association continues.</p> <p>Cornwall Park – Had elections last meeting; John McGarrity is working with Sunnyland on WSDOT site.</p> <p>Edgemoor – Happy that planning dept is going ahead w/ EIS for Fairhaven Highlands; 9300 Sq foot home on Clark's point – comment period has closed, trend in neighborhood is that homes are doubling and tripling in size. Their concern about this trend is with character and consistency in neighborhood; John Ericson elected VP</p> <p>Fairhaven – Working on neighborhood plan amendment, surveys. Working w/ business and property owners on outreach issues. Also happy with the decision to have EIS on Fairhaven Highlands. Fred Haskell met with Neighborhood assoc. about rezone area, plans to develop on land. Concerns about loss of light industrial in neighborhood – shouldn't all be residential and retail, would like real wage jobs in area. Fairhaven Plant Sale – March 31st.</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – President: Cathy Starr, Vice President: Bob Sanders, Secretary: Pamela Sorenson, Treasurer: Julie Guy. Held summit several weeks ago w/ residents, institutions – concentrated on emergency management, and disaster preparedness. Working on plan for city-wide prototype. Last year's storms made everyone</p>

aware of need to be prepared. DR Horton – planning another 450 home development at end of Cordata, Planning Dept had set up hearing on issues, hearing was cancelled because DR Horton wouldn't comply w/ requirements for building roads in area. Neighborhood happy that City is taking action to get developer to slow down. Nicole said it concerns Cordata Pkwy, SEPA checklist did traffic impact study, but now developer doesn't want to build. Circumstances have changed since last SEPA checklist.

Happy Valley – Area 5, near Larrabee Elementary, developer's proposal to put 12-15 houses, concerns about traffic that houses will produce. Closing of 32nd Street south, total blocking of 32nd has created more traffic in other areas of neighborhood. Want 32nd open to right turns but not left.

Lettered Streets – Elections last month; President: Lee Eberhardt, Vice President: Michael McAuley, Treasurer: Judy Buchanan, Secretary: Arlene Feld; Concerns about old RE Store Building – abandoned vehicles, want better police presence in area. Building going in across from old Roeder building, presentation by builder at last meeting.

Mt Baker – Working on outreach, neighborhood plan, some people feel neighborhood may need to be split.

Puget – Therese Kelliher, new president. Continuing to learn to deal with traffic calming devices; rezone proposed by developer to put in commercial/ residential; items of interest from parks board meeting – trail subcommittee, "Share the Trails Campaign" information coming out. Kick off for program will be on BTV10. Work continues on Whatcom Creek trail, Racine to Fraser section now. Will eventually connect all the way into downtown.

Roosevelt – Same officers as last year

Samish – Annual meeting March 13. Discussions on concurrency, San Juan Blvd is on schedule to be put in but w/ minimum road standards, – no sidewalks, no bike lanes; concerns neighborhood. April recognizes that funding is limited, and arterial is needed. House – burned a while ago, gutted, same condition for about 8 mos. Wondering if there are ordinances in place to fix that. Noted that deadline for Small and Simple grants is tomorrow.

Sehome – Working on plan update, focusing on outreach. Turnout at big outreach meeting was great. Asking neighborhood to go out and look for existing examples of what they want in their neighborhood, from other cities. Developer was going to buy old McDonald's on Samish Way, but has pulled out of plan and Popeye's Chicken is moving in.

Silver Beach – Continuing with planning process, presentation on storm water at last meeting, explained current projects, trying to address view issues in planning process, asked if other neighborhoods are dealing with that to share information with Silver Beach.

South – Planning Dept has recommended EIS for Fairhaven Highlands; board has been asking for this for years.

South Hill – Working on neighborhood plan, primary focus is view preservation, dealing with height and bulk limits. TIP – concentrating on Highland Drive. Would like more

	<p>lighting using “dark sky philosophy”</p> <p>Whatcom Falls – Neighborhood attended Planning Commission meeting – recommended against approving a rezone proposed by developer to decrease minimum lot size.</p> <p>York – Planning committee has been in initial meetings for neighborhood plan update. Traffic and parking liaison selected. Held General Meeting, elections. Grant work discussed. Collaborating with Sehome on some issues including urban village concept along Samish Way. TIP Process – worked. Also working with Sehome on bike/ ped corridor. When project was submitted, changes had to be made. NTSP also in progress.</p> <p>General/ City-wide Concerns: Jeff Sawyer commented on prevalence of graffiti around town. Wondering what BPD is doing about it. [Note article in JSYAA on this].</p>
	<p>Information from the City</p> <p>Sehome neighborhood Planning Process – Allen Matsumoto – Allen was asked to present Sehome’s outreach materials an initial neighborhood wide meeting. He noted that their outreach materials and general comments at the neighborhood wide meeting included high level messages of what can and cannot be included, what must be included in neighborhood process. For small group work, rather than divide by the Sub Areas of the neighborhood Plan, they broke into groups to focus on common areas, such as those along Forest Street, purely residential, along Samish Way. Used mailing list provided by the city of property owners. Kathryn said city staff is working on making lists more useable. Discussion amongst group on process. Allen volunteered to share his documents and meeting materials with other neighborhoods.</p>
	<p>Plan Amendment Process – Greg Aucutt Workshop on April 3rd to address any questions. Nicole Oliver added that the Neighborhood Plan Resource Kit that was sent out several weeks ago. Nicole thanked Cathy Starr and Tom Scott, and NPUP Committee for the Neighborhood Plan Outline adapted for the Resource Kit.</p>
	<p>6 Year TIP – Chris Comeau –18 neighborhoods submitted projects. Chris provided members with copies of a complete list of the submittals – both with BPAC & MNAC recommendations. Working on cost estimates. Noted that this is an annual project in case anyone missed their chance to submit. Draft TIP will go through public hearing. Chris asked group to contact him with any questions. PW is trying to be more efficient and equitable in dealing with transportation issues; want to establish priorities. Clarification that the NTSP doesn’t deal with arterials.</p>
	<p>Reports from the Mayor’s Office</p> <p>Waterfront Update – Nicole Oliver council approved 3rd supplemental Inter Local Agreement – This is to fund an EIS and public involvement program. Going to Waterfront Advisory Group meeting for comment.</p>

	<p>Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report – Kathryn Hanowell – none given.</p>
	<p>Parks and Recreation Department Work plan – Paul Leuthold, Director Paul presented parks projects for upcoming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 mill renovation of Civic complex is almost complete. • Working on Greenways III program. Making sure money committed is used wisely. \$12 million for north side, \$6 million for south, \$2 mill undesignated. Conducting outreach meetings with public to find where public wants Greenways priorities should be. Paul also noted vacancy on Greenways committee and how to apply. <p>Question – What does \$\$ represent in terms of acreage? Depends on the type of land. \$150K estimate cost per acre. Noted that an earlier estimate of City revenues from Parks Impact fees was \$2 million for this year. Because of lower building activity, 2007 estimate recalculated at \$1.5 mill. Funding for acquisitions comes from park impact fees, greenways, and REET.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on Coast Millennium Trail Project – area through Squalicum Creek park. Bay to Baker Trail – abandoned rail line; parallels Sq. Pkwy. Crosses underneath I-5. • Squalicum Creek Park master plan. \$12 mill to complete. Beginning work on first ball field [See Just So You Are Aware for April] • Whatcom Creek Trail – construction on trail corridor from Racine to Ellis – will require a bridge. South to Civic Field, ultimately to Lake Padden Park. North – link to Whatcom Falls Park. • Inspiration Point – located at Woodstock Farm – scenic overlook. DOT enhancement grant to replicate what area looked like in past. • Playground Replacement Program – replaced equipment in 9 parks in last year Paul sees playgrounds as a way to build neighborhoods and community – by allowing a place for neighbors to talk to each other. • MNAC Comp Plan/ Neighborhood Plan Process—look at Parks and Open Space elements in your plans. • Lake Padden Park – Working w/ REI grant for Wayfinding system for upper trails • Boulevard Park Bandshell will be installed – donated by Cascade Joinery. • St Clair Park--Will be renovating restroom structures at St. Clair Park. • New Whatcom Draft Framework Plan - wants to make sure area has 3 things: inviting to community, address shortage of park areas in CBD, serve people living and working down there – functions as a neighborhood park. • Blvd park – Woods Coffee is renovating the pottery building to provide refreshments to Park users and make the park even more inviting. • Park Sign replacement – Are updating current park signs system wide. <p>Question on Parking garage for school district in York – Paul said the school district still wants to keep it as garage</p> <p>Question on problem of dog waste on trail. Dog owners may collect waste but leave the container along the trail...do we need more collection points? Paul said we have a new contract w/ Whatcom Humane society to patrol area to educate people.</p>

	Doug Bestle provided feedback that people really appreciate the trail system.
	<p>Membership Software – Allen presented on software program for data sharing. Allows you to enter membership, attributes (e.g. Committee) Value is flexibility, create emails to members, mailing labels, calendar feature Allen will post information on Sehome’s website and review the Google options suggested by a member, then report back. [Was a committee formed to work with Allen?]</p>
	<p>Insurance – John McGarrity discussed issue of risk management and insurance for neighborhood associations. Roughly \$200/ year for associations. Insuring against accidents for activities of association. Thinks topic should be explored by a subcommittee. Would like someone in legal dept to present to neighborhood associations on this issue. Kathryn asked members to pose the question to their association to see if it’s a concern. John and Robin Hitz will work with Kathryn on the issue.</p> <p>Printing – Kathryn presented idea on joint purchasing idea for neighborhoods to work together to obtain a cost break on printing.</p> <p>Surveys – Kathryn asked group to send her electronic version of any surveys for sharing with other neighborhoods.</p>
	Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.