



City of Bellingham MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

April 11, 2007

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Kathryn Hanowell, neighborhood services coordinator, on **Wednesday, April 11, 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: Birchwood (Barbara Campbell); Columbia (Edie Norton); Sunnyland (Patrick McKee) Absent: Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz); Samish (April Markiewicz); Whatcom Falls (Mark Springer)</p>
	Minutes: Approved from March 14, 2007 meeting
	Kathryn spoke on Lummi Paddle events taking place this summer and highlighted items in this month's "Just So You Are Aware"
	Items from the Neighborhoods
	<p>Alabama Hill- Moving forward on update to neighborhood plan. Recruiting people to work on a parks committee. Watching closely remodeling of "Iowa drug house."</p> <p>Birchwood –Second general meeting coming up. Neighborhood plan – committees being formed. 2 traffic issues – traffic circle at NW and McLeod. Planning to put one on north side as well. Illinois St extension will pull some traffic from Oeser and Morse Steel. BTC will present master plan. Have been holding meetings in church, but would like to use one of public schools – asked if there is something in works to help neighborhoods. Kathryn said City is still working with the district on this.</p> <p>CBD – Downtown Renaissance Network working on increasing density w/ downtown residents and businesses, finding they have more in common than not. Concerned w/ waterfront redevelopment – Laurel St. bridge, and relocation of train tracks. Noticing prevalence of graffiti downtown.</p> <p>Columbia – Northern neighborhoods will have candidate forum on May 2. Neighborhood plan update will focus on Fountain District.</p> <p>Cornwall – Vandalism at Parkview School at new greenhouse, don't know yet who was responsible. New youth center being established on edge of neighborhood (Dupont and Broadway). Will hold general membership meeting next month.</p> <p>Edgemoor – Finalizing neighborhood survey. Working w/ Fairhaven neighborhood on Fairhaven's Land Use and Design Review Code amendments due to shared interests.</p>

Fairhaven – Land use/design review code change application in; closes loopholes in Design Review Code. Working on neighborhood plan. Working on outreach to get business owners, residents, involved in plan. Working through difficulties of getting all parties involved.

Guide Meridian/ Cordata – President organized summit for merchants, organizations, residents. New committee working on emergency and disaster preparedness plan – hoping to create plan that neighborhoods can use as a model. Working on neighborhood plan. On June 30 will hold 1st ever neighborhood picnic at WCC. Will unveil neighborhood disaster plan at picnic. Working w/ other surrounding neighborhoods on common problems. Negotiations between City and Trillium continue on land purchase/sale. Mayor Tim noted that Parks recently met w/ Trillium.

Happy Valley – Safe Route to Larrabee School work continues. Wendy Scherrer applied for and received Small and Simple Grant [Planning Academy Grant] for reviewing neighborhood plan. Meeting w/ people to discuss changes.

Lettered Streets – Thanked Kathryn for attending neighborhood meeting. Reforming outreach committee. Spoke on NTSP issues.

Puget – Identified NTSP priorities, may get together w/ Samish to work on Samish connection. 2 items from Parks & Rec Board – “Share the Trails” campaign materials being finalized, work to educate public on how to use trails. Police looking at regulations for motorized scooters on trails. Parks board recommended that they not be allowed on trails. Explained issue of geo-cache – treasure hunt w/ GPS where items are hidden in parks around town. Parks Board doesn’t have a problem w/ this activity unless they end up creating unregulated trails in the parks.

Roosevelt – Litter problem at house that Darren Sandstrom, Litter Control Officer, took care of. People were dropping couches off in yard. Working on neighborhood plan update.

Sehome – Moving forward on neighborhood plan update; working w/ York. Sustainable Connections chose Samish Way as design charette recently.

Silver Beach – Working on neighborhood plan. Paul Leuthold presenting at next meeting on Parks. Attendance is up at meetings. Don Gischer is also coming to meeting. Fritz Anthony, Public Works Engineer, will present on street work. Received Small and Simple grant from the city for new neighborhood signs. Watershed will be one of main drivers of plan. Several members giving presentation on history of Silver Beach at next meeting. SB invites all neighborhoods to include as part of their plan goals to make water cleaner.

South – Annual meeting this month. Proceeding w/ neighborhood plan update. Preparing survey. Got a lot of information at Planning meeting on April 3rd. Getting Fairhaven Merchants to get involved in plan.

South Hill – Supporting Fairhaven as urban center. Working on candidates’ forum. At last meeting just had neighborhood discussion, no presentations- very successful, well-attended. Donna announced that she is resigning from MNAC. Said Cathy Cameron is nominated as MNAC rep. Cathy spoke on Donna’s mentorship.

	<p>Sunnyland – Annual picnic in May. Completed traffic calming meetings. Picked 3 sites for city to study. Neighborhood plan review committee meeting. Going through every sub-area, will pick 2 action items. One will be dealing w/ WSDOT property which has new owner; invited owner to come to meeting to hear neighborhood proposal for property.</p> <p>York – Working on neighborhood plan. Committees forming. Working w/ Sehome on Samish Way project. Also talking about having candidate night, multi-neighborhood.</p>
	<p>Information from the City</p>
	<p>Discussion about reducing paper at meetings. Group prefers to have soft copies of documents; agendas will be projected at meetings.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report – Spoke on providing tools to assist neighborhoods increase involvement in neighborhood meetings. Kathryn sent out instructions for how to use property owner information spreadsheet from County Assessor’s Office. Kathryn said all property owners should be notified for initial notice. Donna asked about finding renters. Kathryn said that information on how to approach this problem is included in packet. Allen noted ambiguity on using list from Assessor’s office. Tom noted problem in York w/ records not matching up. Kathryn told group to contact Chris Behee with questions. Members noted importance of involving renters as well. Clarified that Planning Academy expenses go to Kathryn first. Announced that deadline for neighborhood associations to bring their bylaws into compliance with City policy on Recognizing and Supporting Neighborhood Associations has been extended to September 30 and emphasized importance of doing so for continued City financial support and recognition.</p>
	<p>Chief Administrative Officer’s Report</p>
	<p>Provided update on Neighborhood Services Pilot Project. Last year council approved pilot program. Spent year looking at how other communities are handling this issue. Nearing end of pilot basis. On May 7, a report will go to council on position. Discussion amongst group about position. Tom moved that the committee vote to support continuation of the position. Passed unanimously. A survey will be sent to MNAC on neighborhood services and Malcolm asked that all complete and return to Torhil. [Survey subsequently changed to an online survey]</p> <p>Waterfront Redevelopment Project – Work continues. Conducting fatal flaw analysis of draft framework plan before EIS work begins. Described the EIS scoping process. Meetings being aired on BTV10.</p> <p>Q- If waterfront will be part of CBD, or own neighborhood? A – it’s already a part of the CBD, but will have its own subarea plan. Will require subarea amendment to comp plan.</p> <p>Q- When will council be voting on New Whatcom Development Plan? A – EIS work will continue through fall, that information will influence the development plan which will be used to formalize a development agreement between city and port – key document in terms of implementing vision, probably late this year or early next year. That information then goes into the Master Plan to be presented to the Planning Commission for review and then to make recommendation to Council for their action. There will be opportunity for public comment along the way. Q on deadline – A – Deadline</p>

	<p>has come and gone. It is more important that the end result to be master plan and proposal that community can embrace.</p> <p>Mayor Tim commented on inaccurate information that is being disseminated on this process. There remain many opportunities for public comment. We do not yet have a development agreement with the Port; City will enter into development agreement with Port. Responsibility for funding between the Port and City remains to be outlined in Development Agreement. Looking at possibly phasing in of the project to help with costs and market absorption.</p> <p>Malcolm noted the information on website –www.newwhatcom.org</p>
	<p>Mayor's Report</p>
	<p>Commented that group is very informative for him. Asked for volunteers from Birchwood to help his Kiwanis club with a pocket forest in the neighborhood. Noted that the "State of the Lake" Report is about to come out. Report will have suggestions of what residents can do.</p> <p>Working with City Council on key City goals and objectives that will guide 2008 budget. Working on quarterly reports to City Council so they can see what is being accomplished.</p>
	<p>Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness – Asst Fire Chief Andy Day, LuAn Johnson, Wash. Dept of Emergency Management</p>
	<p>Discussed new initiative to work with neighborhood associations to work with neighbors to be more prepared for major disasters. Explained that the Fire Department has been organizing the Office of Emergency Management with Fire, Police, PW, Information Technology staff working together. One goal is to evaluate how to effectively work with neighborhoods on disaster preparedness. Explained new program called "Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)". LuAn Johnson from the State Department of Emergency Management, presented the program and explained that this can be conducted in 90-minute meeting with neighborhood. Key – people respond better in a crisis when they know the people they are going to be engaging with. Discussed difference between disaster and emergency. Disaster is when EMS fails. 4 responders – police, fire, paramedics, utility worker, because of the magnitude of the disaster, cannot respond to all needs.</p> <p>What happens when 911 fails? Therefore it is very important that neighbors and residents be organized to respond in their neighborhood during a disaster. Luann clarified that this plan defines a "neighborhood" as a 2 block radius.</p> <p>The implementation of this program will require many neighborhood volunteers. Members suggested using block watch cells and CERT members.</p> <p>Q – Is Andy proactively approaching neighborhoods? A –just getting program started.</p> <p>Asked for feedback. The group responded very positively to this model (MYN) and agreed this would be a good approach. Andy will send email outlining plan. Suggested to have one representative from each neighborhood association to work on organizing and developing a strategy to implement this program at the neighborhood level.</p>
	<p>Inter-Neighborhood Design Standards Committee – Allen Matsumoto</p> <p>Asked if any neighborhoods are talking about design standards in update process. Viewing 2 sides – historic homes; urban village development. Suggestion from Planning Department is to include photos of what you want and don't want. Historic neighborhoods have overlap. Allen asked those neighborhoods w/ concerns that relate to this to contact him.</p>

	<p>Candidates Forum in Neighborhoods – Mike Robinson Suggestion for MNAC to sponsor city-wide forum for all candidates; League of Women Voters is interested in working on this. Asked for subcommittee to form to look into issue. Suggestion from Steve Wilson to have a regional focus. Discussion amongst group on this issue. Kathryn discussed what group is allowed to do. Mayor Tim suggested doing one coordinated event. Many meetings/ events come up for council. Doug, Edie will work w/ Mike on subcommittee.</p>
	<p>Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>