



## City of Bellingham MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

May 9, 2007

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Kathryn Hanowell, neighborhood services coordinator, on **Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 6:35 p.m.**, in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

### DRAFT MINUTES

	<p><b>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance:</b>  <b>Substitutions:</b> Happy Valley (John Hymas); Columbia (Edie Norton); Sunnyland (Patrick McKee); WWU (Kevin McClain)  <b>Absent:</b> Edgemoor (Brad Rose); Mt. Baker (Robin Hitz); Sehome (Allen Matsumoto); Whatcom Falls (Mark Springer)</p>
	Minutes approved from April 11 <sup>th</sup> meeting
	<b>Items from the Neighborhoods</b>
	<p><b>Alabama Hill</b> – noted low turnout at quarterly meeting; planning meeting in July; working on getting park committee together. Tree issue comes up in their neighborhood as well. Concern over any future connector to Barkley Blvd. Drug house issue seems resolved.</p> <p><b>Birchwood</b> – starting on neighborhood plan update. Question on sample plan in Neighborhood Resources Toolkit – Kathryn said to check in with technical assistance planner. Why doesn't city use uniform template for neighborhood plans? Will be looking at Sehome for guidance</p> <p><b>CBD</b> – concerns w/ waterfront planning, parking, safety and noise after hours; DRN won Mayor's Arts award for "Downtown Sounds"; CBD won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Summer in the City event.</p> <p><b>Columbia</b> – Received \$1000 from PSE from Green Power Challenge, will probably use for beautification projects. Parks Dept will be replacing play equipment in Carl Lobe park. Also keeping an eye on the Allsop property.</p> <p><b>Cornwall</b> – youth center starting by Roeder School District. Working on declaring Broadway Park historic district. Revising bylaws at next meeting. Working along newer strip of grass, trees along Broadway.</p> <p><b>Fairhaven</b> – have been told they must include everyone in neighborhood association – have included all merchants and property owners; feel that neighborhood has done a lot of work; neighborhood association is being overwhelmed by merchants and property owners. Fear that residents are going to be squeezed out of neighborhood association. Wants to know if neighborhood association has any rights to stop particular group from taking over association. Suggestion to amend bylaws. Discussion amongst group about</p>

how to deal with issue. Tim Douglas spoke on importance of elected group to make decisions. Tim said City needs to work with neighborhood, but said they also need to work to come together on commonalities. Sue Thomas/ Sheryl Russell spoke on similar issues happening in CBD and how these are being worked out.

Thom presented items from neighborhood survey. Mailed 1000 questionnaires in March. 36% response rate.

**Guide Meridian/ Cordata** – continuing to work on model disaster plan. Working on neighborhood plan changes – for next year. Good news on parks – city and Trillium may have come to an agreement – will have 20 acre park soon, on Aldridge Road.

**Happy Valley** – Elected new boardmembers and vice president at last meeting. Low impact development overlay is being developed for neighborhood plan. Small and Simple grant for street trees. Decided on name for neighborhood park – will name Happy Valley Park – located off Donovan, east of co-housing.

**Lettered Streets** – Busy Earth Day at Gossage Garden/ Trail; weekly email bulletin growing.

**Puget** – Issue of San Juan connector came up at quarterly meeting; using funds to get minimum road completed, then do complete work with bike lanes, etc later in the future. Laurel Cook spoke to neighborhood association on Greenways. Started monthly potlucks and neighborhood walks. Park and Rec Board update – “Share the Trails” handout was sent to members. BTV10 program on trail etiquette. Old Village Trail work taking place this summer. Group looking into putting in labyrinth in Fairhaven Park. Good public support, parks board agrees, wants to make sure it’s a minimum maintenance.

**Roosevelt** – dug up blackberry bushes in park, re-doing resource center; signed up to be in Ski to Sea Parade.

**Samish** – got small and simple grant for neighborhood signs. Pleased with NTSP process; feeling very engaged in plans. Kathryn has been checking up on some houses for association.

**Silver Beach** – middle of planning process; large meeting on May 10 on history of neighborhood.

**South** – neighborhood has chance to see EIS taking place on Highlands; should have EIS by end of summer. Comment period begins after that. Had successful neighborhood annual meeting last month; stalled on survey, not sure how to conduct survey in midst of changes.

**South Hill** – getting neighborhood plan amendment update through system; going to Planning Commission on July 5. Looking at view preservation, building height and bulk, also concerns about vegetation.

Mayor Tim spoke on issue of trees and vegetation. Choice doesn’t have to be between cutting down trees or not touching them at all. Need to look at possibilities of pruning creatively.

**Sunnyland** – planning committee meets twice a month; looking at former WSDOT site.

	<p>Received \$2000 grant from city to plant street trees. Getting advice from Happy Valley and Roosevelt on this project. Neighborhood picnic has been postponed.</p> <p><b>WWU</b> – AS Students had elections last month; students approved new fees to give every student a bus pass, and extended bus service. Has to be passed by Board, but expected to begin next fall. At last CCC meeting – number of neighborhoods interested in getting student reps on boards. AS has process by which they appoint students to committees, said it would be easy process to get students on neighborhood associations for those that are interested. Asked interested neighborhoods to email him.</p>
	<p><b>Information from the City</b></p>
	<p><b>Transportation Issues</b></p> <p><b>6-year TIP &amp; NTSP – Chris Comeau</b>  Had public hearing on TIP on Monday night; public hearing has been continued to May 21. Hope to come to resolution on May 21 and approve TIP at that meeting. Chris said next year process may start a little earlier to come up with projects.  2 issues came up at last council meeting – San Juan Blvd and Highland Drive. Proposing to make minimum standard connector on San Juan. Due to costs, cannot do full arterial standard. Highland Drive – request for sidewalk on one side of Highland very costly.  Annual Pedestrian Crosswalk Improvements – new project added to TIP with funding dedicated to pedestrian crosswalk improvements. Discussion of various projects.  Tim spoke on importance of San Juan Blvd. City does have commitment to making the street adequate.</p> <p>NTSP Program – handed out compilation of projects. Doing evaluation on streets that qualify on 2008. Will be continuing to give updates to neighborhoods.</p> <p><b>Bike/ Ped Program &amp; Safe Routes to School – Kim Brown</b>  Kim spoke on BPAC – part of their workplan is identifying liaisons between BPAC and neighborhood associations. Improvement cards are available on the city’s website if people have bike/ ped concerns.</p>
	<p><b>Everybody Bike Program – Steve Wilson</b>  Presented information on Smart Trips Program and Everybody Bike program. Designing program around people that need assistance. Steve is working with neighborhoods to do bike rides in neighborhood. If people would like to get groups together in neighborhood, interested people can contact Steve. More information available at Whatcom Smart Trips website: <a href="http://www.whatcomsmarttrips.org">www.whatcomsmarttrips.org</a></p>
	<p><b>Library Planning – Pam Kiesner</b>  Pam presented FAQs and Citywide Library Services Study – all information is located on website. Pam is available to come to any neighborhood meetings. City Council has goal in workplan to improve library services, includes how to better serve north and east sides of town. GM/ Cordata desire to have library presence. In conversation with WCC, new Co-op, and Barkley Corporation; have agreement with Barkley. By 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year, will be able to drop off and pick up materials at WCC. Fairhaven – completed condition assessment of 102 year-old building. Costs to make improvements approx. \$2 mill.</p>

	<p>New Central Library site has been selected by Library Board. Site was approved by City Council, working on RFP for library planning consultant work. Community involvement along the way to determine design of building. Tentative to go to voters in 2008 – bond maybe in spring. Construction in 2010-11.</p> <p>Discussion of parking – makes sense to put parking underground to serve the needs of library customers. Might also include additional parking for other civic center services, but not at the expense of the library. Important to have city, county, and parking commission at the table for discussion.</p> <p>Julie Guy – would like to see children’s library presence in north side.</p> <p>Doug Bestle – suggestion to pair up with service groups.</p> <p>Cathy Cameron – suggests the library work as much as possible w/ WTA.</p>
	<p><b>Mayor’s Report</b> – Handed out State of the Lake Report. Report highlights community action. Demonstrates how our own lifestyles have an effect on the lake. Spoke on short plat taking place in the watershed – happening within framework of agreement with Water District 7 and City. City working vigorously with County to review situation.</p>
	<p><b>Chief Administrative Officer’s Report</b></p> <p>Malcolm said City is working on condensed version/ executive summary of report that will be mailed to all households that use city water. Thanked Emily Weiner and Janice Keller and all PW Staff for all the work that was done on the report.</p> <p>Question asked on when GP stopped using water for flushing purposes.</p> <p>Update on neighborhood services coordinator position. Staff will bring forward budget amendment to continue position. Program has been very successful over past year among departments.</p> <p>Waterfront Update:</p> <p>Draft EIS should be out in August – more time to comment when that comes out.</p> <p>Spoke on myth that a focus on waterfront will take money from other improvements. More money than has been identified will be needed, but \$1 million in street funds set aside for waterfront represents only 1/10 of the money we get for street funds. Infrastructure that will be funded has yet to be decided.</p> <p>Tim, - looking at variety of access points from CBD to WF. One place is Laurel St. Spoke on finding of midden, in consultation w/ Lummis – looking into issue, no human remains, being very cautious.</p> <p>New Transportation Improvement District Option – City Council can impose up to \$20 per vehicle fee for transportation improvements. Malcolm would like to get community feedback on that. Preliminary \$1.5-1.8 m estimate.</p> <p>Spoke on cooperation, listening carefully, addressing all stakeholders to reach solutions that address the need of the broader community.</p>
	<p><b>Neighborhood Services Coordinator Report</b></p> <p>Spoke on Emergency Preparedness Committee – need the names of remaining neighborhoods. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on May 22, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Update on Candidate Forum – City can sponsor forum, but board or commission cannot. City has made Muni Court available; LWV will sponsor forum on July 18.</p>
	<p><b>Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.</b></p>