



City of Bellingham MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMISSION

June 13, 2007

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Kathryn Hanowell, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, on **Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 6:35 p.m.**, in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, City Hall.

DRAFT MINUTES

	<p>Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance: Substitutions: CBD (Frankie Damman); Columbia (Katie Hinton); Guide Meridian/ Cordata (Emily Farnon); Absent: Mt Baker (Robin Hitz); WWU (Brady Dykgraaf)</p>
	Minutes approved from May 9 th meeting
	Kathryn spoke on Malcolm's announcement that he has accepted a new position in Louisville, Colorado.
	Items from the Neighborhoods
	<p>Alabama Hill – Picnic on August 7th. Working on updating bylaws and neighborhood plan. Resident concerned with emergency preparedness.</p> <p>Birchwood – Working on plan update.</p> <p>Columbia – WWU students gave presentation for urban village in Fountain District. Holding picnic in Elizabeth Park – inviting all candidates for City Council and Mayor. Squalicum Beach walk – technically County property; city is contracted to do law enforcement there, but have no jurisdiction. Section of Coast Millennium Trail opened. Fountain Park will be renovated on Broadway Park.</p> <p>Cornwall – annual picnic in August (22) in Cornwall Park.</p> <p>Edgemoor – working on neighborhood plan. Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods – next meeting on June 19 at Fairhaven Park Pavilion at 7 p.m. July 19, Coalition will have candidate forum at Firehouse Performing Arts</p> <p>Fairhaven – working on neighborhood plan. Fairhaven neighbors and Fairhaven merchants met with City staff – some positive outcomes.</p> <p>Guide Meridian/ Cordata – got park in area; still working on trails, working with City's annexation off June Road. Had speaker on ID theft to neighborhood. New logo for neighborhood (designed by Emily Farnon).</p> <p>Happy Valley – Safe Route to Larrabee School; Parents concerned about school district redistricting Lowell, Happy Valley, Larrabee, working on zoning overlay for neighborhood plan – using green practices.</p>

Lettered Streets – planning picnic for August. C & Holly Park – cut down blackberry bushes. Working on application for rezone.

Puget – working on neighborhood plan update. San Juan Blvd – street might go through, want to make sure neighbors get input.

Parks and Rec Advisory Board update – Woodstock Farm Conservancy being formed. Parks working on parking situation and general upgrades to park. Revamp of bike jump park at Civic Field approved, minimal \$ from City – mostly volunteer. “Share the Trails” program – on BTV10.

Roosevelt – New logo for neighborhood, July 4th – party at Roosevelt Park, summer reading program, “timebanking” program – neighbors bank time when they help another with such things as lawn mowing, babysitting, etc., their time is banked and they can receive equal time of service in exchange.

Samish– small and simple grant approved for neighborhood sign. Annual picnic, Sept 8th. Issue of San Juan blvd discussed. Worried about incomplete development of San Juan Blvd. Working on improving knowledge of attendees/attendance at meetings. One of major concerns is maintaining greenbelts. Public hearing on plan update on July 26th.

Sehome – Working on neighborhood plan update. Had design charette w/ Dave Christensen on Samish Way urban Village. Hoped for more business participation at first meeting; exploring constituting Samish Way Business Association.

Silver Beach – Committees working on re-write of neighborhood plan. Holding Candidates forum on July 12th that will focus on Lake Whatcom. Finding that a lot of new residents don't realize they live in a watershed. Joy Monjure met with board; working on educating new families to the neighborhood about watershed stewardship. Anyone who signs up for City water will get information on stewardship measures, e.g., how to handle runoff.

South – City staff attended tours of neighborhood. Enjoy feedback between city and neighborhood. Working on neighborhood survey. CSN working with Port on Fairhaven scheme of harbor improvements.

South Hill – Working on plan amendment. At last general meeting, John Hymas talked about trees and vegetation. Presenting to planning commission on July 5th. Request that city help other neighborhoods when they get to process of presenting to Planning Commission. Discussion on WAG meetings. MNAC reviewing waterfront recommendations in December. *Kathryn clarified that MNAC review is scheduled because the waterfront master plan will become part of the comp plan.*

Sunnyland – Reviewing neighborhood plan, finished review of subareas; prioritizing action items, one change will be to Area 8 – former DOT site. Met with new owner of site, hoping he will work w/ neighborhood. WWU students presented on new urban village for neighborhood. Proposing urban village in Area 6 – southern part of neighborhood. Proposed quite a few dwelling areas in area. Would greatly reduce light industrial in area.

Whatcom Falls – Rezone proposal by developer to reduce minimum lot size.

	<p>Neighborhood brought into process very late. Split decision/ recusals by planning commissioners.</p>
	<p>Information from the City</p>
	<p>Safe Routes to School Program – Kim Brown, Public Works Nat'l program with goal of kids walking/ biking to school. Fewer than 15% of kids walk/ bike to school. Ill health effects come from kids not walking to school. Program designed to deal with barriers. Kids learn to become independent travelers. 25% - 30% of morning traffic is parents driving kids to school. Engineering, education, enforcement and encouragement (events such as Bike to School Day, assemblies, bike rodeos). Larrabee used "Walking School Bus." Gives kids opportunities to walk, but also reduces congestion right around school. Other cities have used crossing guards. Bellingham doesn't currently have crossing guard program. Federally funded program – makes it a little more challenging, but don't need grant to set up program in schools. City is putting together materials to hand out to other schools to use. Q - is this idea brought into other PW projects? A – PW does put priority based on being close to a school; safety issues. Q - pollution of buses? A – partnering with ReSources: "Idle Free Zones" program. Working with educating kids on environmental impacts. Whatcom Smart Trips will be doing some programs with high school students. Research shows that getting education to kids in 4th, 5th, 6th age range helps encourage later behavior. School districts are now charged with developing safe routes. Discussion on developing crossing guards, safe routes, amongst neighborhood associations. Training coming, hopefully, in Fall.</p>
	<p>Elder Friendly Neighborhoods – Richard Dietz, Northwest Regional Council Serve as area agency on aging for Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Agency trying to begin dialogue to think about demographic shift – "age wave" Population is getting older at unprecedented rate. What do neighborhoods need to think about to get ready for this? Richard would like to come do presentations at neighborhood associations. Need to think about what this specific demographic needs Kathryn discussed how to make meetings elder friendly: hearing, seating, larger print on materials, etc. Discussion about elderly attendance at meetings. Kim Brown – noted recent study of depression in elderly men – ability to get out and get around community reduces depression. How should neighborhood association interface with elderly community? Discussion of challenge of engaging gated communities.</p>
	<p>Reports from Mayor's Office Neighborhood Services Report – Kathryn highlighted some info in JSYAA. Discussion on how to raise attendance at meetings. Neighborhood yard signs seem to work well. Mailings work well, but are expensive. Discussion on definitions for bylaws – defining categories of membership. To be recognized by the City, neighborhoods must include stakeholders.</p>

Neighborhood Plans, Comprehensive Plan Work – Greg Aucutt

6 proposed amendments docketed for this year.

After a brief discussion on a developer proposal in the Puget Neighborhood and the issue of proposals being resubmitted yearly, the group recognized that this is the first time MNAC has done this process of proposed plan amendment review, that their role is to review and comment. The committee decided to review each amendment proposal one at a time and hear from the neighborhood representative on the proposal.

- **GM/ Cordata** – language change only deleting outdated information. Planning Commission heard request and approved last week.
Moved, seconded – all approved a recommendation that the proposal be approved to go before Council.
- **South Hill** – text amendment to address neighborhood character. View preservation (for all zones), through use of building height and bulk limits (no specifications). Next step will be to come up with specific suggestions. Adds policy to neighborhood plan that says views are important. Trying to implement neighborhood friendly policies. Hoping that regulations down the road will take this statement into consideration.
Greg said they want values and policy based in neighborhood plan to weigh in on regulations.
Brad moved to support recommendation, Doug seconded.
More discussion. All approved motion to support neighborhood’s recommendation.
- **Samish** – Proposal is addresses entire neighborhood plan. Originally submitted in 2002, put on hold. San Juan Blvd issue added. Will go to Planning Commission on July 26th. Staff has not yet made a recommendation. Because of extent of proposal, group will review and discuss at next meeting.
- **Lettered Streets** – Old Town – heights; multi-story building on E St. Area 3 and Area 9 – want to change to single-family. Still have areas dedicated for infill. Area that remains multi-family will accommodate more infill than is required.
Mark Springer – move to support recommendation, second by Brad
All approved. Greg will give Old Town update at August meeting. Steve Wilson suggested that he include an overview of all tier 2 infill areas. Group would like update on Urban Villages.
- **Puget proposal** – developer proposes rezone, had submitted and been turned down previously. Issue: can group get Planning Commission report on why they turned it town last time? Jim McCabe preferred to defer discussion to have someone with more knowledge of the proposal be present to respond to questions. Motion to continue discussion of Puget proposal at next meeting. All approved.

Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.