



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

April 15, 2009

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Linda Stewart, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance: Unless noted below, all were in attendance:

Absent: Roosevelt

Welcome New Appointments:

Edgemoor - Larry Horowitz Alternate

CBD- Leslie Langdon Primary

Visitors:

Bill Evans – Public Works, Sergeant Colin Emmett - Bellingham Police Department, Council Member Louise Bjornson, Dick Conoboy

Introductions and Roll Call

March Minutes approved

Agenda for meeting adopted

- Discussion of cancelling August meeting

Barb Campbell motioned to skip August meeting/ Motion Carried

- Make note on 2009 calendar that the August meeting time has been cancelled
 - Linda handed out tabs for MNAC member handbooks (for primary MNAC reps)
 - Request to have future handouts 3-hole punched to automatically put into handbooks. Linda agreed
 - At the last meeting, there was a question regarding Planning Commission. Linda distributed a legal explanation document (also attached to minutes). If you need further information or help understanding the legal language, contact Linda or a Planning Commission member directly
 - Muffins with the Mayor – May 19th in the Mayor's Board Room, must RSVP to Torhil Dunham 778-8100 no later than May 5th
 - Mt. Baker – Warren Rosenthal will be there
 - South – Christopher Grannis will be there
 - Reminder – We need 2009 signature forms. Must have them in order to process neighborhood reimbursement forms
 - Reminder – We need the general association dates to put on the website roster. No neighborhood association scheduling information will be added to the website until everyone responds
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Water Watcher's Program (Bill Evans and Sergeant Collin Emmett)

- Refer to attachment of the PowerPoint presentation given by Bill Evans
 - Bellingham Police Department plans to make the Water Watcher Program part of the Neighborhood Block Watch Program
 - For questions or more information about the Water Watcher Program or to schedule a presentation for your neighborhood, contact Joy Monjure, Public Works Communications Coordinator, 360- 778-7905.
 - For questions about Block Watch, contact Sergeant Collin Emmett, 360-778-8666
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Infill Toolkit Discussion/Changes to Municipal Code

Discussion regarding Patrick McKee's proposed change (document attached).

***Motion** that the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission recommend changes to the Mayor to accept Patrick McKee's proposal to the BMC 20.28 document / Seconded / Discussion / Question / Vote / Opposed.*

Further discussion

***Motion** Accept what Patrick has put together as his proposal / Seconded / Discussion / Motion Carries, but not unanimous*

Vote:

Yes = 12

No = 5

Abstaining = 3

Neighborhood Coordinator made suggestion that the proposed changes be brought before the Planning Commission (especially because they are meeting on 4/16/09) and copy the Mayor.

Commission agreed to have Patrick put together cover letter including language that he introduced his proposal to the Commission and other concerns brought up in discussion prior to Motion (including downtown infill/development and urban villages as an alternative). He would drop it off by Noon 4/16/09 to the Planning Department and he would do the presentation at the Planning Commission meeting on 4/16/09.

***Motion** Include sentence from original municipal code of "environmentally sensitive areas" and make the new language stand out either by bolding or underlining / Seconded / Motion Carries*

Member Request for Time:

Cathy McKenzie - Community Values Survey: Not present at meeting

Cathy Cameron - Caretaker's House & Gardens Design Charrette, asked Mary Mullen to speak

- April 22nd (Earth Day) there will be a Charrette at the Fairhaven Middle School from 7-9pm. This meeting is open to the public
- Hoping to have a site plan by May 5th

Process for Review of Comp Plan Amendment Proposals

***Motion** for Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission to recommend the Planning Commission approve the city staff proposal by Darby Galligan for #08-S5 amendment to Sehome and the York Neighborhoods plan for the Samish Way Urban Village Master Plan / Seconded / Discussion / Motion Carries Unanimously*

Howard will prepare letter for MNAC review in May, for the Planning Commission in June.

Round Table:

Mt. Baker – Nothing new to report

Birchwood – Neighborhood meeting last month and Allen Matsumoto described the Urban Village process, it was nice to hear and very informative. Representative from Planning was there to present the infill toolkit. Survey sent to neighborhood and questions on infill and urban village – 38% responded

York – Hot Topics List was docketed from City Council last night

Sehome – Presentation from PW – sewer issues. Plans 60% complete for round-about

WWU – Nothing new to report

South Hill – Lowell Elementary school budget in crisis and there has been controversy that the school will not be opened. Representative from the school district went to last meeting and it was very informative. Commented on infill toolkit to City, Mayor, Planning and Planning Commission. We voiced the opinion in alignment with Patrick's point of view. Not very excited about the multi-family units going into single family

South – Having quarterly general meeting in two weeks (next is April 29th), will be doing board elections

Sunnyland – New board members from last meeting. New board chair, treasurer and an at large member. Planning new addition of the Sunnyland Sentinel. If the Infill toolkit is passed, it will directly affect the multi-family residential area. Trying to get word out to the neighborhood and encourage response to City Council

Lettered Streets – Nothing new to report

Silver Beach – Ordinance on Lake Whatcom has taken a lot of the time. In transition mode – updating website and newsletter. Anyone selling advertising for their website, please let Kate know. Stan Snapp is hoping to run a “fish bowl” meeting re: watershed issues. Thanks to several people’s input of holding every other month meetings, her board is very grateful

Happy Valley – Monthly neighborhood dinners – committed to doing it for four months. They have been successful and trying to do more outreach to people. An All-Call for Volunteers – tree planning project. Didn’t get Small and Simple Grant, but received free trees for neighborhood Tree Planting Day. Earth Day having a group of volunteers to do a neighborhood cleanup

Cornwall – Tonight was second meeting for district urban village meeting - it was really received well. Tonight’s meeting on street access. Next week to talk about open space. Sharing with Lettered Streets and Columbia. New chair and board meeting last night – Chair would like to see more neighborhood events. Have created an Events Committee and looking to do outdoor movies and invite whole community

Samish – Board meeting last night and welcomed three new board members – Dick Conoboy, Greg McCracken – President. Coordinate with Puget neighborhood for clean-up. General Meeting on April 1st attended by Bruce Shepard (WWU President) and Mayor Pike (spoke about budget). Disappointed that Mayor Pike is not here tonight

Edgemoor – Interesting news on development that affects five neighborhoods. Larry passed out document (attached letter to Tim Stewart).

Central Business District – New downtown map with new identity. No longer Downtown Renaissance Network – Downtown Bellingham Partnership. Work on maintenance and promotion of businesses. Do anything you can do to support downtown businesses.

Fairhaven – Had at our April meeting Chris Koch from Planning attended and answered questions for a good hour. Helped people understand the infill toolkit. Tree sale in March was very successful, we had 15 vendors. Our main meeting will have a photo video project presentation. Continue to work on GIS project. Everyone is invited to the Citizens Forum (attached). Planning commission will have met and the topic is infill toolkit to continue discussion before Council meets

Puget – Nothing new to report

Columbia – Excited about the Fountain District Urban Village planning. July meeting will be a fun picnic.

Guide Meridian/Cordata – Community garden making great headway but Planning/Public Works have come up with some issues that are holding up the process. Hoping to get them resolved soon. Ready to bring in soil and hook up water. The issue is with “wetlands mitigation”. There are volunteers needed for the garden. If you would like to get more information contact Adrienne Lederer adreinnel@q.com and she can put you in touch with Ben Andrews

Alabama Hill – Nothing new to report

King Mountain (Linda reporting) – The 24th neighborhood is on the map now. The first organizing meeting is April 30th at the King Mountain Church from 6:00-7:30pm. Anyone who wants to come and talk about their neighborhood, organizing, etc. is welcome.

Joint City Council and Port Meeting on April 20th at 12:00-1:30pm in City Council Chambers. This meeting is to review proposed framework for the waterfront and move into the final master plan phase. Everyone is invited to this meeting. If you are unable to attend, the meeting will be filmed and broadcast on BTV10 at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm