

**TO: Property owners & renters living in the Alabama Hill Neighborhood**  
**FROM: Your Alabama Hill Neighborhood Plan Update Committee**  
**DATE: August 1, 2007**  
**RE: Updating our ALABAMA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN**

**Our Neighborhood Plan is the official way we tell City leaders how we want them to make decisions about our part of town.** This plan has not been revised since 1980 and is very out of date. **We now we need your help** to revise and update our Alabama Hill Neighborhood Plan for now, and for future planning. **Your input is vital!** If you would like to view the 1980 plan, go to the City of Bellingham Web Site [http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/alabama\\_hill.pdf](http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/alabama_hill.pdf).

This project of updating our Neighborhood Plan for the City of Bellingham has been delegated to the Alabama Hill Association (AHA). **Anyone who lives here or owns property in the neighborhood may participate.** Membership in AHA is not a requirement. We hope everyone will pitch in and help us update the plan.

**If there is something you like or something you are concerned about in our neighborhood, this neighborhood planning process is a great place for you to share those opinions.**

#### **Neighborhood Plan Topics**

Our neighborhood can make recommendations on a wide range of topics in our Neighborhood Plan. Topics we may want to consider include:

1. **Housing:** Do we want to retain the existing pattern of housing or perhaps allow more housing units per lot? Accessory dwelling units? Limit the number of unrelated residents?
2. **Streets and Traffic:** Do we want streets changed or opened to accommodate more traffic, be better for pedestrians, or make driving more efficient?
3. **Parks:** What are our preferences for the management of neighborhood parks, trails, open space and unused city right of way? How about pocket parks?
4. **Improvements:** Do we need new streets, sidewalks, schools, or parks?
5. **Public Views:** What public view corridors do we want preserved? Can we outlaw evergreen trees, limit heights of all trees?
6. **History:** What historical or cultural resources in the neighborhood do we value? Shall we identify these in our plan?
7. **Character:** What is the source of our neighborhood's character or feel? What must be done to preserve or improve it?

8. **Business:** Is there an opportunity to improve the neighborhood by encouraging businesses to locate in our neighborhood?

**In this first phase of the process we are trying to gather input.** Our goal is to pull together the ideas, and then through public meetings and a vote, come up with some agreed upon items that we will propose for our updated plan.

After this planning process is completed, a draft of our plan will be submitted and reviewed by the Planning Department staff, the Planning Commission, and finally by the City Council. The contents of the Alabama Hill Neighborhood Plan must be good for the neighborhood and good for the City before it will be approved by the City Council.

**How you can help right now:**

- 1 Complete and return the enclosed “Topics of Interest Survey” that will give our committee an idea of what you want to see the neighborhood look like, what concerns you, and what you care most about. **Surveys are due: Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.**
- 2 Mail, Email or phone us your comments to Rosemary Hawthorne (contact information below).
- 3 Volunteer to assist the committee with the Neighborhood Planning process – we need help with future mailings, organizing for the public meeting, phone calling neighbors to remind them about the meeting, help tabulating the survey results, etc.
- 4 Plan to attend the public meeting on **Saturday, September 15, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, at Bloedel Donovan Park.**

In order for us to include your input as part of this public process and public record, the City requires that you include your name and address when you provide input—this provides an audit trail. (*We would also appreciate your phone and email information too so we may easily follow-up with you*). Names and addresses will be listed in the report separate from your comments. Your comments may be discussed at a public meeting to gather consensus.

**Contact Information:**

Email: rhawth@qwest.net

Rosemary’s phone: 360-657-9186

US Mail: Alabama Hill Neighborhood Plan Update Committee, PO Box 29902,  
Bellingham, WA 98228

Fax number: 360-933-8048

Public meeting times will be advertised in the Herald, Independent, and Weekly as well as on the City of Bellingham Neighborhood page.

Please contact Rosemary Hawthorne if you have any questions.

## Alabama Hill Neighborhood Planning Update Topics of Interest Survey

What's your vision for our neighborhood's future? Please complete the survey and return to the US Mail address above. Simply fold the survey sheet, add postage, and return it by Friday, August 24.

Refer to the list of topics on the cover memo. Then mark off which items are important to you or someone in your household. Then rank them by level of importance by circling the appropriate number.

1 = highest importance    2 = important    3 = average importance  
 4 = not very important    5 = not important at all

<b>Mark any topics of interest</b>	<b>Topics (Please refer to cover memo for description of topics)</b>	<b>Tell us how important this topic is to you.</b>
	Housing	1 2 3 4 5
	Parks	1 2 3 4 5
	History	1 2 3 4 5
	Business	1 2 3 4 5
	Street & traffic	1 2 3 4 5
	Neighborhood character	1 2 3 4 5
	Public views	1 2 3 4 5
	Improvements	1 2 3 4 5

Please list any other concerns, including a score for importance:

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Your Name (\*) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Street Address (\*) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(\* Name and street address are required for public documentation)