Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission
City of Bellingham

November 17, 2021
Remote Meeting [video timestamps noted in brackets]

Call to Order
Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Mayor Seth Fleetwood

Attendance
Present: Erica Charbonneau (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Barbara Ryan (Edgemoor), John LaSpina (Cordata), Jill McIntyre Witt (Columbia), Anne Mackie (York Alternate), Christopher Grannis (South Alternate), Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Bill Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Kathryn Rismondo (Sunnyland), Tom Scott (York), Bobbi Vollendorf (Happy Valley), Robin Thomas (Sehome), Gordon Durham (Cornwall), David Frankel (South Hill), Molly Foote (Samish), Sheryl Russell (City Center),

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood; Janice Keller, Communications Director; Tara Sundin, Community and Economic Development Manager; Samya Lutz, Housing and Human Services Program Manager

MINUTES

Presentation on Services and Support for People Experiencing Homelessness [00:03:20]
Tara Sundin and Samya Lutz, Planning and Community Development

Tara and Samya presented on the city's many strategies to address affordable housing and homelessness.

- Samya presented on the full spectrum of programs that the city supports from emergency shelter to homeownership, and the many agencies that the city partners with to address these issues.
- Samya talked about the barriers to shelter/housing for individuals
- Tara presented on the results of the homeless strategies work group, including the current county-wide goals.
- Tara presented on the increase in capacity over the past year, including 25 tiny homes through Homes Now and another tiny home village through Road 2 Home, and an increase in winter weather beds.
- The city is focusing on families with children for future programs. Tara showed a map of all the projects underway to address homelessness and affordable housing.
- MNAC representatives had questions and comments regarding a variety of subjects including; the definition of unsheltered, inclusionary zoning, amount of money we get from federal and state funding, communications outreach, how to publicize this information, lessons learned from Camp 210, plans for extreme weather events, campers on Cornwall, comparing the amount Bellingham spends to other cities, why the unhoused population has increased, the Northwest Youth Services house, the senior population in need, if houseless people from other communities come to Bellingham, a solution for hosting houseless individuals in community members' properties, and what the legal requirement is for the city to take care of.

DRAFT

Neighborhood Round Table [01:56:00]

- **Happy Valley**
  Neighborhood meeting last week was well attended – Eric Johnston visited this meeting to talk about street issues. Confusion about new developments and requirements for parking.
- **Cornwall**
  Thank you to staff for visiting Parkview Elementary. Another thank you regarding the work on the flooding.
- **WWU**
  Very busy time at Western, many activities and events. Two new art sculptures are being put in.
- **South Hill**
  President is stepping down, and Scott Jones will be stepping up to fill the position. Concern regarding the new parking situation in Fairhaven.
- **Cordata**
  November community meeting focused on environmental and conservation issues. Cynthia May gave a great presentation on Lake Whatcom water quality.
- **Sunnyland**
  Sunnyland neighborhood voted in 8 new members to the board.
- **Birchwood**
  Thanks to Parks and Public Works for their work on the flooding. Active food sharing in Birchwood. The Senior Center is putting on a fundraiser on December 3rd.
- **Samish**
  Nothing to report in Samish
- **South**
  A bridge washed out over Chuckanut Creek, questions about what will happen to the families who need access to their homes from that bridge.
- **City Center**
  A lot will happen downtown for the holidays. Small business Saturday and Lighted Bike Parade coming up. Santa will be at the Boundary Bay Beer Garden on December 18th.
- **Lettered Streets**
  Elections held, trying to respond to community concerns about Parkview Elementary parking.
- **York**
  Association clubs are active and ongoing with a possible event in December.
- **Columbia**
  Meeting was held last night, presentation on slowing down traffic solutions. Neighborhood is considering holding a town hall.
- **Fairhaven**
  Presentation by David Christensen for redeveloping the pit in Fairhaven to get input before the design stage. Concerns about changes to paid parking. Issue regarding 800 Donovan Avenue.
- **Sehome**
  Held a pumpkin carving contest, many people from Samish Commons attended.

Discussion about December meeting [02:25:00]

- MNAC members had mixed responses about holding a meeting on December 15th. It was decided to hold a brief meeting with no presentation.

Meeting Adjourned by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 8:58 p.m.