



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

October 20th, 2021

Remote Meeting [video timestamps noted in brackets]

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Mayor Seth Fleetwood

Attendance

Present: Tom Dohman (Samish), Alex McLean (Happy Valley), Robin Thomas (Sehome), Bill Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jill McIntyre Witt (Columbia), Gordon Durham (Cornwall), Kathryn Rismondo (Lettered Streets), William Beer (Edgemoor), Anne Mackie (York), Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Tom (York), Molly Foote (Samish), Christopher Grannis (South), Chris Roselli (WWU), John LaSpina (Cordata), Alexarc Mastema (Sunnyland), David Frankel (South Hill), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley).

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood; Janice Keller, Communications Director; Eric Johnston, Public Works Director.

MINUTES

Presentation on Traffic calming, litter/furniture left outside, and more [00:03:35]

Eric Johnston, Public Works Director

Eric Johnston presented on traffic issues and traffic calming.

- Both the Bellingham Police Department and the Public Works Department have traffic divisions that can make impacts on traffic calming. There are also several traffic engineers. All of these groups are monitoring and tracking accidents and target areas. The Bicycle and Pedestrian master plan also addresses these issues.
- Education, enforcement, and engineering are all a part of traffic safety. Speed limit signs and lowering speed limits are often not as effective as we'd like them to be.
- MNAC Members had several questions and comments regarding traffic, including: the impact of education, the possibility of adding green infrastructure, Portland lowering the speed limit to 20, interactions of cyclists, dogs, and pedestrians with cars, the effectiveness of stop signs in slowing traffic, how to get lights at crosswalks, follow-ups on requests for radar signs, state grants vs. city funding, impacts from Parkview Elementary, safety for kids walking to school, putting street trees and public art closer to the street, how to accelerate street tree planting, education for Western students, and the unique needs for each neighborhood.

Eric also presented on litter control:

- Eric requested that everyone report all dumped litter -- like couches on the corner -- through See Click Fix. WWU does education campaigns to help mitigate this issue during move out and move in times.
- MNAC Members had several questions and comments on the following topics: greenways litter, the "couches of York" calendar, dumpster day event in York, and a significant increase in couches on the street this August.
- There will be parking adjustments made in the Fairhaven Neighborhood, there will be a council presentation about this shortly.

Future Topics Brainstorming [01:15:34]

The following topics were brought up for discussion at future MNAC meetings:

- Updates on new policies
- Expansion of the Lighthouse Mission
- Short-term plans for winter housing/emergency shelter
- Police Chief hiring updates and overall staffing issues
- Protections for renters
- Planning Director hiring process
- Meet and greet with city staff
- Post Point updates
- Infill housing and ownership in different neighborhoods

Neighborhood Round Table [01:30:17]

- **WWU**
Held a great virtual Indigenous Peoples' Day event with many partners. Vaccination status required for on campus events.
- **Cordata**
Operationalizing plan for small and simple grant money, planning several community events for next year, and making improvements to newsletter. Park board approved a plan to put in two little libraries in a neighborhood park.
- **Sunnyland**
Will be holding elections next month. Will be using small and simple grants money to paint the underpass of Alabama and Lincoln Street with a mural.
- **South Hill**
Question about protecting the heron rookery in Fairhaven, and question about a parcel for sale near Joe's Gardens that could potentially be parks land.
 - Mayor Fleetwood commented to say that the City is working on both of these issues but cannot report anything at this time.Neighbors also have questions and concerns about the ships anchored in the bay and the noise/pollution that is coming from them.
- **South**
Quarterly meeting will be held a week from today in person.
- **City Center**
The Wine Walk will be cancelled this year. Trick-or-Treating will be held the Friday before Halloween downtown.
- **York**
Working on the implementation of the small and simple grant money to improve the pollinator garden and a basketball court. There are a number of new members. Currently in the middle of the second annual "Scarecrow Throwdown." Hoping to have a caroling party in December, depending on Covid.
- **Columbia**
Monthly meeting will be held next month.
- **Fairhaven**

Last meeting included a presentation from the Fairhaven Parking Task Force. This was one of the best attended meetings to date. Residents are worried about the residential parking zone.

- **Happy Valley**

Lots of interest in public right of ways. Eric Johnston will be at the next neighborhood meeting. Held a great street tree fundraiser. November 14th there will be a fundraiser for the 75 Afghan refugees coming to Whatcom County.

- **Birchwood**

Birchwood is still a food desert. Thankful to those who have been growing and sharing food. Question about neighborhood planning notices and wanting more information and details on these planning notices. Helicopters have been flying over the neighborhood instead of Squalicum Parkway.

- **Lettered Streets**

Held an event called “election happy hour” and will be holding another one on Tuesday. Have been hearing many concerns about the Lighthouse Mission expansion.

- **Cornwall**

Peace Health presented a master plan regarding parking structure among other things at the neighborhood meeting on October 12th. Main concerns from the neighborhood involve the helicopter and flight plans. A mention of Liz Coogan and her Go Fund Me page.

- **Samish**

Northwest Youth Services has plans to open a home on 36th street. Neighbors spoke passionately both in favor and against this project.

Meeting Adjourned by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 8:40 p.m.