



City of Bellingham Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

February 19, 2020

The Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Bellingham Public Library Lecture Room, 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham.

MINUTES

Unless noted, all officially appointed MNAC representatives were in attendance.

Absent: Barkley, Edgemoor, Silver Beach, and South Hill

Current MNAC roster can be found on the City website:

<http://www.cob.org/documents/mayor/boards-commissions/neighborhood/mnac-roster.pdf>

Introductions & Roll Call

Agenda was approved

Minutes from November 2019 were approved

Announcements

Mayor Fleetwood announced that there are some monies available for the 2020 Small and Simple Grant (S&SG). He will be announcing the process for applying, in the coming weeks.

Community Conversation with Mayor Seth Fleetwood

Mayor Fleetwood began the conversation by discussing the logistics of the monthly MNAC meeting, with the suggestion that the meeting be shortened to 2 hours with a five-minute break, after the first hour. The new suggested time is 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The next topic was whether to keep the "Announcements" portion of the meeting and if there is a need for a microphone at the meeting.

The main topic of the Community Conversation was on the structural organization and powers of MNAC. The Mayor's broad observation was that MNAC could be revitalized, as the previous culture of MNAC was one in which the Mayor presented to the representatives, rather than people expressing actively. Mayor Fleetwood will reflect on, and report back on the discussion he heard tonight, which he summarized as follows:

1. MNAC representatives like being notified of the Type 6 Process, but they were not obligated to respond
2. Neighborhoods could formulate positions
3. Neighborhoods could convey recommendations to the City

Questions and Comments:

MNAC used to have a seat at the Type 6 Process table, and all neighborhoods were informed of developments. It also meant that items had to be on the MNAC agenda, and it is hard to get those items on the agenda when MNAC is not part of the Type 6 Process. The Neighborhood Plans were part of the Comprehensive Plan. Now, the Neighborhood Plans focus more on the character of the neighborhood, and the operative parts are in zoning. Developers meet the level of intent, but an extra step would inform the neighborhoods. It would be good for MNAC to be included in the Comprehensive Plan because that is where the principles are envisioned and for MNC to have a seat at that table. For more information on the current Bellingham Municipal Code, please visit: <https://bellingham.municipal.codes/BMC/2.33.040>

MNAC Representatives were reminded that they already receive accurate and timely notification of proposed development projects, as follows:

Notification Process for Proposed Development Projects:

Each notice of application is mailed via USPS to the label list provided by the applicant that includes:

The MNAC Representative, Alternative and any listed Neighborhood Association contacts for the neighborhood with the proposed project
Surrounding 500' property owners (Home Occupation is 100')
The Bellingham Herald Community News Department
The Applicant

Notices are also posted online within 24 hours at www.cob.org/notices (this is not required, but provided as a courtesy so notices are accessible to anyone to look up)

They are posted for 30 days, but are still available to access in the archive section of the notices page.

For Proposed Legislative Matters (Zoning Code, Comprehensive Plan)

Planning Commission Meetings:

All MNAC / MNAC Alt / NHOOD reps receive the notice of meeting by USPS

COURTESY reminder emails go out on (most) Fridays with a link to the notices page and upcoming Planning Commission meeting dates

Neighborhood Roundtable:

Alabama Hill

It is quiet in our neighborhood. We have not had an organized Board Meeting in about 2 years. There is an effort underway to resuscitate the Board, as a few people are interested. I would like to vote for future MNAC Meetings to convene from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Birchwood.

We had a Board Meeting about 2 weeks ago which was poorly attended, and only half of our Board positions are filled. There are three projects that we are actively working on in our neighborhood. The first is the International Market, which we will host 3 times every 4th or last Friday of the month, from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm, throughout the summer. Next, is our Pump Track Project on Cedarwood Drive, which is stalled for now. Finally, we continue to address food insecurity, through the Garden Share Project.

Central Business District

Our Association meets quarterly and our next meeting is on March 10th from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm at 1213 Cornwall St., Mayor Fleetwood will be attending. Our next Art Walk will be on March 10th and our Spring Wine Walk will be on May 8th, tickets are available online. You can donate funds to the Downtown Insider and receive a coupon book with discounts to downtown businesses. We have a number of condominiums with closed garages and people are getting parking tickets, if they do not have an ADA placard (Mayor Fleetwood will follow up at the next MNAC meeting).

Columbia

At our meeting last night, questions about 5G communications were broached and presently, there is no 5G in Bellingham. HomesNow! presented at our meeting. In December, both the Mayor Elect, Seth Fleetwood and Mayor Kelli attended our ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of our Share Shack, which was constructed with funds from the S&SG. We had four breakout sessions in November concerning: a Share Shack, a bike rack for Elizabeth Park, a Neighborhood Block Party, and a Zero-Waste Workshop. We highly recommend applying for Project Neighborly grants.

Cordata

We have increased our Board by two. We have also formed a committee to look at Cordata advocacy for a branch library. We have submitted a grant proposal to the Whatcom Foundation for a community garden. There is a lot of development taking place in our neighborhood.

Cornwall

Our thanks to Mayor Fleetwood for attending our last meeting and to Greg Hope for his presentation on Map Your Neighborhood. There was a highspeed chase in our neighborhood; dispatch was called, and it ended with a DUI, thanks to the Sergeant on duty. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department for two park benches. Our next Board Meeting will be on March 10th.

Fairhaven

We do not want the status quo for MNAC but want the re-introduction of a paid position for MNAC, and a re-visitation of the neighborhood boundaries which were drawn up 40 years ago. Please join us for the 32nd Annual Plant and Tree Sale, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 28th at the Hillcrest Chapel Parking Lot (corner of Old Fairhaven Pkwy & 14th St.). The proceeds will go to two non-profits: HomesNow! and RE-sources.

Happy Valley

Over 80 people attended our last community meal and we planted, staked and mulched 22 trees. We have created a 4-page newsletter insert on how to keep newly planted trees alive. Greg Hope is coming to our next meeting for a Map Your Neighborhood workshop.

King Mountain

Our Association meets quarterly. As our neighborhood was recently annexed, we are trying to increase the numbers onto our Board. The signage in our neighborhood needs to be more visible and moderately priced. There are no open spaces in our neighborhood, and we are outbid by all the developers. The developers have no limitation on the budget they can spend on purchasing open spaces, but the Parks and Recreation Department does have limitations placed on their budget. Our question remains "Where do the children play?"

Lettered Streets

We have three vacancies on our Board. We will be having our Annual Meeting for morning coffee instead of an evening meeting, in the hope that we will have more neighborhood participation.

Puget

We had our first Annual Meeting at Carl Cozier School in January. The first topic concerned the Tiny Homes temporary camp proposed for the former Clean Green site. Rick Sepler, Department Head of Planning and Chief David Doll of Police were there to talk about what had and had not happened at previous temporary sites. They did a great job of informing folks. Doug Gustafson from HomesNow! attended also. Next, the City View application for student housing impacts both Samish and Puget neighborhoods. The City had given the developers numerous extensions and we discussed our solutions or compromises. We will be electing officers at our next Board meeting in the first week of March.

Roosevelt

We have selected a sign for our neighborhood, using our Small and Simple Grant funds (S&SG). We found out that a 5-story tower will be going up in our neighborhood on Pacific St. It is on the site of the current Public Works Building.

Samish

We will be having our Annual Meeting in March. Otherwise, it is quiet in Samish.

Sehome

There was no meeting in December. Our next Meeting will be held at the WECU office on Holly St. on Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm, with a pizza get together starting at 6:30 pm. Sehome Neighborhood Association will have a table at the WWU Housing Fair. We have ordered 10 neighborhood signs with our S&SG funds. We have been planting trees on State and Ivy Streets. In May, Joseph Hayes will take over as our MNAC Representative.

South

We had a Map Your Neighborhood workshop with Greg Hope. We are working on a newsletter for our neighborhood and we would like to have a neighborhood sign similar to York's neighborhood sign. We are considering a title for our sign to read "Scenic South Neighborhood". However, we want to change the name of our neighborhood, and "100 Acre Wood" is one possibility. We understand there is a process for a name change.

Sunnyland

It is quiet in our neighborhood. Our next public meeting will be May 5th at 6:30 pm in the Options Highschool. We are encouraging emergency planning in our neighborhood.

Whatcom Falls

It has been quiet in our neighborhood. Our January meeting was cancelled due to the snow. Our next meeting will be in March. We have received some questions about the tiny home temporary shelter.

WWU

Jim Carrey will be coming to WWU, as part of his nationwide tour to promote his new book. Tickets are available online at the WWU box office for \$45/55. We have not had an economic impact study since 2014. Our current study indicates a total economic impact on Washington State of \$971 million/year, and a total economic impact on Whatcom County of \$474 million/year. We will be hosting our Housing and Hash Browns event on February 22nd and our Housing Fair on March 5th. Neighborhood Associations are welcome to set up a table at the Housing Fair, to acquaint students with their respective neighborhood. WWU is actively participating in the 2020 Census.

York

We strive to do fun things to increase civic engagement in our Association. We organize caroling, wagon ride events, picnics and the National Night Out Against Crime. During our winter caroling event, we raised \$68 and collected food for the Bellingham Food Bank. Our newest activity is our Wine and Roses Garden Club, which has already had their first gathering.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Lecture Room