



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

November 19, 2025
Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Lund.

Attendance

Neighborhood Representatives: Katie Herson-Horvath (Birchwood Rep.); Mary Lou White (Birchwood Alt.); Deb Valentine (Columbia Rep.); Greg Hope (Columbia Alt.); Bill Beer (Edgemoor Rep.); Barbara Zielstra (Edgemoor Alt.); Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven Rep.); Caroline Dietzgen (Fairhaven Alt.); Jake Charlton (Happy Valley Rep.); Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets Rep.); Brian Russell (Lettered Streets Alt.); Barbara June (Samish Rep.); Dina Dickerson (Samish Alt.); Stephanie Levine (Sehome Alt.); John Kane-Ronning (Silver Beach Rep.); Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill Rep.); Annie Sorich (Sunnyland Rep.); Chris Roselli (WWU Co-Chair); Stella Keating (WWU Co-Chair); Elan Engel (York Alt.)

City Representatives: Mayor Kim Lund; Janice Keller, Deputy City Administrator; Joel Pfundt, Public Works Director; Mike Olinger, Public Works Deputy Director; Shane Sullivan, Public Works Transportation Engineer; Riley Grant, Public Works Communications & Outreach Manager

Guests: Kate McDonald (Cordata Neighborhood President); Delaney Berglund

MINUTES

Opening Comments and Updates

- Mayor Lund gave a couple of quick updates from the City Council meeting on Monday.

Review of October Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the October minutes, and the motion was seconded.

Speed Limit Setting Policy

- Shane Sullivan shared the Citywide Speed Limit Setting Policy that was presented to City Council on October 6, 2025. The full presentation (agenda, packet, recording, slides, and minutes) can be viewed at meetings.cob.org:
 - o [October 6, 2025, Public Works and Natural Resources Committee Meeting](https://meetings.cob.org/2025/10/06/2025-public-works-and-natural-resources-committee-meeting)

Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

- Joel Pfundt and Mike Olinger shared the Post Point Solids Management Update that was presented to City Council on November 17, 2025. The full presentation (agenda, packet, recording, slides, and minutes) can be viewed at meetings.cob.org:
 - o [November 17, 2025, Public Works and Natural Resources Committee Meeting](https://meetings.cob.org/2025/11/17/2025-public-works-and-natural-resources-committee-meeting)

Neighborhood Roundtable

- Mayor Lund asked for updates from the neighborhoods, along with any feedback about what meeting topics and events members liked from the last year, and any suggestions for future MNAC meetings.

- Birchwood: Katie Herson-Horvath
 - Katie said they had their community meeting last month where they had competitive elections, and their dues-paying members have increased from 40-something to 80-something in the last year. They're working on keeping the food boxes monitored and stocked.
- Columbia: Deb Valentine
 - Deb reported that the Good Time Girls presented some neighborhood history and photos at their November meeting last night. She said all the neighborhood officers are leaving at the end of the year, so they're hoping to find replacements. She's interested in reports from the Downtown Bellingham Partnership and walking tours for future MNAC meeting topics/events.
- Cordata: Kate McDonald
 - Kate reported that their events committee met to plan events for 2026. They had a pie contest in November. Jasmine Fast will be taking over the president role in 2026.
- Edgemoor: Barbara Zielstra
 - Barbara said she enjoyed the middle housing walking tour, and would look forward to additional tours, as well as Bellingham Public Library updates.
- Fairhaven: Jan Dietzgen
 - Jan reported they're having their neighborhood Christmas event at the Chuckanut Center in December. She also loves the field trips.
- Happy Valley: Jake Charlton
 - Jake reported that they had their meeting last week, and their last community meal of the year last Sunday. They have a tree planting event on Saturday the 22nd at the South End Mobile Estates. He commented that the middle housing tour was the highlight of the year. He also asked about WTA rate changes. Mayor Lund said there is a public hearing coming up about the changes, and she suggested inviting WTA staff to come and present.
- Lettered Streets: Bri O'Hare
 - Bri reported that they now have their neighborhood signs and stickers, which will hopefully be installed soon. For 2026, she recommended a walking tour of Old Town to view the properties that are up for redevelopment and a conversation about how the Port and the City are working together to connect downtown to Old Town to the waterfront, as well as a conversation about the train quiet zones. She reported that Greg Hope came to their meeting last week, and his information on emergency preparedness was much appreciated.
- Samish: Barbara June
 - Barbara reported that a small group of neighbors have been leading short hikes (two to three miles long) in the Samish Crest Open Space area on the third Sunday of every month. She also enjoys the walking tours.
- Sehome: Stephanie Levine
 - Stephanie reported that their association is going dormant because their board is too small to be functional. She recognizes that several boards are having the same issue recruiting more members, and she would be interested in working with other neighborhoods on promoting the associations and recruiting members. She suggested reaching out to The Hamster Wheel. Mayor Lund said she would take this to the City's communication team as well.
- South: Steve Wilson
 - Steve couldn't attend the meeting but provided his update via a letter. He shared that There were two videos posted online from the Housing Week presentations, *Explore Home Sharing in Bellingham* and *The ABCs of ADUs*. These were very informative and greatly appreciated by those who couldn't attend in person. He also shared that the information available on the COB website concerning Housing Statistics, which is broken down for each neighborhood, is helpful in doing outreach to neighbors. He also proposed a topic for a future MNAC meeting: COB's See-Click-Fix website/app.

- South Hill: Michael Chrzastowski
 - Michael shared an update on the Boulevard Park beach rebuilding project. He has enjoyed all the past MNAC field trips. He expressed a wish that more members of the public could see the facilities they toured. He shared that their neighborhood association is also struggling with participation, but they've worked with other nearby neighborhoods to share information and build community. Mayor Lund commented that for the last few years the City has been doing "Ask Me Anything" forums for the community at the beer garden at Boundary Bay Brewery. She said the City has been throwing around the idea of having similar events in the future in different areas of the city: south end, central, and north end. Janice commented that these events would likely replace the MNAC meeting for the month in which they are scheduled.
- Sunnyland: Annie Sorich
 - Annie said their recent meeting was fairly well attended, and they have a few shared interest group events coming up. Their annual caroling event "Carol-okie" will be in the Sunnyland Elementary play shed on December 12th. She also enjoys the field trip and social events and appreciates all the information shared in the regular meetings. She thinks the Hamster Wheel is a great idea for promoting the neighborhood associations.
- WWU: Stella Keating
 - Chris reported WWU is hosting the west region women's soccer tournament in the next few days. A Streetcar Named Desire is going to be at the Performing Arts Center. He gave an update on an initiative called the Western Guaranteed Admission Program which will admit students from the five northwesternmost counties with a 2.75 GPA and higher if they graduate from high school and will waive the application fee. This is being presented to local high schools where students can be admitted on the spot.
 - Stella reported there were approximately 300 students and community members in attendance at their Voter Hub event, either to drop off their ballot, print their ballot, or register to vote. They also had their City Council forum in October where council members presented and answered questions.
- York: Colin Beazley
 - Colin said they have a social event at Aslan Brewing tomorrow night. They're also doing a caroling event on the 19th at Nelson's Market.

Closing Comments:

- Janice reminded everyone that they are required to take Open Government training, the details of which have been shared via email. She also noted that the Small and Simple Grant program has been moved to Project Neighborly and she recently sent out an email with this information. Lastly, she reminded everyone that neighborhood reimbursement requests for 2025 need to be submitted by the end of the year.

Reminder: No meeting in December - the next meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.