



# Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

## City of Bellingham

**February 18, 2026**

**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.); Kate McDonald (Cordata Alt.); Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven Rep.); Caroline Dietzgen (Fairhaven Alt.); Jake Charlton (Happy Valley Rep.); Alex McLean (Happy Valley Alt.); Blair Marcotte (King Mountain Rep.); Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets Rep.); Lauren Bunke (Roosevelt Rep.); Barbara June (Samish Rep.); John Kane-Ronning (Silver Beach Rep.); Steve Wilson (South Rep.); Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill Rep.); Annie Sorich (Sunnyland Rep.); Chris Roselli (WWU Rep.); Elan Engel (York Alt.)

City Representatives: Mayor Kim Lund; Janice Keller and Forrest Longman, Deputy City Administrators; Taylor Littrell and Kathleen Morton, Development Specialists – Planning and Community Development

Guests: Kimberly Anderson, Fairhaven Association; Alison Gallant; Susan Hutton

## **MINUTES**

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### **Opening Comments and Updates**

- Janice informed the group of an upcoming series of events called Ask Us Anything: City Meet and Greet. March 18 will be the first event which will be at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal at 5:30pm. The Mayor and the City's department leaders will be hosting. It is open to the public and refreshments will be provided. There will be an additional two events later in the year, one downtown and one in north Bellingham.
- Janice also noted that there will be a presentation on March 4 at the Bellingham Covenant Church for King Mountain neighborhood community members regarding the large encampment near their neighborhood. It will be co-hosted by the King Mountain Neighborhood Association and community members will have a chance to ask questions.
- Mayor Lund mentioned that a new welcome sign has been hung in the lobby of City Hall, which includes ten of the most commonly spoken languages in the community.

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### **Review of January Meeting Minutes**

- A motion was made to approve the January minutes with a minor revision, and the motion was seconded.

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### **Home Sharing Program**

- Taylor Littrell and Kathleen Morton with the Planning and Community Development department presented information about the new Bellingham Home Sharing Program, which is administered through Nesterly. This program connects homeowners who have extra bedrooms with good-fit renters, providing much-needed housing options to the community in exchange for rent and, sometimes, chores. The presentation slides and more information on the website can be found using the links below.

- [Bellingham Home Sharing Program Presentation Slides](#)
  - [Bellingham Home Sharing Program Website](#)
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### **Jail and Behavioral Health Services Update**

- Forrest Longman, Deputy City Director, presented an update on the Whatcom County jail planning process and behavioral health services in advance of the presentation planned for City Council on the following Monday. The presentation slides and the full presentation to City Council at their February 23, 2026 meeting can be accessed using the links below.
    - [Jail and Behavioral Health Services Update Presentation Slides](#)
    - [Whatcom County Justice and Behavioral Care Center Update to City Council - February 23, 2026](#)
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### **State of the City Video**

- Mayor Lund shared her State of the City Video with the group. She said that State of the City presentations have traditionally been shared in Council Chambers or during a Chamber of Commerce hosted breakfast, but she wanted it to be accessible to many more people to be able share all the good work that is happening in the City.
    - [2026 State of the City video](#)
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### **Group Discussion**

- Mayor Lund opened up the conversation to the group to talk about neighborhood association membership, how to recruit members, challenges that associations are facing, and suggestions from those who are having success.
  - Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets) asked which associations have more than two members, which charge dues, and how often associations meet. The answers varied among the associations.
  - Kate McDonald (Cordata) said that Cascadia Daily has a community calendar where they post their neighborhood association meetings and events, which she recommended that other associations do for visibility. She also said it would be helpful if other associations did that so the associations don't schedule events over each other.
  - Blair Marcotte (King Mountain) asked for assistance determining membership and establishing bylaws. The group discussed dues, voting, bylaws, and communication with their neighbors.
  - Alex McLean (Happy Valley) said their association gets the highest turnout during their community meal events and tree planting work parties, which reaches a younger demographic where they can see the value and progress of these types of events, rather than two-hour long meetings.
  - Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets) ask how associations notify neighbors of upcoming meetings.
    - Annie Sorich (Sunnyland) said they post to social media and put up sandwich board signs around the neighborhood a week before meetings or events.
    - Katie Herson-Horvath (Birchwood) said their members put up yard signs, door knock, and post on Nextdoor. She said they've had good success getting community participation by partnering with other groups in the neighborhood that are doing great work.
    - Elan Engel (York) said their association members deliver newsletters throughout the neighborhood. He also suggested having events that give value for people to be involved in.
  - Lauren Bunke (Roosevelt) asked how associations decide where to hold their meetings and how to do it on a very tight budget.
    - Many groups use a neighborhood church – some charge fees, some do not. Some groups use schools. Some groups use parks when the weather is nice. Some groups meet at local businesses or organizations.

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**Closing Comments:**

Mayor Lund reminded the group that there won't be a regular MNAC meeting next month; instead, the City will be hosting the first Ask Us Anything: City Meet and Greet event at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal on March 18 at 5:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.