



## Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

**July 21, 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:

Jill McIntyre Witt (Columbia), Tom Dohman (Samish), Brooks Anderson (Fairhaven), Irena Lambrou (South), Bobbie Vollendorff (Happy Valley), Steven James (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Gordon Durham (Cornwall), Chris Roselli (WWU), Robin Thomas (Sehome), Dean Haskins (Alabama Hill), Christopher Grannis (South), John LaSpina (Cordata), Tom Scott (York), David Frankel (South Hill), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley)

Guests: Kirsten McDade, ReSources Pollution Prevention Specialist

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

## MINUTES

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### **Presentation on Post Point Wastewater Resource Recovery** [00:03:32]

*Eric Johnston, Public Works Director, and Kirsten McDade, ReSources Pollution Prevention Specialist*

Kirsten McDade presented on the Post Point Resource Recovery plant regarding the proposed updates.

- Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant needs to replace its incinerators. Anaerobic digestion was chosen as the alternative. Digestion possibly leaves behind hazardous chemicals.
- Washington State does not have regulations for PFAS.
- The City is being asked to either consider other routes to take with the biosolids, or prove that the levels of PFAS and other chemicals in the biosolids are not harmful.

Eric Johnston followed-up this presentation with some clarifications

- PFAS come from things like non-stick surfaces and Gore-tex. They are present in 98% of people's blood streams.
- The City looked at several different land applications before selecting anaerobic digestion.
- An effort is being made towards nutrient reduction at Post Point.

MNAC Members had questions and comments about the following topics: if the amount of waste is being reduced even if the biosolids cannot be used, how much methane will be produced, renewable natural gas, not putting biosolids on our land, using the methane gas produced in the pipeline, using Janicki's system, joining up with other municipalities in the county to create a larger wastewater plant, what other cities across the country and other parts of the world are doing, looking at Dutch systems, how much time council will have to decide, use of grant funds, and working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

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## Neighborhood Round Table [01:09:08]

- **Happy Valley**  
Neighborhood meeting held a week ago, working on the right-of-way project on Larrabee and the small and simple grants.
- **Fairhaven**  
Issues with the 801 Donovan development regarding street and parking issues. A special meeting was held about this. Lots of questions about if neighborhood voices are actually being heard.
- **Samish**  
Lots of concern about the City View project. Similar concerns to Fairhaven regarding how much input neighborhood members have. Planning the neighborhood picnic for August 29th, depending on if you can use a grill during the burn ban.
  - Janice Keller will follow up with the parks department to see if grilling is allowed.
- **Cornwall**  
Two bench installs on Broadway using the small and simple grant. PeaceHealth introduced some planned expansions during a neighborhood meeting. Neighbors are concerned about the proposed helipad.
- **WWU**  
2/3 of classes will be online. Vaccines will be required for faculty, staff, and students who are in person. New residence hall will be open in the Fall.
- **Sehome**  
Chris Comeau, City transportation planner, visited the general meeting to review the projects happening in the neighborhood. Getting ready to do the Liberty Street garage sale in August.
- **Alabama**  
Less fireworks this year for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, probably due to dry weather.
- **South**  
Quarterly meeting will be held in person next week.
- **Columbia**  
Chalk Art Festival held for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Neighbors want some kind of speed reducing sign on Lynn Street. A bad accident happened on Eldridge Avenue.
- **Cordata**  
Planning to put up a couple of Little Libraries using the small and simple grants. Hoping to do some events in the park this year.
- **Puget**  
SwiftHaven held a BBQ and welcome to the neighborhood. Some concern over the tiny home village going in at the Clean Green site, but most neighbors seem to be positive. Lots of excitement about the Heart House project. Lots of concern about the City View project.
- **York**  
Preparing for several events coming up. Neighborhood meetings are becoming more well attended.

## **Brainstorming for Future Topics [02:06:02]**

The following topics were brought up to be heard at future MNAC meetings:

- Police presentation on new state legislations
  - How to help mitigate speeding on neighborhood roads
  - Vaccinations
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Meeting adjourned by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 8:42 p.m.

**There will be no MNAC meeting in August.**