



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

October 16, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Representatives for Neighborhoods: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Deb Valentine (Columbia), Diane Tudor (Cordata), Nick Kelly (Cornwall), Barbara Zielstra (Edgemoor), William Beer (Edgemoor), Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Alex McLean (Happy Valley), Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Lauren Bunke (Roosevelt), April Markiewicz (Samish), Robin Thomas (Sehome), Kerri Burnside (Silver Beach), Steve Wilson (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Justin Nelson (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), and Colin Beazley (York).

City Representatives: Mayor Kim Lund, Janice Keller, Deputy Administrator and Greg Hope, Office of Emergency Management

MINUTES

Opening Comments

- Welcome

Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Typo caught after distribution and it was fixed. Motion by Barbara Zielstra, Colin Beazley 2nd; Motion Carried

Mary Anderson, Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) Update

See this website for route changes in 2025 <https://engage.ridewta.com/service-changes>.

Greg Hope, Office of Emergency Management, Earthquake Risk Presentation

- Reminder of Drop Cover and Hold for the Great Washington ShakeOut on October 17th at 10:17 am
- Tsunami sirens will be tested on October 17th at 10:17 am
- <https://cob.org/services/safety/emergencies/tsunami> gives more information on frequently asked questions
- Greg is available to attend the neighborhood meetings

Mayor Lund, Presentation on Proposed 2025 Budget and Other Updates

- Mayor shared her budget presentation that was presented at City Council

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

They are in planning their 2025 International Festival. Thank you for the safety improvements for the neighborhood and would like to see it continue.

- **City Center**

They will be having the downtown trick-or-treating with 100 participating businesses. November 1st is First Friday that showcases local artists and galleries with downtown shopping. November 15th 5-8:30 is the Holiday Wine Walk and tickets are available. On December 16th there will be having the scepter awards. They would also like to have a conversation about how to increase membership in the neighborhood and how to efficiently disperse information to the neighborhood. First Fridays are free at the Whatcom Museum and includes the Children's Gallery, the Thomas Wood Exhibit is fabulous.

- **Columbia**

They are working on their Small and Simple Grant for signage and the design was just approved. On September 21st they did a warm clothing drive, and the share shacks will be closed for the winter.

- **Cordata**

Nothing new to report.

- **Cornwall**

Nothing new to report.

- **Edgemoor**

Nothing new to report.

- **Fairhaven**

They continue to work on the Small and Simple Grant for trees and some technical policies for the neighborhood.

- **Happy Valley**

They had a candidates' forum at their last community meal. The Interim Public Works Director will be attending a future meeting to address the infrastructure issues in the neighborhood. Saturday from 10-1 they will be holding a work party at the Larrabee right-of-way.

- **Lettered Streets**

Their September ice cream social was well attended. They are still looking for ideas of how to increase their members. The Lighthouse Mission will be opening soon, and Bri recommends a tour.

- **Roosevelt**

There is no official neighborhood association yet, but they are hoping to have elections by summer.

- **Samish**

They had their first in-person board meeting, and they will be having them quarterly instead of monthly. The neighborhood's Greenway Committee has been working with the City's Greenways Advisory Committee to try and create a connecting trail from Lake Padden to Whatcom Falls Park.

Sehome

Nothing new to report.

- **Silver Beach**

Nothing new to report due to time running out.

- **South**

They will be having their quarterly volunteer work party in November in the 100 Acre Wood. The neighborhood provided leadership in restoring the house at the Fairhaven Park and it looks great.

- **South Hill**

Comments of the enjoyment of the field trips this past summer and was very impressed with the infrastructure, staff and cleanliness. They are continuing to educate their neighborhood about the importance of increasing the Port of Bellingham Commissioners.

- **Sunnyland**

They received two Small and Simple Grants and they are complete. They planted 38 trees and did a 1,000-piece mailer with neighborhood magnets for communication. They are appreciative of the grants, and it all went well.

- **WWU**

They had about 1,500 students attend the First Night Out and thanks to Mayor Kim for attending. The campus community is supporting each other and the students' families that they lost this past week. Their Dean of Libraries was arrested, and that person has been put on leave. They are also working on budget restructuring. Mayor Kim represented our community as a witness at the Lummi Nation School on Monday at Indigenous Peoples Day event and she did such an amazing job.

- **York**

They had their September picnic with about 200 people in attendance. They had a work party at Harriet Spanel Park. They are getting a new playground at Rock Hill. Their general meeting is on the 30th and will be including some family events and they are hoping to help educate the neighbors on the tree program. Their holiday carriage is the 2nd Saturday of December with caroling.

Closing Comments:

Mayor commented on the attendance to the Indigenous Peoples Day event and how honored she was to be named as a witness.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is November 20, 2024