



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

May 15, 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), Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Lindsey Payne Johnstone (City Center), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), Jasmine Fast (Cordata), Carolyn Whipple (Cornwall), William Beer (Edgemoor), Barbara Zielstra (Edgemoor), Caroline Dietzgen (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets), April Markiewicz (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Tara Stavik (King Mountain), Lauren Bunke (Roosevelt), Kerri Burnside (Silver Beach), Christopher Grannis (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), Gabrielle Laipenieks (WWU), and Colin Beazley (York)

City Representatives: Mayor Kim Lund, Janice Keller, Interim Deputy Administrator/Communications Director, and Eric Johnston, Public Works Director

MINUTES

Opening Comments

- Welcome and introduction to Eric Johnston, Public Works Director

Public Works Director, Eric Johnston - Urban Forest Plan

Eric Johnston gave a presentation on the Bellingham Urban Forest Plan and covered some of the GIS powered information neighborhoods can explore under the story map link, including Bellingham's tree canopy.

Questions/Discussion

1. With more development in the King Mountain Neighborhood, the canopy cover is shrinking, and the requirement is 60% cover and they would like to see it at 75%. They are wondering if the Urban Forest Plan might help influence this increase?
 - a. Yes, the community sets the goals and vision for what they want to achieve, but they do not create regulations.
2. Finding a balance between housing and trees without putting them at odds with one another.
3. Council is working on a landmark tree ordinance.
4. The City just closed a request for proposal for a consultant to address speed limits throughout the City.
5. Traffic speed concerns should be reported by calling 9-1-1. Emails to askpw@cob.org to express traffic safety concerns get addressed by the Transportation Division.

Mayor Comments

- Looking forward to seeing the Small and Simple Grant requests.

Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Annie Sorich moved to approve the April meeting minutes William Beer 2nd motion, Motion Carried.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

They are planning the International Market for the 2nd Sunday in July and August from 1-5. They continue to need help keeping Northwest Avenue safe from drugs for the kids to walk to and from school as well the stores. Thank you for the Small and Simple Grant.

- **City Center**

They just had their Wine Walk last week. There are so many positive things happening downtown including some upcoming events: Pride, Tune-Up, Block Party and Downtown Sounds.

- **Columbia**

They are having a pop-up donation drive event at their share shack at the corner of Henry and Connecticut on Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5. They will be having a community garage sale on June 8th and a July celebration with a baking contest again. If you'd like to be a judge for the baking contest, please contact Kit.

- **Cordata**

Thank you for amending the Small and Simple Grant to include the park rental fees, it is very much appreciated. They had their neighborhood meeting last night with the biggest turn out of over 70 people. They are looking forward to having a Cordata Concert Series at the Cordata Park Pavilion. They have implemented adopt a street program "Survey 1, 2, 3" and people are reporting. They would like the City to implement a Citywide adopt a street program and an urban food forest.

- **Cornwall**

Nothing new to report.

- **Edgemoor**

They had their annual meeting and over 50 people attended, and they now have a full board. They are going to find some key people to help with the map the neighborhood. Thank you for the Small and Simple Grants and they are going to apply again this year.

- **Fairhaven**

They had their plant sale and half of the revenue is going to 5 organizations. They are going to reapply for the Small and Simple Grant to continue their tree project.

- **Happy Valley**

They had their monthly meeting yesterday that included the Narcan presentation and discussion with Hillcrest. They will be having their community meal this Sunday.

- **King Mountain**

They have been having meetings to build momentum re: community garden and hoping to have a garden party in August or September. The neighborhood would like to make sure that the Mayor received the letter in reference to the school situation.

- Mayor Lund replied that yes, she received it and she is having conversation with the School District that is very fluid and ongoing. There is a work group that both she and Dr. Baker will be attending, and she feels that after the meeting, she will be more prepared to talk with the neighborhood.

- **Lettered Streets**

They had their regular meeting last week and the Stommish Water Festival will be on June 13-15.

- **Roosevelt**

This is Lauren's first meeting, and she is working with neighbors in establishing the Roosevelt neighborhood.

- **Samish**
They had their meeting last week with a guest speaker and Lisa Anderson in attendance. They have been updating their website and have tentative plans for their summer picnic at Lake Padden Park.
- **Sehome**
They are looking forward to the joint Sehome/York event tomorrow.
- **Silver Beach**
The neighborhood has some big concerns about the City's rezone proposal, and the neighborhood is not getting their public hearing notices and it's becoming problematic.
- **South**
The neighborhood is very unhappy about the response to the comments regarding the Mud Bay Cliffs development. They wanted an environmental impact statement for the development and the Planning Department has denied their request and their submitted comments.
 - Mayor commented that Director Lyon has given specific engagement on the topic and comments can still be submitted. The City is still actively listening and receiving neighborhood feedback. The only determination that the City has made is the permit application is complete.
- **South Hill**
The neighborhood continues to work on "Save the Waterfront", and they are very excited that ABC is not planning on building a shredder. They continue to educate people of the need for rezoning.
- **Sunnyland**
They have their quarterly meeting on Tuesday, and they will have a yard sale on the 29th.
- **WWU**
They had a wonderful Asian Pacific Islander, Desi American Heritage Month Event last night with 250 people in attendance including the Mayor. WWU's softball team just won and they will be representing Western United States in the National Division and WWU's Rugby is hosting the national tournament this weekend. There is a peaceful encampment happening at WWU to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Commencement weekend is June 14th-16th and it will be busy around Bellingham. Last week they had local action week and City leaders attended with great dialogue.
- **York**
Tomorrow they are having their first Sehome/York informational meeting at Harriet Spanel Park with representatives from Planning, Parks and Emergency Preparedness. They had a great work party at Rock Hill Garden with about 50 people in attendance. They have some upcoming events like Dumpster Day and York Yard Crawl in the fall.

Closing Comments:

There will not be a June MNAC Meeting due to it landing on June 19th (Juneteenth) and Mayor Lund proposed the first field trip be held on June 26th at the water treatment plant.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is July 17, 2024.