



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

January 18, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Janice Keller for Mayor Fleetwood. Mayor is attending the US Conference of Mayors in Washington DC.

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Kit Topaz (Columbia), Miriam Cisternas (Columbia), John LaSpina (Cordata), Gordon Durham (Cornwall), William Beer (Edgemoor), William Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Brianne O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Christopher Grannis (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Anna Sorich (Sunnyland), Teagan Hudson (WWU), Tom Scott and Colin Beazley (York).

City Representatives: Janice Keller, Communications Director; Riley Grant, Public Works Communications and Outreach Manager; Eric Johnston, Public Works Director and Brandon Brubaker, PW Sanitation and Solid Waste Manager

Presenter: Ted Carlson, SSC General Manager

MINUTES

Opening Comments

The City will be offering Small and Simple Grants for 2023.

Riley Grant, Public Works Communications and Outreach Manager Presented an Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans

Public Works is in the process of updating the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans. These plans help to improve all of the bicycle and pedestrian networks throughout the City. There have been some community outreach and draft recommendations are ready for feedback available on Engage Bellingham. Janice to send information via email to the MNAC group for further details.

Brandon Brubaker, Public Works Sanitation and Solid Waste Manager and Ted Carlson, General Manager at SSC Presented on Single Stream Recycling

There have been discussions about the proposed single stream recycling program and the City believes it is a cost effective and efficient system. It is in line with current legislation that has been passed and how recycling is handled state-wide. The single stream recycling supports the Climate Action Plan. It's costly for the wind-blown bins and trash containment for the City.

The City started talking with SSC about the cost of recycling in 2021. The cost of recycling has exceeded the garbage collection cost, so SSC needed to review the collection method to reduce the costs. SSC and PW went to Council and the recommendation was to start a pilot program, which was initiated with the Edgemoor Neighborhood. The pilot program showed a significant reduction in cost both labor and expense for the trucks.

Important facts - Northwest Recycling closed and they had the ability to separate the bottles and cans, etc. and now that is no longer available. It's very tough on the SSC employees as it has had 4 times the L&I claims for operation issues. Legislation is being considered to no longer accept glass on the curb side collection because of the contamination.

Questions and comments were on contamination, bins were very large, liked the convenience, liked not having to put the recycling out every week (changed to every other week), cost, plastic recycling, cost fluctuation of commodities, glass recycling options, and compost bins.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**
Updating website and neighborhood meetings. Getting ready for the Birchwood market in the summer.
- **Columbia**
The share shack has been closed. Working on relaunching the website. Had a chili feed at the November meeting and it brought out more people than they had seen in past meetings. They have had some concerns about catalytic converter theft and wondered if the City would consider sponsoring an engraving event?
- **Cordata**
Scheduling community meetings on a bi-monthly basis. At the last meeting, they invited 10 community organizations that presented their programs and it turned out well. Looking forward to Phase II of the Cordata Park.
- **Cornwall**
They are in support of the Planning staff's owner-occupied ADU policy. There are growing concerns about Fountain District parking. Would like to have Chief Mertzig attend the Cornwall Neighborhood meeting.
- **Edgemoor**
They are still working on getting a board elected.
- **Fairhaven**
Having annual plant sale in March. They are in support of the Planning staff's proposal of the owner-occupancy ADU policy.
- **Happy Valley**
Had their monthly meeting and they went over the Pedestrian Plan and looked at recommendations to offer. Their community meal has resumed and is going well.
- **Lettered Streets**
There will be a Gossage Garden cleanup on January 21st. Having elections in February and Greg Hope will do a presentation on Map Your Neighborhood and emergency preparedness. They are having a Bellingham community event on April 12th with a guest speaker, Carol Teshima, a researcher on the Japanese/American experience in Bellingham.
- **Puget**
Having their February meeting and it will continue to be virtual.
- **Samish**
They are having their March general meeting, and it will continue virtual. They also support the owner-occupied ADUs. Interested in the land acknowledgements and if there is an update from the City.
- **Sehome**
The Transportation Commission is looking at updating the neighborhood's traffic safety program. They have submitted their Pedestrian Plan comments. They are looking for new board members.
- **South**
Would request that the order the neighborhood round table get switched up. Commented on the 100 Acre Wood conservation easement process.

- **South Hill**
Will be having it's first in-person monthly meeting next week and it will include discussions on neighborhood parking, BNSF quiet zones, and discussing owner-occupancy ADUs.
- **Sunnyland**
Their December caroling event went well. They will be having a board meeting next month and they are working on an electronic welcome packet for new neighbors.
- **WWU**
On Monday WWU had a MLK event and 150 students attended in-person and 100 online. They are working on Women's History Month in March. Students went to Olympia to lobby.
- **York**
This is Tom's last meeting and Colin will be replacing him. The annual general meeting is in January and a new board will be elected. Claudia Murphy and Lisa Anderson are invited to their general meeting to discuss the drug activities in the neighborhood. They are very excited about the Small and Simple grants being extended into 2023.

Thank you to Katie Bray for doing the Zoom moderating through COVID. MNAC now has a new Zoom moderator from the Public Works Department - Rush Duncan and his support is appreciated.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 15, 2023