



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

November 15, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Jenny Hagemann (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), John LaSpina (Cordata), Nick Kelly (Cornwall), William Beer (Edgemoor), Barbara Zielstra (Edgemoor), William Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Tara Stavik (King Mountain), Bri O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), April Markiewicz (Samish), Barbara June (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Kerri Burnside (Silver Beach), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Christopher Grannis (South), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), Gabby Laipeniaks (WWU), and Colin Beazley (York).

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood and Janice Keller, Interim Deputy Administrator

MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

- September-November 2022
- January-March 2023

Jan Dietzgen/Christopher Grannis Moved 1st & 2nd. Motion Carried

Discussion: Would like to see the minutes come out sooner and more regular; acknowledged comments.

Open Topics for Discussion:

- ABC Recycling
 - Would like some more official information about ABC Recycling and acknowledgement of the concerns about the impacts on our city. Discussion included the level of industry traveling through downtown, financial impact on the City, concerns of location, roads, environmental impact, noise, increase in landfills, etc.
 - Mayor commented that the applicant that owns the property on Marine Drive has applied for a pre-application meeting with the County Planning Department and the City's intention is to prepare a statement that is reflective of the same concerns raised by the community and MNAC members.

Neighborhood Round Table

All expressed thanks to Mayor Fleetwood for his service.

- **Birchwood**

The neighborhood is very concerned about the clearcut of the forest on Birchwood and Meridian for development and questioning how they can maintain the character of their neighborhood with the infill. The neighborhood had discussions about ABC Recycling and the shredder and majority does not

approve this project. They would like to put something up on their website, but don't want to cross any lines.

Mayor suggested that his office run this by the Legal Department and get something that could be shared with the whole group.

- **City Center**

They completed their Commercial Street Plaza improvements for their Small and Simple Grant. They continue to work on downtown safety and cleanliness with the City. Shop Small Saturday is the day after Thanksgiving and encourages the community to shop local. The downtown tree lighting is December 2nd at 5:30 at Market Depot Square and December 9th is the holiday parade.

- **Columbia**

Getting ready for their neighborhood meeting and they plan on working on their bylaws and hoping for a good turnout. There has been some good feedback on the Lorraine Ellis Park improvements.

- **Cordata**

They had their monthly board meeting and have been trying to recruit new members. They have started looking into booking some music events for the new amphitheater in Cordata Park for 2024. They are concerned about speeding on Cordata Parkway. They had their community meeting and Malora Christensen, Marissa Shoeappach, and Claudia Murphy attended and discussed the LEAD program. There was discussion of the complicated issue of the homeless camp behind Walmart.

- **Cornwall**

Blake Lyon and Steve Sundin will be attending their next meeting to discuss ADUs and Peace Health Hospital. They are excited about their Small and Simple Grant for the signs.

- **Edgemoor**

They would like to continue the Southside Coalition that was initiated in 2010 around specific issues related to developing in rights-of-way, developing Mud Bay Cliffs, and other issues that affect the southern neighborhoods. They have been working on information distribution to neighbors and they would like to find a way for their website to connect with the City's.

- **Fairhaven**

They are working on their Small and Simple Grant, and they had a workshop that included getting inventory of the trees in the neighborhood.

- **Happy Valley**

Their monthly meeting was yesterday, and they are having a tree planting event this Saturday. The community meal is this Sunday.

- **King Mountain**

They had their general meeting on the 6th and Greg Hope from Emergency Management attended. They are focusing on James Street improvements and trying to get comments from the neighbors to the City.

- **Lettered Streets**

They appreciated the downtown information mailer from the City. The neighborhood held an election forum. Their neighborhood is very concerned about the Lighthouse Mission, safety, Police staffing, etc. They would like to know what protections are being put in place for the neighborhood. Is there a contact or a board for the Lighthouse Mission to address when problems come up and is there a way for the neighborhood to have a seat on the board and be a part of problem solving?

Mayor commented that there is a board and there have been meetings with City staff and the Lighthouse Mission. Mayor will check what the status of the board is. There will be a shelter protection zone around the building; the building is 50% bigger; and it's a conditional use permit and heavily conditioned; and the Police Department is staffing up faster than expected. The leadership team at Base Camp have been very good about meeting with neighbors, so that may be a really good first step.

- **Puget**
Nothing new to report.
- **Samish**
They are working on their Small and Simple Grant updating their website and hoping to have it completed within the next few weeks.
- **Sehome**
They are working on their Small and Simple Grant and met with the Arts Commission. The board will be planning for their 2024 priorities.
- **Silver Beach**
They had their meeting last night and discussed the concern of not enough emergency shelters in place. Kerri sent an email to the MNAC group so they have the information about what is needed and how they can help. They also discussed traffic, and they are going to start focusing on some fun things.
- **South**
Had their meeting and discussion on the proposed development of Viewcrest and 38 lots. They do not believe there has been a thorough geological study and have written to the City to inquire.
- **South Hill**
Additional comments on ABC Recycling and the metal shredder that is being proposed on Marine Drive. Michael encourages MNAC members to get educated and discuss this topic in neighborhood meetings and really look into the facts at how this will affect our city.
- **Sunnyland**
Thank you to PW that put a disabled parking space in for an elderly couple in their neighborhood. Last weekend there was a free workshop at the Garden Spot Nursery for the Sunnyland Garden Club members. There will be a work party in Memorial Park this Sunday to plant daffodil bulbs that are part of their Small and Simple Grant. Their quarterly meeting is on the 28th, and they plan on serving a free dinner. There will be some holiday caroling at Sunnyland Elementary on December 8th 6-7pm.
- **WWU**
There's a volleyball game tomorrow night, basketball games on Friday, there's a musical on the main stage through the weekend, and the choir is playing. Check out WWU's event page for all the events. Students had their voter hub on election day, and they had a couple of planners from the City at WWU to get feedback on the comprehensive plan.
- **York**
They are focusing on growing the board presence and getting the neighborhood engaged. They put up two of the bulletin boards from the Small and Simple Grant. They will be having their caroling and horse carriage event on November 9th at 6:30pm.

Closing Comments:

Mayor commented on how he has found MNAC to be very valuable. This is the last meeting of the year and wanted to thank all the members. He's considering having a little open house for staff and MNAC members and when that date is determined, he will make sure the invite gets sent out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting is January 17, 2024