



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

February 15, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Janice Keller for Mayor Fleetwood. Mayor is in Olympia at the Association of Washington Cities Legislative Conference.

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Kit Topaz (Columbia), Dianne Tudor (Cordata), William Beer (Edgemoor), William Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Tara Stavik (King Mountain), Brianne O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Jocelyn Lindsey (Silver Beach), Christopher Grannis (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Erica Charbonneau (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), and Colin Beazley (York).

City Representatives: Janice Keller, Communications Director and Rebecca Mertzig, Police Chief

MINUTES

Opening Comments

The Pacific Street Operations Center will be opening and MNAC Members will be invited to a tour on March 1st.

The Mayor has lifted the requirement of COVID-19 vaccination for employees and all volunteers.

Bellingham Police Department Update, Chief Mertzig

Chief Mertzig gave an update from the past 8 months of her employment. She commented on staffing challenges and cooperation with other jurisdictions. Chief answered questions on her vision for the future, mental health needs, safety in schools, legislation, jail, Blake Decision, and homelessness.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

At the last meeting they had Blake Lyon attend and it was good. There will be a drug treatment center going in the neighborhood and they are very concerned about it. They are still looking for a grocery store. Getting ready for the Birchwood market in the summer.

- **Columbia**

They will be holding elections and their next meeting. They successfully launched the neighborhood website. They are using CheddarUp for collecting funds for the neighborhood and it's made their collecting money much easier.

- **Cordata**

They have gone to a bi-monthly meeting and at the next meeting, Rebecca Judd is planning on talking about the North Library branch in the mall and Johnathan Schilk will also talk about the Cordata Park Phase II which is starting in April.

- **Edgemoor**

Woods at Viewcrest/Mud Bay Cliffs is a topic at tomorrow's annual meeting as it has been for 8 months.

- **Fairhaven**
The annual plant and tree sale is on March 25th. They are in the process of setting up some standing committees surrounding topics like environment, equity, and safety.
- **Happy Valley**
The neighborhood has a new President. They will be having a resident-owned community: mobile home park roundtable event on February 17th.
- **King Mountain**
They have some sub-committees working on the new design process for the new elementary school. There will be a new Van Wyck Park that will be going into the neighborhood. Their next general meeting is on March 7th and Blake Lyon and Analese Burns will be attending.
- **Lettered Streets**
Had their neighborhood meeting and Greg Hope came and gave a presentation on Map Your Neighborhood and CERT Training. Their April 12th meeting will include a guest speaker, Carol Teshima, a researcher on the Japanese/American experience in Bellingham and everyone is invited.
- **Puget**
Had their neighborhood meeting and the topic was Unity Village and the success rate of housing.
- **Samish**
Getting ready for general meeting and working on their newsletter.
- **Sehome**
Jean Hamilton is retiring from the board after serving since 1999. The general meeting will be on February 28th and Lisa Anderson is attending. Everyone is invited to a Sehome Arboretum work party on Feb. 25th or March 1st.
- **South**
Very quiet in the South Neighborhood.
- **South Hill**
Had neighborhood meeting at Squalicum Boathouse and had the Port Authority as a guest re: ABC Recycling and the noise.
- **WWU**
The 17G parking lot is going to be closing. Will soon be a 100% smoke-free campus. WWU's orchestra is going to be performing at the Performance Arts Center on Saturday February 25th.
- **York**
Had a celebration of Life for John Otsby and it was nice. The neighborhood meeting is next week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

The next meeting will be March 15, 2023