



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

May 17, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Present: Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Lindsey Payne-Johnstone (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), John LaSpina (Cordata), William Beer (Edgemoor), William Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jan Dietzgen (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Callum McSherry (King Mountain), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Ingra Schellenberg (Sehome), Christopher Grannis (South), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), and Colin Beazley (York).

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood, Janice Keller, Communications Director and Clare Fogelsong, Climate Policy Manager

MINUTES

Opening Comments:

Guest: Virginia MacDonald, an urban planning graduate student at WWU studying affordable housing, is doing a summer project and she's reaching out to neighborhood associations for assistance. She'd like to conduct a community survey on housing costs in Bellingham – both renters and homes along with conducting a series of specific focus groups for exploratory discussion within the neighborhoods.

Questions/Discussion included review of the survey prior to neighborhood focus groups and renters' engagement.

Mayor Comments:

There are 13 Small and Simple Grants that will be awarded and Janice will be reaching out to all for next steps.

Climate Resilience Initiatives Update

Clare Fogelsong discussed the Office of Climate and some of the mitigation and adaptation actions they are working on with a specific adaptation action of the focus on the extreme heat and smoke program. They are working with many community partners to provide transportation and accommodations to community cooling centers, distribution of cooling kits and fans with filters when the community is experiencing an extreme heat and smoke event.

He would like to have the neighborhood associations reach out to their neighborhoods to find those who will be vulnerable in extreme heat and smoke events as well as distribute the information via newsletter, website or social media. The handout will be emailed to all neighborhood associations.

Questions/Discussion included distribution of the flyers, social media, identifying cooling centers and coordinating with the Office of Emergency Management, contact Clare at cfogelsong@cob.org or Janice.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

The International Market is on July 14th and August 11th and their National Night Out ice cream social on August 1st. Their community meeting is next week, and the Lake Whatcom Treatment Center will be presenting, and they are going to increase the community chat time. They have concerns about public safety, unhoused people, drug overdoses, and litter.
- **City Center**

They just had their annual Spring Wine Walk and it was well attended. Downtown Sounds will be this July -August. They are working on an alley-improvement project through the City Block Program. They will be working on the Commercial Block Party and use their Small and Simple Grant for a mural in the Commercial Street Plaza.
- **Columbia**

They had their general meeting including a taco party and it was very well attended. There will be a community garage sale on June 24th, and they will be having a 4th of July celebration at Elizabeth Park. The neighborhood is planning a street mural in cooperation with Project Hope to bring awareness of storm drains and the impacts of wildlife in the bay. The neighborhood is very concerned about bike safety on Eldridge.
- **Cordata**

They had their board meeting and are working on their community party in July. They had a community meeting last week and Greg Hope and Claudia Murphy attended with a great turn-out. They are excited about the North Bellingham Library opening at the Bellis Fair Mall.
- **Edgemoor**

They had a community walk on Mud Bay at low tide to see the cliffs of the Jones property proposed development. They've started planning their August 5th pool party using some of their Small and Simple Grant. They also are working on neighborhood engagement.
- **Fairhaven**

They had their plant and tree sale in March and the \$1,400 proceeds were distributed to local organizations (HomesNow!, Bellingham Food Bank, Community Boating Center and Dementia Support Northwest). They are grateful for the Small and Simple Grant and will be using it to plant some trees.
- **Happy Valley**

Had their meeting last week and they discussed the resident-owned community. This Sunday is their community meal. They have an intern helping with their street trees program to get an inventory of the trees that have been planted in the neighborhood and a report of how they are doing.
- **King Mountain**

There is neighborhood interest in the new school and the various City transportation projects. They would appreciate additional communication on timelines, etc. to be passed on to the neighborhood. Thanks to Nicole Oliver, their community garden is just about ready to accept membership. The Police Department will be attending their next meeting and discussing how to find a balance with the unhoused in the neighborhood (the encampment behind Walmart) along with public safety.
- **Puget**

Nothing new to report, appreciating the ideas of how to get more neighborhood engagement.
- **Samish**

At their last meeting, they talked about their Samish Neighborhood Association Greenways (SNAG) Committee. They are working with the Parks Department and mapping the neighborhood. The neighborhood is discussing whether they should have membership dues or not membership.

- **Sehome**
They will be having their general meeting on May 23rd with a couple of guest speakers. They are working on some neighborhood boundary signs using their Small and Simple Grant.
- **Sunnyland**
They just had their 2nd annual Earth Day party that was well attended. They have their quarterly meeting next week and Eric Johnston will be attending. On Jun 24th they are planning a neighborhood yard sale, and the Sunnyland Stomp is July 22nd.
- **WWU**
Last Monday students met with City and County Councilmembers about housing affordability, transportation, sustainability, and mental health. This upcoming weekend is Bellingham Weekend and everyone is welcome to campus to have tours, attend the planetarium, attend free lectures, Space Band is giving a free concert. To kick everything off Friday, Ashley Judd (actress and activist) is speaking about her story. They will be having an Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month program next Wednesday and all are invited. There will be a Furniture Fest to haul well cared for furniture, WWU will store it until the fall, then students can come and pick up what they need. June 9th-11th there will be 8 commencement ceremonies and it will be busy around town.
- **York**
They are excited about their Small and Simple Grant. Dumpster Day is June 24th where the neighborhood celebrates the couches being put in the dumpster with photos of the best couches. There is a work party at Rock Hill on July 17th, and they will be having their summer party on September 10th.

Closing Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

The next meeting is June 21, 2023