



# Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

## City of Bellingham

**June 21, 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), Natalie Wagglar (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), John LaSpina (Cordata), Nick Kelly (Cornwall), 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), Dana Dickerson (Samish), April Markiewicz (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Kerri Burnside (Silver Beach), Christopher Grannis (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), and Chris Roselli (WWU).

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood, Janice Keller, Interim Deputy Administrator, Nicole Oliver, Parks and Recreation Director and Peter Gill, Park Planning & Development Manager  
Samish Neighborhood Association and Greenways Committee Member: Dina Dickerson

## **MINUTES**

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### **Opening Comments:**

- Mayor commented that Julianna Guy is close to passing and her remarkable presence in the community.
- Brian Heinrich, Deputy Administrator, has served in this role for 12 years and he has moved on and Janice Keller has been appointed to Interim Deputy Administrator.
- The Small and Simple Grant agreements will be coming out soon, thanks for the patience.
- It's election season and some neighborhoods are holding candidate forums and endorsing candidates and just a reminder when expenses are incurred, City funding cannot be used for those events.
  - Janice to follow-up on specific question if they are not endorsing candidates, but having a meet and greet at their neighborhood meeting are the expenses reimbursable.

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### **Social Trails Inventory Project**

Dina Dickerson, Chair of the Samish Neighborhood Greenways Advisory Committee gave a presentation on the Samish Neighborhood Social Trails Inventory Project. The neighborhood conducted a 2022 survey of residents to determine awareness of City-supported and informal social trails. The Committee determined phased priorities: Phase 1: heavily used trails on City-owned land, Phase 2: lesser used trails to neighborhood streets and Phase 3: identifying intervals throughout Samish Neighborhood that align with Parks & Rec service goals.

They created pin-maps with data, spreadsheet data along with history of the area and are working on next steps including a Master Plan for South Bellingham.

Questions and Discussion: thank you for the work done, connecting with other neighborhoods, and alignment with Parks & Recreation service goals.

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### **Greenways Presentation**

Nicole Oliver and Peter Gill gave a presentation on Greenways Today and Tomorrow. There is an online interactive [story map](#) that shows acreage, parks, open space, development projects and a resident's guide. The Greenways Advisory Committee provides direction and input on how Greenway Levy funds are spent. The presentation covered the different years and levies and use of the funds and what is upcoming.

Questions and Discussion: updated report, thanks to Parks & Rec and the update of trails, and paved trails.

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### **Neighborhood Round Table**

- **Birchwood**

They have the International Market on July 14<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> and their ice cream social on August 1<sup>st</sup>. They are very concerned about the 68-unit development that's going up on near Cornwall Park and they would like to save as many of the mature trees as possible.

- **City Center**

Downtown Sounds is July 12<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>. They had their first Commercial Street Block Party last week for Juneteenth and it was amazing, the next one will be July 20<sup>th</sup> and the theme is Pride for Pride Week. They've been working on a Be Kind Brew Project – local breweries are making special brews that support the Downtown Partnership and the community and the money goes to placemaking projects. Their Small and Simple Grant project is revamping the downtown Commercial Street Plaza with a mural.

- **Columbia**

They are having a community garage sale Saturday and information is on their website. They are having a July 4<sup>th</sup> party in Elizabeth Park with a baking competition. On July 23<sup>rd</sup> they will be working with Hope Project on a street mural at Lynn and West North to depict sea creatures that live in Bellingham Bay and to bring attention to what goes down our storm drains and the effects on our bay and the creatures that live there.

- **Cordata**

They had their May board meeting and reviewed their goals for the coming year, including recruiting more board members. They are working on their Small and Simple Grant for signage. They are having a community party on July 8<sup>th</sup> 11-3 at Cordata Park and they are looking forward to Phase II in Cordata Park with a pavilion.

- **Cornwall**

The neighborhood has frustration around the bridge in Cornwall and they are seeking more information. Thank you for the Small and Simple Grant.

- **Edgemoor**

They are very excited about the Small and Simple Grant, as part of the grant, they are planning a social pool party in August.

- **Fairhaven**

Thank you for the Small and Simple Grants. Their neighborhood has decided to continue to meet via Zoom mainly out of convenience. They will have their August Summer Garden Party 4-7 pm and will reevaluate whether they continue their meetings on Zoom through the winter months.

- **Happy Valley**

They do not have the community meal in the summer months. Their housing committee is planning the second round of residential owned communities mobile home parks in August that will include having BBQs in the mobile home parks. The neighborhood would like the Lake Padden Golf Course water rights to be reviewed because Padden Creek is very low in comparison to other rivers and creeks in Bellingham.

Mayor commented that it is currently being reviewed and when there is something to report, it will be shared.

- **King Mountain**
- Working on their Small and Simple Grant and they have their first in-person board meeting next week.
- **Lettered Streets**  
Looking for feedback from neighborhoods on their neighborhood sign designers.
- **Puget**  
Their next meeting is in July, and it will be hybrid.
- **Samish**  
They are moving forward with their Small and Simple Grant.
- **Sehome**  
Thank you for the Small and Simple Grant for signage and the increase in neighborhood reimbursement. They had their general meeting last month and Blake Lyon and Million Trees Project attended.
- **Silver Beach**  
They are having their next meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>, and it will be a meet and greet with election candidates. At their last meeting both Blake Lyon and Eric Johnston attended, and the neighborhood discussed concerns about housing, new neighbors in the Watershed and responsibilities, safety on streets and the neighborhood moratorium. They are really trying to get accurate information and communication out in the neighborhood.
- **South**  
Very happy about the Greenways program and the benefits for the City.
- **South Hill**  
The next neighborhood meeting is next week, and the candidates are coming to speak. Their board has had many discussions about ABC Recycling on the waterfront and the proposed metal shredder in Birchwood. There are considerable concerns about noise, air pollution and dust.  
Mayor commented that efforts are being explored to mitigate the issues, many conversations have happened with the Port, and he acknowledges the concerns.
- **Sunnyland**  
Saturday is their neighborhood yard sale and there is a map on their website, the Sunnyland Stomp is on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the first Tuesday in August is their summer neighborhood picnic for National Night Out.
- **WWU**  
Just graduated 2,900 students with 8 graduations. Students are funding a “furniture fest” where they pick up well cared for furniture from students and WWU will store it and then Couch-Ella in the Fall and new students coming to the school can pick up furniture they need. The campus is now vape and smoke-free and signage is coming soon.

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Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

**The next meeting is July 19, 2023**