



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

July 19, 2023
Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), 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), 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, Elizabeth Erickson, Senior Planner, Chris Behee, Long Range Planning Manager, Kate Newell, Senior GIS Analyst, and Sydney Prusak, Planner

MINUTES

The Bellingham Plan: A Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan

The Planning Department gave a presentation on the Bellingham Plan. In May, City Council was given an update as well as discussed state Legislation in June. The Planning and Community Development Department has been reaching out to community organizations. They are encouraging people to go to Engage Bellingham at www.cob.org/bellinghamplan and sign up to have neighborhood meetings, come to sessions, sign up for notifications, and fill out the survey. The City will be creating a workgroup that will represent all demographic segments of our community to hear concerns and come up with policy. Work will continue with different neighborhoods, focus groups and outreach. At the conclusion of each phase of the plan of communication, they will be sharing learned information.

Questions and discussions on funding/grants, state legislation and house bills, parking requirements, inclusion of racially despaired and age, reaching out to those that do not have internet access or houseless people, including language translation services, tree ordinance, inclusion of people with mobility issues, increasing landscaping in Bellingham and not just buildings, review of past Comprehensive Plans, Build for Zero, public health and safety concerns of not enough healthcare providers in our community, home ownership and affordable housing.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

They had their International Festival on Friday and had a very good turnout, the next one is August 11th, and their ice cream social is on August 1st.

- **City Center**

July 12th-August 9th is Downtown Sounds on Bay, Prospect & Holly Streets, which includes music, games, and a beer garden. National Night Out is going to be on Railroad and there will be food and games and they are hoping the Police Department will stop by.

- **Columbia**
They had a well-attended 4th of July event in Elizabeth Park with a renegade parade and a baking contest. This weekend they are partnering with Hope Project and painting a street mural on Lynn & West North. They will be having their next community meeting on August 15th at Elizabeth Park and have invited the Whatcom Million Trees Project to discuss tree equity and the development on Meridian.
- **Edgemoor**
Working on implementing their Small and Simple Grant.
- **Fairhaven**
They are having a potluck on the 27th 4-7pm at the Community Gardens on 10th Street.
- **Happy Valley**
The next community meal will be on September 17th. They have been working on their Small and Simple Grant and have had collaboration on street trees and offering education on care.
- **King Mountain**
They are having their first in-person meeting next week at Bellingham Covenant Church and Kathy Bell will be attending. They will be having a neighborhood social event in October.
- **Lettered Streets**
There is an ice cream social on August 13th 2-5pm in the Theatre Guild parking lot.
- **Puget**
They are having their next meeting on the 25th via Zoom and will have Mayoral candidates present.
- **Samish**
They are working on finalizing their Small and Simple Grant. They will be having their picnic on August 27th at Lake Padden pavilion and Michael Lilliquist, Lisa Anderson and Mayor will be attending. There will be a field trip on Friday at 1:00 pm going up to Samish Crest at the end of Governor Road with Whatcom Land Trust to go over a proposed development.
- **Sehome**
They are having their annual yard sale on September 9th 10-2pm, the map will be coming soon.
- **Silver Beach**
They had their meeting on Tuesday, and they are updating their neighborhood plan. They have a garage sale coming up on August 19th & 20th.
- **South**
Their board is down to 3 members, and they have decided not to have meetings unless there are issues. A recent issue brought up was that the brush on 32nd Street connecting Chuckanut Drive is very overgrown.
Mayor suggested going to SeeClickFix on cob.org to identify the issue and it will get routed to the appropriate staff.
- **South Hill**
They continue to be concerned about ABC Recycling. There is a controversial issue of electronic signage being proposed for Lowell Elementary School and he gave a summary of the issue.
- **Sunnyland**
They are having Sunnyland Stomp on Saturday 3-8pm. The neighborhood picnic is on August 1st and their quarterly meeting is later in the month with Chief Mertzig attending. There is a new development on Sunset & James (where the Jerns Funeral home used to be) and would like to know if the notifications of development and traffic impact studies could go to the entire neighborhood instead of just a radius around the development, so all questions could be addressed.

- **WWU**

They have a new athletic director, 3 new academic Deans, and they have a new dining contract that will focus on local farms and businesses. They are expecting attendance to be about the same as last year and hoping to grow it to pre-pandemic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is September 20, 2023