



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission

City of Bellingham

September 20, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Janice Keller.

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Kit Topaz (Columbia), John LaSpina (Cordata), Nick Kelly (Cornwall), William Beer (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), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Christopher Grannis (South), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), and Chris Roselli (WWU).

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood, Janice Keller, Interim Deputy Administrator, and Greg Hope, Education Program Activities Coordinator from Office of Emergency Management

MINUTES

Emergency Preparedness

Greg Hope with the Office of Emergency Management did a presentation on connecting with our neighbors to prepare for an emergency. He attends neighborhood meetings to present on this topic and is happy to assist with plans and ways to communicate with neighbors. Whatcom County has a Map Your Neighborhood Program, which is a simple structured program that gets neighbors acquainted and assists with developing a shared program of how they will care for each other after a disaster.

There is also a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training, which is an 8-week skills training course that meets for 3 hours one night a week. In this course, students learn how to function together safely and effectively. Everyone should be receiving a monthly email on emergency preparedness. If neighborhoods would like a presentation by Greg Hope, please reach out. Greg will follow up with an email of the attachments distributed.

Questions/Discussion on length of stored drinking water, CERT Training, resources for neighbors that don't have emergency supplies, weather preparedness, and earthquakes.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

They had a very well attended ice cream social. They had their International Market this summer and are making plans for next year. Had some meetings with the South Hill Neighborhood about the metal crushing plant and all of the potential impacts on the City. The Port just purchased the Ershigs property and they would like to know what the plans are. The school district is making neighborhoods pay to have their neighborhood meetings at the schools and they would like the Mayor to talk to the School District about being more accommodating to neighborhoods.

- **City Center**
Alice Clark will be leaving at the end of the year and Lindsey Payne Johnstone will be the Interim Director. Halloween Trick-Or-Treat and the Wine Walk events will be happening this fall.
- **Columbia**
They had their meeting in August and invited Whatcom Million Trees, and they discussed a development at the golf course in Bircwood. They voted to revise their bylaws, add more board positions, and to hold elections in November, as well as voted to make dues optional.
- **Cordata**
They had their September Community Meeting which was the candidate forum. There is construction in Cordata Park for Phase II and Parks is working on a pavilion and ball courts. They are working on their Small and Simple Grant.
- **Cornwall**
Nothing new to report.
- **Edgemoor**
They had a pool party in August and are working on improving community relationships. On 10/23 they will have their first face-to-face neighborhood meeting where they will discuss their Small and Simple Grant for signage. Discussions continue about the development at Viewcrest.
- **Fairhaven**
There is concern about a tree being proposed to be taken down by developers and Blake Lyon is looking into it. They have a Small and Simple Grant to plant more trees. They are working with South Hill to find out more about ABC Recycling and the proposed shredder that will be on Marine Drive.
- **Happy Valley**
They had 3 BBQs in August and a candidates' forum last Sunday and all was well attended. Thanks to Public Works for removing the yellow signs that were tacked to trees.
- **King Mountain**
In July they had Kathy Bell from the Planning Department attend their first in-person neighborhood meeting to discuss big picture zoning as well as new legislation on ADUs. The neighborhood co-hosted with Cordata Neighborhood a Mayoral candidate forum with a tribute to Julie Guy. They have an upcoming board meeting to discuss bylaw revisions. The neighborhood continues to have frustration over a section of James Street that has not had any improvements, but increased growth in the area with high levels of traffic and dangerous situations.
- **Lettered Streets**
They are having a candidate forum on October 11th at 6:00 pm at First Congregational Church for Bellingham candidates and they would like to co-host with another neighborhood.
- **Puget**
Nothing new to report.
- **Samish**
Had their annual picnic in August and discussion was on concerns over Greenways, rights-of-way that don't get maintained by the City, and some illegal signs that are posted high on light posts.
- **Sehome**
Went to the Samish Mobile Home Park and ROC Northwest presented (thank Happy Valley Neighborhood Association for doing the leg work). Whatcom County Housing Alliance is hosting Housing Week and Happy Valley will be doing a similar presentation on the mobile home park issue on October 17th at 8:30 a.m. in the library. Sehome will have their general meeting in October and will be discussing their Small and Simple Grant. The noise from ABC Recycling has been an issue in the neighborhood and they support City and Port leaders doing what they can to accommodate those concerns.

- **Silver Beach**
They are meeting monthly and membership participation is growing. Kerri has been invited to talk with Governor Inslee re: housing. Speeding and housing are the big issues in the neighborhood.
- **South**
They had a meeting at Robin Lane (manufactured home park) conducted by Resident Owned Community (ROC) Northwest that helps manufactured home parks to purchase their property if it came up for sale. The City Council passed an ordinance to make it possible to purchase the property if it comes up for sale, and this helps to keep affordable housing.
- **South Hill**
They will have their meeting next week and have a guest speaker to discuss the jail, ABC Recycling and the digital signage at Lowell Elementary. Michael would like to get an update at a future MNAC Meeting about ABC Recycling. Also gave a detailed background on the digital signage at Lowell Elementary School and the issues surrounding it.
- **Sunnyland**
They had their annual neighborhood picnic in August for National Night Out and the Police Department attended. The main topic that was discussed was the campers on King Street. They just started some interest groups - Garden Club and Parents of Preschoolers. They are working on their Small and Simple Grants.
- **WWU**
They continue to work on addressing furniture in yards and on the sidewalks. Students have come up with CouchElla, a program where students pick up furniture over the summer, WWU stores it and then they have a big festival in the fall for students to pick up furniture. Thanks to the Public Works Department for partnering with WWU and assisting with furniture pickup around the City. Move-In Weekend is this weekend and school starts next week. WWU will be hosting all kinds of events, one is Western Wednesday First Night Out partnering with Downtown Bellingham Partnership and the City, it's a walk from WWU campus to Downtown.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting is October 18, 2024