



## Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

**October 19, 2022**

**Remote Meeting** [video timestamps noted in brackets]

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Fleetwood.

### **Attendance**

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Sheryl Russell (City Center), John LaSpina (Cordata), William Beer (Edgemoor), Brooks Anderson (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Dima Hart (King Mountain), Brianne O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), David Frankel (South Hill), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), Collin Beazley (York) and Tom Scott (York)

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood, Janice Keller, Communications Director, Ryan Robie, Parks Volunteer Coordinator, and Steve Nordeen, Park Grounds Maintenance Manager

## **MINUTES**

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### **Whatcom Million Trees Project Presentation** [06:42:00]

*Michael Feere, Executive Director*

- Presentation and discussion about trees and programming efforts that relate to neighborhoods.
  - Introduced Tree Ambassador Program
- MNAC members asked questions about the working relationship with Public Works, advocating for trees, climate resilient trees, enforcement of tree removal, mud bay cliffs project, planting by Community College, buffer next to freeway, and Tree City USA signs.
- Steve Nordeen commented on the efforts that the Parks Department is doing to preserve as many trees as possible.

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### **Parks Volunteer Opportunities** [56:53:00]

*Ryan Robie, Parks Volunteer Coordinator*

- Presentation on Volunteer Program / Park Stewards Program
- Always looking for partnerships for restoration in recovery of an ecosystem to its pre-existing condition
- Make a Difference Day and Arbor Day is on Saturday October 22, 2022, with over 200 volunteers
- MNAC members asked questions about the cleanup around the neighborhoods and support from the Parks Department, invasive species, work with the schools, Parks Department and NCI working relationship.

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### **Follow-up Items from September Meeting** [01:08:35]

- November 16 MNAC: In-Person Meeting with Hybrid Option
  - November 16<sup>th</sup> MNAC meeting will be the first meeting to have an in-person venue as well as offer a hybrid option. Please watch closely for the agenda and the location.

- Open Public Meetings Act Training
  - Members who attended the October meeting received the training that City Attorney, Alan Marriner provided.
  - Janice sent a link to the recording of the training late last week for people who were unable to attend the last meeting. If you watched the video and received the training, please email Tracy Lewis ([tlewis@cob.org](mailto:tlewis@cob.org)) and let her know. Participating in the training is a requirement for all members of City boards and commissions.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings [01:13:23]**

Draft minutes for MNAC meetings June-November 2021

- Jake Charlton (Happy Valley) sent some clerical clarifications to Janice  
*MOTION from Chris Roselli to approve minutes / Tom Scott 2<sup>nd</sup> / Motion Passed*
- Thanks to Janice and Katie for helping with the MNAC meetings.

**Neighborhood Round Table [01:16:57]**

- **Birchwood**  
Neighborhood meeting next week and going to talk about food security. Traffic and development are a concerns in the neighborhood.
- **Edgemoor**  
The middle school has opened up their gym in the evenings October-April for pickleball. The local pickleball club is looking for space to build 15 courts with cover for play throughout the year.
- **WWU**  
WWU very busy. Starting Monday, the entry road will be closed due to some construction. Working on doing some invasive species parties with WWU's retention ponds. Thanks to the City for participation in Indigenous Peoples Day.
- **York**  
The general meeting will be on Wednesday and the main event is a presentation with Chris Comeau re: Planning and Community Input for the Pedestrian Traffic Study. There will be a Scarecrow Walk in a few days. The Garden Club is doing a Wine & Roses Progressive Dinner the first weekend of December and the second week will be holiday horse rides and caroling.
- **Cordata**  
October's community meeting was with school superintendents, but not a very good turnout. Would like to find out how to increase community participation at a future meeting. Community service agencies are coming to the neighborhood in November.
- **City Center**  
Blue lights are lit up welcoming WWU students. First Fridays are continuing in downtown. October 24<sup>th</sup> will be a virtual meeting featuring representatives from a variety of agencies that serve the vulnerable populations in downtown Bellingham. There will be downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat event. On November 14<sup>th</sup> the scepter awards (honoring those that make downtown better) will be presented. The situation around 22 North has improved, and it is much safer thanks to the Opportunity Council and the City.
- **Puget**  
The general meeting will be virtual on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Lettered Streets**  
Trying to do more outreach with the neighbors.

- **Cornwall**  
Did not have a board meeting. There is interest in the neighborhood about the hospital development. Neighbors are still concerned about the flight paths of the helicopters and the mayor was going to look into the regulations.
- **Samish**  
Next general meeting is in March, and they are trying to figure out how to do a hybrid meeting. There seems to be noise complaints about new neighbors that appear to be WWU students.
- **Happy Valley**  
Had their first hybrid meeting last week and they are planning on updating their bylaws. Padden Creek Alliance is restarting. Southside Community Meals just had their second meal. Next month there will be some street tree planting parties.
- **South Hill**  
Not much to report. This is David's last meeting as an MNAC member.
- **Sunnyland**  
Cancelled the fall clean-up because of low enrollment. Moved the board meeting to tomorrow and Greg Hope is going to talk about emergency planning.
- **Fairhaven**  
Continuing to spend time on neighborhood urban village plan. Concerned about the big developments in the neighborhood. Would like to have a coalition outside of MNAC to have discussions amongst the neighborhoods. Very reluctant to go to in-person meetings and the board is going to remain with Zoom.
- **King Mountain**  
Had a general meeting with Nicole Oliver attending and had good attendance.
- **Sehome**  
There would be real value in having some information sharing amongst neighborhoods. Doing a work party at the arboretum on the 29th. Have been communicating with PW about a dangerous intersection at Maple and Mason with 2 accidents in the past year. The neighborhood would like to see something similar to Clickfix for traffic calming measures. Would like the Small and Simple Grants funded in the budget along with the neighborhood reimbursement increased from \$500 to \$1000.

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#### **Future Topics Brainstorming Session [02:06:42]**

- Neighborhood Sharing Information Session
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Meeting adjourned by Mayor Fleetwood at 9:12 p.m.

**The next meeting will be November 16, 2022**