



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

November 16, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Call to Order

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

Attendance

Present: Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Mary Lou White (Birchwood), Jill MacIntyre Witt (Columbia), Dianne Tudor (Cordata), John LaSpina (Cordata), Nick Kelly (Cornwall), William Beer (Edgemoor), William Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley), Dima Hart (King Mountain), Brianne O'Hare (Lettered Streets), Kevin Jenkins (Puget), Molly Foote (Samish), Jack Wellman (Sehome), Christopher Grannis (South), Michael Chrzastowski (South Hill), Anna Sorich (Sunnyland), Chris Roselli (WWU), Keara Ryan (WWU), and Tom Scott (York)

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood and Janice Keller, Communications Director

MINUTES

Mayor's Opening Comments

- First meeting in the hybrid format. There's a COVID vaccination requirement for all City staff and volunteers serving on boards and commissions. If you haven't turned in a copy of your vaccination card, please do so.

Special Topics Suggested from Neighborhoods

- Hiring traffic police officers
 - Mayor commented on specialty units that needed to be moved to investigations. We are working on recruitment to bolster staffing. We have a new Police Chief that is doing the best she can and doing some creative work to recruit.
- Carl Cozier's lockdown and the safety concerns
 - Mayor commented he would reach out to Brian Heinrich, Deputy Administrator for an update.
- How to increase community participation in neighborhoods for future MNAC Meeting
- Having introduction of Police Chief and to hear her discovery of Bellingham for future MNAC Meeting
- Changes to recycling proposed by SSC and there were 2 concerns: glass recycling would not work well with cardboard/paper and newer trucks not able to make it down alley ways and customers having to bring to front of house.
 - Mayor noted it was recommended by SSC. Mayor is going to ask PW Director to attend the December Fairhaven neighborhood meeting or a future MNAC Meeting to help answer the questions.
- Bike lanes concerns and the impact on homelessness
 - Mayor commented on the RVs parked on Cornwall and the impact on bike lanes. During COVID we did not enforce the evacuation of people living in RVs because of the state act that said it was unlawful eviction. It is now being enforced and encouraging people to move along. There are efforts being resumed to create a safe parking program and we are looking for operators.

Neighborhood Round Table

- **Birchwood**

There are concerns over helicopters. The Police Chief attended their last meeting. Still need a grocery store in the neighborhood. The neighborhood has identified that they need some kind of community center and the noise pollution needs to be reduced.
- **Columbia**

They have a share shack that is closed due to the vandalism that's been happening. The neighborhood is looking for volunteers to keep it from happening. They had their quarterly meeting last night and the Lighthouse Mission attended it to talk about their expansion. There is a refrigerator located behind the ReStore to help with food insecurities.
- **Cordata**

They had a board meeting recently and looking to find ways to increase participation.
- **Cornwall**

Nothing new to report.
- **Edgemoor**

The neighborhood is in a "hold" pattern right now with board members leaving not able to find new ones. They are still looking at the Mud Bay Cliff protections and the pilot project for recycling.
- **Fairhaven**

They had a meeting last week and discussed the Bicycle Plan and taking a new look at the Urban Village Plan. They are going to investigate their Neighborhood Plan and see how they can better it in safety, equity, and environment.
- **Happy Valley**

They had their monthly meeting last Tuesday and they are going to have their community meal and a street planting program.
- **Lettered Streets**

They had a successful scavenger hunt and it was enjoyed by neighbors and businesses.
- **Puget**

They just had their meeting, and they discussed the incident at Carl Cozier and updates on Swifhaven and Unity Village.
- **Samish**

They have an open space subcommittee working with the Parks Dept. on their trails, which is working well. She'd like to hear from other neighborhoods on how they do their newsletters.
- **Sehome**

They had a pumpkin photo contest and it was a good event to create fun in the neighborhood. They are very concerned about the Sehome Arboretum and appreciate WWU and Parks increasing signage and working on the problem.
- **South**

Nothing new to report.
- **South Hill**

Their neighborhood discussions have centered on climate change and review of the neighborhood dues.
- **Sunnyland**

Just had the Quarterly Meeting and had Greg Hope attend the meeting. The topic was Map Your Neighborhood. They do not do hybrid meetings, only meeting in person at Options High School.
- **WWU**

Had elections and had the largest turnout ever. There are great sports happening this weekend at WWU. Trying to inform students of the rules within the Arboretum.

- **York**

Had a hybrid meeting and Chris Comeau attended to talk about the Lakeway corridor. We have some upcoming events - progressive dinner and caroling with wagon rides.

Reminder to turn in all expense forms for 2022 before the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Fleetwood at 8:11 p.m.

The next meeting will be January 18, 2023