

MNAC Agenda Ideas – April 2024

Idea #1

1. Post Point Tour
2. Planning Department –
 - a. To discuss Planning Department’s role in development, citizen participation and consensus
3. Greenways update and plans
4. Facilities coordinator with Bellingham School District

Idea #2

1. Opening of Lighthouse Mission
 - a. What programs will they run?
2. Public Works Department
 - a. Tree program for more info related to Small and Simple Grant and/or residents
3. More info on new Tiny Home Village on Northwest Ave.
 - a. What is the process and comment period?
 - b. NARCAN training

Idea #3

1. Mud Bay Cliffs/Woods at Viewcrest
2. Latest about sewage treatment system
3. Latest rules about ADUs and “Middle Housing”

Idea #4

1. Bellingham School District’s – facilities rentals
2. Planning and Development
 - a. Mainly around thresholds for EIS’s comment periods, who gets notifications mailed, etc.

Idea #5

1. Status of the City’s water reservoirs
 - a. Consultant?
 - b. Unbiased update from someone outside of Public Works?
 - c. Hydro engineer?
 - d. If the grid was compromised and water pumps failed, do we have enough water in our reserves? Will we have H2O to put out fires?
2. How will the proposed Landmark tree ordinance affect the ability to add affordable housing to our community?
3. Field trip Ideas
 - a. Tiny Home Village
 - b. Base Camp

Idea #6

1. Suggest structure into format of meeting opportunity for support – two-way communication along with COB and neighborhood associations
2. “At-A-Boy” successes – by City/Depts/Staff re: recognition
3. Grievances when a neighborhood association can identify an issue and seek concurrence by other neighborhood association at the table to aid awareness and possible action

Idea #7

1. Can first responders be hired to fill unfulfilled positions by using unused rollover funds to have hiring bonuses?

Idea #8

1. Alex Ramel has offered to come speak (if invited) on housing issues and what is being done at the state level
2. There is a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation on the topic of the housing crisis
3. How to inspire more participation from residents
4. Speaker on social isolation and what neighborhood associations can do to help
5. How to...
 - a. encourage renters to participate in neighborhood associations and remove obstacles to inclusion
 - b. be inclusive of all populations
 - c. to access assistance for neighbors experiencing a mental health crisis

Idea #9

1. ABC Recycling Update
2. School District

Idea #10

1. Old Town redevelopment - could there be a community recreation center built next to Whatcom Creek?
2. Adding aquatic recreation opportunities, like British Columbia
3. Train quieting zone progress
4. Small landlord and tenant solutions that could solve problems and not cause more animosity
5. Unhoused population efforts, specifically the folks who are so violent or unhinged that are not welcome at Lighthouse Mission

Idea #11

1. Environment and transportation
2. What is the status of immigrants in Bellingham?
 - a. How many are being supported by NGO?
 - b. Can we help more to integrate?
3. Mental health of unhoused
4. I like the center of the neighborhood but meet with facilities
5. Narcan training

Idea #12

1. Stream volume/water usage
2. Affordable housing updates/homeless reduction
3. Birchwood food desert resolution/update
4. Water main update progress (Happy Valley had one burst a few times, it has been replaced, others were identified, how is that going?)

Tours

1. Trees of Significance
2. Unimproved Rights of Ways that could become trail connections

Idea #13

1. Downtown Partnership happenings
 - o Exciting programs/new events/new retailers (like Fairhaven)

Idea #14

1. Neighborhood traffic safety plan
2. Community building in our neighborhoods (sharing best practices, hearing a presentation from the National Association of Neighborhoods)
3. Working collaboratively with the City and other neighborhoods associations to support/ make more effective neighborhoods (joint events, coordinated outreach to neighbors)
4. Retaining unique neighborhoods characteristics while building more housing throughout all our neighborhoods
5. Field trip: Post Point