

To: City of Bellingham
Dept. of Planning and Community Development
Nicole Oliver, Communication Coordinator

From: Glenn Denkler

Date: 26 December 2010

Re: Comments on Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan Update Proposal

I live in Fairhaven and was Coordinator for the Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan Update proposal of 2007.

I fervently believe that Neighborhood Plans should drive the Comprehensive Plan of the city, rather than the opposite. Development regulations must then follow the spirit of the plan as specified in RCW 36.70A.040.

A questionnaire was sent to over 1000 residents, merchants and property owners. The results of that questionnaire drove the tenor of the Proposal. Great care was taken to ensure that the process was a democratic one in that it reflected the desires of the majority, not simply the privileged few. I am very interested in working on the Proposal to make it a viable piece of work that provides direction, stewardship and a framework for responsible development in Fairhaven.

I am in favor of pushing on with the Plan. If the Urban Village Plan process that COB seems to embrace is put off for a year or more, the few property owners will drive the agenda and the voice of the neighborhood will not be heard.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Glenn Denkler
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