

Barbara Burk Zielstra
1201 11th St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
360.671.7472

December 28, 2010

Nicole Oliver
City of Bellingham Planning Dept.
210 Lottie St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan Update Proposal

Dear Nicole,

After attending the City sponsored neighborhood meetings and reviewing the City's comments to the proposed plan, I would like to offer a few comments. I am a commercial property owner in Fairhaven and I want the new plan to recognize what makes Fairhaven unique – a stunning natural environment, historic buildings and charming streetscapes that invite a wander, a mix of industrial, commercial and residential uses - and to enhance these existing assets as new buildings are designed and built. The proposed neighborhood plan attempts to do just that. At times, the staff “blue lines” eliminate important “goals” because a goal isn't part of the “park and recreation plan” or the city has no funding for a desired “goal.” I feel it is important to include these as “goals” recognizing that funding and other planning may be required. We can have a goal without a complete plan for achieving that goal.

In **FNEP-2**, on page 5-6, staff comments change the tone of the stated goal. Could we add language that encourages strong protection in the CAO for Padden Creek? (Since Padden Creek moves through a developed area, the creek has become polluted. We seek to improve the water quality of the creek through education of residents, improved buffers, stronger enforcement, etc.?)

In the **Capital Facilities** section, “**C. Resource Conservancies – Historical**” p. 25 – 27 Fairhaven Hotel is listed first in the list of historic Fairhaven buildings. Of the 11 buildings listed, it is the only one that no longer exists. References to the Hotel would more properly be at the end as a footnote, rather than at the beginning. Perhaps the buildings could be listed in order of age. The Kulshan Club building in the 1100 block of 11th St. has been omitted from the list.

FCFG-14. Reworded to encompass the intent. (The historic buildings, primarily brick, form the character of “historic Fairhaven.” The City should encourage preservation and renovation of these buildings. ?)

FCFP-23 The Fairhaven Association has created and published an historic walking tour map of Fairhaven for many years.

FEDG-3 – very important as written.

Land Use Overview, p.44, Paragraph 3, eliminate references to Fairhaven Hotel as it no longer exists.

Paragraph 5 – all stakeholders had the opportunity and were encouraged to participate in this neighborhood plan revision.

FLUP-4 & 5 – Even if these specifics are to be addressed in an urban village plan, it seems important to have these “general” statements in the neighborhood plan to guide the urban planning process later.

Area 2 – p. 52 Areas 2A & 2B have different restrictions for many different reasons. The parenthetical statement should be removed as it is inaccurate. The Area north of Harris / 12th and the area north of Mill / Finnegan Way, 11th and 10th, has the specific height restriction of 35’ which needs to be honored.

Thank you for considering my comments and opinions when formulating the next “revised” Fairhaven Neighborhood Plan.

Sincerely,
Barbara Burk Zielstra