



Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission City of Bellingham

April 20, 2022

Online Zoom Meeting [video timestamps noted in brackets]

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Seth Fleetwood

Attendance

Erica Charbonneau (Sunnyland), Louise Bjornson (Birchwood), Tom Scott (York), Gordan Durham (Cornwall), Jake Charlton (Happy Valley alternate), Bobbi Vollendorf (Happy Valley), Robin Thomas (Sehome), Christopher Grannis (South), Bill Liddicoet (Fairhaven), Kathryn Rismondo (Lettered Streets Alternate), John LaSpina (Cordata), Sachin Pai (Columbia), Dean Haskins (Alabama), Sheryl Russell (City Center), Chris Roselli (WWU), William Beer (Edgemoor), Molly Foote (Samish), Annie Sorich (Sunnyland), David Frankel (South Hill)

City Representatives: Mayor Seth Fleetwood; Janice Keller, communications Director; Blake Lyon, Planning and Community Development Director; Annaliese Burns, Public Works Habitat and Restoration Manager; Riley Grant, Public Works Communications and Outreach Manager

MINUTES

Introduction, Blake Lyon, Planning and Community Development Director [00:18:34]

Blake Lyon introduced himself as the new Planning and Community Development director for the City of Bellingham, talked about his background, and how he has been getting to know the city. He offered his email and phone number for anyone who wanted to reach out to him

Announcement about Library Survey [00:09:30]

Rebecca Judd, Library Director, notified Janice Keller that there will be a Library Services survey available starting in May. She will send out links when it is posted. There will also be three focus groups for neighborhoods north of I-5 in May.

Presentation, Urban Forestry Master Plan by Annaliese Burns, Habitat and Restoration Manager, and Riley Grant, Public Works Communications and Outreach Manager [00:12:00]

Annaliese presented updates about the Urban Forestry Management plan. She explained the importance of having an Urban Forestry Management Plan and explained the scope of work. The assessment phase was completed in August 2021, which included several types of analysis such as wildfire risk, canopy coverage, and wildlife. Phase two is just beginning and will go through the end of the year. Launch for public engagement is May 2nd cob.org/ufmp has more information. Summary of feedback will be presented to council in July. MNAC Reps had many questions and comments regarding where the data for street trees and canopies came from, tree cutting policies, trees being cut down for future developments, enforcement actions, the street tree program, cost to the City to put together this plan, protection for legacy trees, right of ways, timeline for implementation, and how businesses are involved.

Neighborhood Round Table [1:41:00]

Columbia

Neighborhood has been petitioning for years for improvements to traffic safety. Took matters into their own hands in the past weekend to install some low-cost curb extensions. Would like more support from the city on these efforts.

Cordata

Gearing up for meetings with the consultant that will be looking at library services. First live community meeting in two years will be held next month.

Birchwood

International festival will be June 17th, July 15th, and August 19th. Putting share boxes in the neighborhood to share food with neighbors. The helicopters for the hospital have been flying over neighborhoods instead of Squalicum parkway.

City Center

Community meeting introducing new safety ambassador programs tomorrow. Wine Walk is coming back for the first time in two years on Friday, May 13th. July 8th – 16th will be Downtown Sounds. New apartment buildings are causing parking issues downtown.

Alabama

Time yielded, will report at the next meeting.

Cornwall

There are concerns related to Peace Health's changes to the helicopter landing pad and path the helicopter is taking.

Happy Valley

Would like to have the City name one person as a point of contact for all the right-of-way and surplus property in the city. This would involve developing a concise and transparent policy.

WWU

WWU will be the first American ensemble to play the music of John Williams on April 28th and 29th

Lettered Streets

Elections have been pushed to Tuesday the 26th at Elizabeth Station. All positions are up for election. Interested in finding out what processes can happen faster without as many bureaucratic restraints. Several MNAC members echoed these concerns.

Edgemoor

Had a well-attended annual meeting online. SSC Project is moving forward, the pilot project will begin on April 22nd when new 90-gallon totes are distributed.

Samish

Planning to have a picnic this summer. Looking into taking electronic payments.

Sehome

Had an Easter egg hunt with great attendance. There are a couple of new board members.

Sunnyland

Going to have an Earth Day party this weekend. The retirement of the Block Party trailer made planning this more difficult. Janice Keller reported that there was not enough staffing to make the Block Party trailer available this summer, but that does not mean it won't be available in the future.

South

Quarterly meeting will be held in one week. Interested in having a meeting regarding the staffing issue at the police department. Mayor Fleetwood will invite new Police Chief Rebecca Mertzig to an MNAC meeting this summer.

South Hill

Greg Hope from Bellingham Fire Department presented on emergency preparedness at a neighborhood meeting last month. David recommends having this presentation at other neighborhood meetings. There are concerns in the neighborhood about RVs parked near Waypoint Park and would like an overnight parking ban instituted near there.

Discussion of Future Topics [02:16:30]

The following topics were brought up:

- Looking at wastewater to determine Covid-19 levels in the community
- Parking
- Predatory rental practices/if businesses are buying homes
- What is the city doing to welcome LGBTQ community members?
- What opportunities are available for collaborative public art?
- What can be done about the hostile architecture in Bellingham?

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Seth Fleetwood at 8:54 p.m.