

## **Fairhaven Neighbors board meeting notes, May 3, 2006**

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 6:00 p.m.

### **1. Haskell property re-zone:**

Haskell has submitted a re-zone request for his property along Harris Avenue, but the city has not responded. If a re-zone request is not formally answered in one year from the time of application, then the city is compelled to act – regardless of planning constraints.

### **2. Assoc. of Bellingham Neighborhoods**

The ABN is attempting to develop a template for new neighborhood plans, to move ahead even if the city is not. An old city council resolution gives the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council a major role in updating the neighborhood plans – although this has never really been acted upon. Some council members – Joan Beardsley and Barbara Ryan – speak as if neighborhood plans are good, but the legal power of the plans is minimal.

### **3. Change from monthly to quarterly general meetings**

A motion was made to have fewer (but hopefully larger) general meetings roughly four times a year, but to continue to use the first-Wednesday time slot for monthly executive board meetings. That would put the general meetings in July, October, January, and April. Passed.

### **4. Traffic and Neighborhood planning**

In any updated neighborhood plan, most of us want to prevent an increase in single-occupancy motor vehicle traffic, and an increase in transit options. How can this be reflected in the plan? Jim was of the opinion that a genuine neighborhood plan requires genuine participation by a wide, representative group of residents.

### **5. Follow-up on 1988 and 1989 Agreements with the City/Port**

City attorney Alan Marinner has drafted a reply to the letter from the 5 southside neighborhoods, including FN. It is currently on Joan Beardsley's desk, and she will soon be sending a response to the neighborhoods.

The Port has responded with a cooperative letter, but they seem to have not addressed one primary area of concern, the restoration and enhancement of Padden lagoon. The port has promised to work to restore the lagoon on several occasions, as a result of the Bellingham Bay Pilot Study, the waterfront Futures Group, and the 1989 agreement.

### **6. Report from the Environmental Committee**

This new committee currently consists of Shelly (Sheldon) Pravda, Sue Kaun and Glenn Denckler. They talked with Bill Reilly about the city's stormwater update; these plans are virtually finalized. The next step for the committee is to go to the Dept. of Ecology to determine the state's view of the city's stormwater plan.

City council member Joan Beardsley is apparently the only member paying close attention to the plan. City staff seemed surprised that members of the public are enquiring about the stormwater plan.