

## **Minutes of Fairhaven Neighbors Board/General Meeting Wednesday June 4, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

A **motion** was made to accept the secretary's report. It passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made to accept the treasurer's report. It passed unanimously. The Plant Sale was essentially a wash—no income from it this year.

### **Project Labyrinth**

Samatha DeSoer spoke for the project. There will be a labyrinth in Fairhaven Park—they have received approval. A labyrinth is a circular path leading to the middle and then back out again. Some people take five minutes to walk it, and some take over an hour. Labyrinths have been around for thousands of years, and are reemerging. Project Labyrinth has a \$50,000 budget and are hoping for donations, either of money or in-kind.

### **Bellingham Bay Community Boating Center**

Deb Dempsey, treasurer of the Boating Center board, spoke. They started working on a center in January 2006, then found out that Fairhaven Boatworks wanted to morph into a nonprofit. Their mission is to provide access to the water to all in Bellingham. They re-opened May 1<sup>st</sup> this year. They may be able to expand—they want to know what the neighborhoods want. They also need board members. They have a lease with the Port until 2010, then hope for a long-term lease. They were to meet with the Port on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Deb told the group about the upcoming Family Boatbuilding Days, in cooperation with the Whatcom Museum and Homeport Learning Center, June 11-13. The Boating Center website is [www.sailpaddlerow.org](http://www.sailpaddlerow.org).

### **Visit from Steve Sundin, City of Bellingham Planning Department**

Steve came to present the process for the charette about the Haskell property. There is preliminary work, the design charette itself, and then the processing of city "stuff" to get the project done.

1. The first step is to identify the people involved: city, staff, property owners, stakeholders in the neighborhood, and other interested parties.
2. They have an on-call list for the choice of consultant on the project. The city is also doing a design charette for the Sunnyland neighborhood.
3. They will develop a public involvement plan.
4. The charette itself will be a two-day event.
5. Consultants will finalize plans and present them for general agreement.
6. The plans go back to the city process: staff review, SEPA (environmental review), permits, Planning Commission, City Council.

The purpose of the design charette is to get the neighborhood involved, to make the process go more smoothly.

#### Timeline:

1. Consultant choice by June 20.
2. Public involvement plan by end of June
3. Neighborhood scoping meeting the week of July 14.

4. Design charette the first week of August.
5. By the middle of August, the consultant brings the plan back to the city process, which goes through the fall, and probably into January 2009.

They still need to have conversations with other property owners in Area 4, including the Port and Cascade Joinery Splinter Group LLC.

The city wants no code change requirement, and hopes to keep within the rules available today—i.e., Planned Commercial.

A question-and-answer period followed Steve's presentation.

Fred Haskell reported that he has had numerous iterations of planning for the site, but has no preconceived notions now. The market has changed. He is trying for maximum flexibility and satisfying the neighborhood. He doesn't want to walk away completely from light industrial. He sees a professional atmosphere, rather than retail, with a residential component.

### **Planning Academy Report**

The goal of the city is to incorporate more people and increase density. They will be putting definitions of housing types into the city code Title 20 (Land Use Development), and any new procedures into Title 21 (Development Administration). Actual infill planning will be a neighborhood process. The COB website PDF on community resources and tools has links to peruse. The site is at:

<http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/planning-academy-ii/session-iv-resources-and-tools.pdf>

The city is talking about further projects, covering where to put infill, green building, etc.

### **MNAC Report**

The Opportunity Council and Whatcom Family and Community Network are working to have community gardens considered as open space. A community food assessment program is going on. Neighborhoods can organize trash pickup programs, where the city supplies dumpsters, etc. This can include hazardous waste.

### **ABN Report**

The May 27 meeting of the Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods was attended by representatives of Puget, Edgemoor, York, Alabama Hill, Lettered Streets, Fairhaven, and South. Also attending was Mark Young of the Bellingham Police Dept.

Each neighborhood rep outlined what was going on in their neighborhood. Puget, for instance, has problems with "rooming houses." Mark Young reported that he manages a program that deals with landlords, informing them of 911 complaints. Party house problems have been greatly reduced over the past three years. Darren Sandstrom is the neighborhood compliance officer.

Also, senior volunteers go around and tag vehicles parked for too long. A week later, the offending vehicle is towed. He suggests contacting Clark Williams at Public Works to request signage indicating "No Overnight Parking" or "8-Hour Parking Only." People in the neighborhood can write letters, and it is a good idea to always call police about these situations.

Mark Young also had advice for Lettered Streets, which has an abandoned house with an owner in Kent—Darren Sandstrom can handle that one. The neighborhood is also concerned about the loss of parking—particularly ADA parking—if Cornwall Avenue gets bike lanes.

For Fairhaven, the report was on Music on the Green, the charette and postcards going out, the closing of Stanello's, and the WTA bus passes.

South Neighborhood has people working on the Rose Garden House project. The Parks Dept. gave until July 2 to propose uses or the house will be moved or bulldozed. Maintenance must be paid for by whatever use is decided upon. Mary Mullen and Steve Wilson are working on this project. Ideas include a community center for the five southside neighborhoods, and a community garden where half of the produce goes to the Food Bank. For information on the Roosevelt Resource Center, which opened recently at 2303 Moore Street, contact David Dobbs at 738-2440.

South is concerned about misconceptions and misinformation about Chuckanut Ridge. They want to hear why people are against the city acquiring the property. It was recommended that they go to the neighborhood associations, who may also wasn't the developer to come at the same time.

The main part of the evening was devoted to the National Night Out Against Crime, which is officially the first Tuesday in August, although communities can have their gathering at any time and get support from the Police Dept. They have a couple of patrol officer volunteers, and are asking neighborhoods to help coordinate. You can get a street closure permit, and can have a resource person from the city at a social gathering, such as a police officer, firefighter, Public Works person, Parks employee, or someone from State Patrol, Homeland Security, or a Sheriff's deputy. The citizen leader for organizing the events is Richard Maneval, president of ABN. He needs each neighborhood to let him know what they are planning.

Mark Young also reported that a block watch coordinator position will be filled in January. This is to be a partnership program with neighborhoods.

### CSN

The Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods met on May 5, and welcomed Christopher Grannis, the new president of South Neighborhood. The Parks Dept. is asking for neighborhood support for a pedestrian trail to connect Padden Creek Trail and the Rose Garden, using a Neighborhood Improvement Project grant. A **motion** was made to approve a bikeable trail, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CSN further requested that we write a letter to Mayor Pike, asking him to put together a team to purchase Chuckanut Ridge. The city is currently putting together a team to make Fairhaven Highlands happen. A **motion** was made and seconded, to support CSN writing such a letter, but it was felt that CSN needs to wait for a reply to its first letter to the

mayor, and it wasn't felt that this additional letter at this time would help. The motion did not pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elinor Pravda, Secretary