

## **Fairhaven Neighbors General Meeting Minutes, Jan 2, 2008**

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7-9 p.m.

### **1. Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved by a voice vote of the board, following correction of a few spelling errors.

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

No treasurer's report, due to treasurer's planned absence. The association received a check from the City for \$69.85 on 12/21/07.

### **3. Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission report**

Mayor Pike has appointed Michael Lilliquist as the MNAC representative from Fairhaven, with Vince Bičiūnas as the alternate. Thanks to Thom Pritchard for his many hears on MNAC for Fairhaven.

Travis Cary of Planning and Community Development [tcary@cob.org](mailto:tcary@cob.org) outlined the city's new, simpler application process and encouraged applications (see agenda item #8, below).

Library Director Pam Keisner gave an update on planning for the new downtown library, renovation of the 100-year-old Fairhaven branch, and a new library "presence" at Barkley Village in the new Drake building. Plans are proceeding for a large downtown library under the guidance of hired consultants, with no tangible commitment to any new branch libraries. The estimated cost for Fairhaven renovation is up to \$2 million!

The city is proceeding with development of a new city newsletter, as presented last month by Linda Stewart. The newsletter is viewed as a venue for neighborhood to neighborhood communication, as well as communication from the city. Right now, the city is still asking for input only on format and appearance. MNAC members did not want to spend a lot of time at future monthly meetings discussing what will go into each newsletter.

### **4. Holiday Party**

A good time was had by all those who attended at Kitty and Terry Todd's home. In thanks, the Todd's were given a gift certificate to Flats Tapas Restaurant in Fairhaven.

### **5. Community Boating Center update**

Thom Pritchard reports that the Port was made more fully aware of the widespread support for small and human-powered boat facilities at a Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the Port will be considering ideas for a small boat facility, the Community Boating Center (contact Mary Durbrow) in its planning, with no commitment yet and no financial support. The existing public boat launch is in a relatively shallow area, gradually filling in with sediment; dredging is probably out of the question for ecological reasons. This makes it unattractive to larger boats, but quite suitable for smaller boats. Fairhaven is one of only two bays in Whatcom County that are sheltered from southerly winds. The Port's plan for the downtown marina is

to emphasize slips for larger boats (35+ feet); thus, a small boat facility in Fairhaven may help to balance this out.

The Port will hold another planning meeting to consider plans in Fairhaven; public support would help make this idea a reality. Meeting set for around Jan 21<sup>st</sup>??

#### **6. Misunderstanding with Mark Vondricheck**

Vince and Mark have spoken together and have amicably resolved any misunderstanding, with Vince's apologies. It was never a policy of Fairhaven Neighbors to oppose the continued presence of his business, Rain Country, in Fairhaven; indeed, quite the opposite.

#### **7. Green Power Community Challenge Grant**

Michael Lilliquist reports that he has been in contact with individuals at Puget Sound Energy, the City of Bellingham, Sustainable Connections, NW Clean Air Agency, Whatcom Transit Authority, and the Old Fairhaven Association about our proposal to use the \$1000 Green Power neighborhood award to fund a bus ridership program, having area merchants pass out free bus ride coupons to customers, encouraging them to use the bus for their next trip to Fairhaven or elsewhere. He will be meeting with the merchants group next week to recruit participating businesses.

Motion to authorize Michael to continue to pursue this plan (Thom/Ralph seconded) to conclusion passed by unanimous voice vote of the general membership.

#### **8. City's Small and Simple Grant Program**

Grants are for up to \$2500 for any project with broad benefit to the community; all grant monies must be matched or exceeded with cash or in-kind contributions, or with volunteer labor. Funds are distributed as reimbursements, rather than up front.

The idea of applying for a grant to support the bus ridership program was discussed and rejected until such time that we know the program is successful in its aims. Another possible idea, brought up by Steve Walker, was to use grant monies to reconnect the old Rose Garden to the existing Trail system, or to rehabilitate the garden trellises.

#### **9. Veteran's Memorial Flagpole**

The Old Fairhaven Association has decided to replace the fallen wooden flagpole with a new aluminum one, to be placed at the same location across from the library. The estimated cost is \$37,000, of which \$10,000 has already been pledged by Ebenal General. Individuals were encouraged to donate, and a contribution from FN was discussed. One idea is to use a portion of the annual plant sale proceeds. In the absence of a treasurer's report, the discussion was postponed.

#### **10. Ski to Sea Music Program**

In association with the Old Fairhaven Assoc., which organizes the "It All Ends in Fairhaven" celebration, Fairhaven Neighbors has run a family-friendly, mostly acoustic music stage next to Fairhaven Village Green. Elinor needs help. Ralph Thacker volunteered to help line up acts, and Michael will make the playbill sign again.

### **11. Nominations Committee Report**

Several business people were approached by the committee to run for the five open positions on the board, but declined. Three board members were re-nominated (Glenn, Janet, and Michael), and new nominees are Larry Kimmet, David Carlsen, Stuart Plotnick, and Mark Vondrichek. Each nominee was asked to say a few words about themselves and what they might bring to the board. Nominations are still open, and will be closed on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Elections will be held at the Annual meeting on February 6, 2008.

### **13. Responsible Development presentation**

Members of RD presented information on the Fairhaven Highlands proposal for Chuckanut Ridge, and discussed the scoping of the Environmental Impact Statement in particular. Any potential issues need to be brought up now, because they cannot be re-introduced once the EIS is drafted. The City will hold a public hearing on the scope of the EIS on January 16, 2008, at 6:30 pm in the Bellingham Municipal Court building, 2014 C Street.

### **14. CSN Meeting to Provide Input on the EIS Scoping of Fairhaven Highlands**

The Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods has called a meeting for later this week ((Jan. 7) to discuss the scope of the EIS for Fairhaven Highlands. A motion to endorse participation by FN with the other CSN member associations to develop a joint list of EIS concerns at the Jan 7, 2008, meeting (Stuart/Ralph) was passed by unanimous voice vote of the general membership.

Areas of possible concern were discussed, including impact on 1) schools, students walking, 2) traffic across 12<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, emergency response times, traffic backing up, 3) air quality from increased traffic, and from loss of tree cover, 4) stormwater regulation and flow, stream health, wetlands preservation, and 5) loss of recreational opportunities, natural treasures, scenic experience for community and along Chuckanut highway. Also discussed were concerns about how the EIS has been handled so far, and the scope of work offered by the consultant put forward by the developer.

Minutes submitted by Michael Lilliquist, FN secretary

Next General Meeting of Fairhaven neighbors: 7:00 p.m. on February 6, 2008, at Fairhaven Park Pavilion.