

Fairhaven Neighbors board meeting notes, Jan 3rd, 2007

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

1. Design Review code revision

FN president Vince Biciunas was prominently quoted in the Dec 30th article in the Bellingham Herald concerning our proposed changes to the Design Review portion of the municipal code. We should hear back from the city by the end of the month.

2. Treasurer's Report: No treasurer's report, because Glenn is out of town.

3. December Meeting minutes. Minutes not available for approval

4. SSST Report

The interim mayor declined to meet with the Southside Shoreline Stewardship Taskforce, saying that he is already in sympathy with their concerns and already knows what they have to say. City public works director, Malcolm says that the city is already proceeding with total corridor planning for the railway, and is aware of the issue of train noise and train crossing safety. Basically, the city is saying "don't worry, we'll take care of it."

5. CSN Report

The two most recent letters from the Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods, drafted by Sue Kaun, are now on the FN website. One letter is to the Port, sent mid December, concerning the updating of the Comprehensive Scheme for the Fairhaven shoreline. The other is to the city, requesting a public forum to discuss the re-application of Fairhaven Harbor project for a Design Review permit. No response has been received yet.

6. Survey of Neighborhood Satisfaction

The draft survey was gone over item by item, and approved with minor changes. The intent of the survey is to provide a foundation in community opinion for proposed changes in the Neighborhood Plan and land use laws. The cover letter that will accompany the survey was also reviewed and approved with minor changes.

7. Fairhaven Harbor update. The comment period has been extended until January 5th.

8. Neighborhood Plan updating

Since none of task force members was present, the status of this work was not reported.

9. Publicity

In order to increase our public profile and generate more participation, the board voted to commission four large outdoor sandwich board signs, to advertise meeting and events. The idea of a quarterly newsletter/flyer was also discussed, resurrecting the "Around the Block" newsletter that circulated a few years back.

10. Haskell Property Re-zone

Ralph reported that city planner Jackie Lynch told him that Haskell had not applied for a re-zone, but the Bellingham Herald has reported otherwise, and appears to have copies of the application itself. Ralph will sort out the truth of the matter by contacting Pat Carmine, another city planner.

12. The Port's "Comprehensive Scheme for Fairhaven" Update

Greg McHenry, the Port's planner for Fairhaven area, has said that the hired consultants (Reed Middleton) are expected to deliver their report in time for the January 16th meeting of the Port Commissioners. Meanwhile, the Waterfront Advisory Group has agreed to hold a public meeting on the Fairhaven Scheme update, on or after January 17th, once the report from the consultants has been delivered.