

Fairhaven Neighbors general meeting notes, March 5, 2006

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of minutes** from February general meeting.
2. The president noted that a **quorum** of board members was present at the meeting. Motion made by Migo Biciunas for the executive board to **appoint Sue Kaun to fill vacancy on the board**. Approved by unanimous vote by the board members present.
3. **Treasurer's report**, by Glenn Denckler. We have \$1,925 left in the Padden Creek legal defense fund, which Glenn indicated he would draw down to zero by sending a final payment to attorney Philip Buri for his work on our behalf. We currently have \$2095 in savings and \$1855 in the checking account.
4. **Printing costs of materials packages sent by Southside Coalition of Neighborhoods** to members of the city council and port commission. Twenty copies were distributed. The printing costs were just over \$100 dollars, and the costs is to be shared by the five south side neighborhood associations. Motion was made, and seconded, to authorize payment for our share of printing expenses. Passed by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Report on annual tree and plant sale**, by Janet Simpson. The sale went well, but we don't yet know the earnings from the sale, after advertising costs.
6. **International music stage at Ski-to-Sea Weekend** on Fairhaven Green stage, being organized by Shelly and Elinor Pravda. They report that it is coming together well, and that many acts have already agreed to perform. The show will occur on Saturday, May 28th, starting around 12:30. Michael Lilliquist said that he'd be happy to make up a sign, with Fairhaven Neighbors name on it and a schedule of acts, to be put up next to the stage.
7. **Report on the Greenways levy** going before city voters on May 17th, 2006, given by Bob Keller. FN has been asked if we would like to give our official endorsement of the levy, to encourage people to vote yes. We would write a brief, to-the-point letter stating our endorsement, sent to Tim Douglas and the Greenways advocacy group, perhaps sending a copy to the local paper and the weeklies. Motion made and passed by unanimous voice vote.
8. **Haskell Property re-zone**, west of Padden Creek on the south side of Harris Avenue. Much to the surprise of some people, the planning department staff actually recommended holding off on any re-zone until the Fairhaven neighborhood plan has been updated, and a better public process has occurred with regards to the future of development in the area. The city's process to accomplish this is a bit confused. In the meanwhile, we might begin working on updating the neighborhood plan ourselves. Bob Keller is of the opinion that the city's process was irrelevant to our own internal process, and that we should begin now, so as to be ready once the city is ready. Glenn Denckler made a motion to create a committee of neighbors to begin work now; motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

9. **Re-zone of property on 14th and Fairhaven Parkway.** Details are sketchy. Currently zoned multi-family residential, it has probably been requested to become mixed commercial, perhaps with a 35' height limit. Michael will investigate.
10. **Report on the new Environment Committee.** Sue Kaun is working on a letter pertaining to storm water issues, an in particular for the need for a moratorium on building permits until storm water issues have been adequately dealt with by the city in an updated plan. (For example, 12th Street Village just runs a storm water pipe straight into Padden Creek!)
11. **1988 and 1989 Legal Agreements** between the City and the Concerned Southside Citizens. History: When the city started work on the Ferry Terminal, representatives from the five southern neighborhoods sued the city because the city had never done an environmental impact statement. Unfortunately, many of the actions that the city was legally required to take may not have been done.

A letter signed by the presidents of the five southern neighborhoods, drawing the city's and the port's attention to the agreements, was sent to the city and port. South Neighborhood president John Wilson hand delivered the letter, along with a copy of the agreements, to new city Councilor Joan Beardsley, who read it and asked for more copies for all of the city council members. City attorney, Joan Hosington, has been asked to look into the matter. Joan asked for a report back from the attorney by April.

Steve also delivered the letter and copies of the agreements to the Port Commission at their meeting yesterday. The commissioner's appeared surprised, and the port's attorney was asked to look into the matter.

12. **Report on the Association of Bellingham Neighborhood's meeting,** by Janet Simpson. The ABN is looking into a number of growth-related issues, such as view impact analysis, height limits, building impact fees, and a down-zone requested by York residents for some parts of that neighborhood.

Another major issue before the ABN is the efforts by Larry Horowitz to raise questions about the city's in-fill capacity estimates. These estimates are part of the state-mandated plan required by the Growth management Act. As a result of this questioning, the state has asked the city to go back and justify or revise its in-fill capacity estimates.

13. **Appeal of the Design Review of the 800 Harris Avenue** project (a.k.a. Fairhaven Harbor). There are two appellants, David Carlsen, owner of Eclipse Books, and local developer David Ebenal. The appeals are scheduled to be considered together before Hearing Examiner Dawn Sturwold at 6:30 p.m. on June 14th, 2006.

Carlsen's appeal is based on several things, including LUP-73 of the Comprehensive Plan, which calls for city council approval of any building over 40-feet. The appeal also states that the building is not harmonious in terms of scale, in part because it is not only so tall but also 220' wide, which is wider than not only every other building but wider than any other full-size block in Fairhaven. This extra width is due to the vacation of Mackenzie Avenue, which the appeal claims is illegal, because state law

authorizes only the local legislative authority (i.e., city council) to vacate streets, yet Mackenzie was vacated by an executive act by the mayor and public works director.

The likely response by the developer's representative is that the 20-day period for appeal of the vacation has passed.

In a phone conversation with Michael Lilliquist, David Ebenal presented himself as a Fairhaven-friendly developer, responsible for projects of appropriate scale and in architecturally suitable styles (e.g., Fairhaven Gardens). Michael suggests that a useful alliance is possible between the two appellants.

14. **Encouraging greater participation in the neighborhood association** by Fairhaven residents. There are an estimated 100 households in the area, not including the new residents of Harris Square etc. Our current emailing list includes only 49 names, of which only about 28 actively respond to emails. Sheldon Pravda will try to combine the data from the email list with Migo's own personal list, along with any public data bases on the neighborhood.

Next general meeting is scheduled at 7:00 on May 3rd, 2006, in the Fairhaven Park Pavilion again.