

Fairhaven Neighbors Board Meeting Notes, April 4th, 2007

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 p.m.

1. Consent Agenda

The March meeting minutes and treasurer's report was approved prior to this meeting.

2. Executive Board Election

Paul James and Shelly Pravda were nominated to the board, but Shelly has respectfully withdrawn. The floor was opened to further nominations prior to voting.

Doug Robertson nominated himself for the board, but according to the by-laws, only members may run for executive office, and Doug was not a member of Fairhaven Neighbors nor had he attended a single meeting.

Doug had in fact served as opposing legal council in a couple of lawsuits in the recent past, but he did not foresee a problem.

In order to make Doug even eligible to run for office, he was nominated by the FN board for Associate membership status, and duly elected to membership by the board. Several visiting members of the Fairhaven Merchants group also requested membership, were nominated by the board, and elected to Associate membership by the board. These individuals are Gene and Connie Shannon, Phyllis McKee, and Patrick Uy.

Doug Robertson again nominated himself to the board; Phyllis McKee seconded his nomination. Paul James was elected to the board.

3. Annual Tree Sale

Once again, the 19th annual (!) Tree Sale was a successful fundraising event. Thanks go to John Blethen for organizing the event, and Brad Imus for making the space available.

4. ABN Report

The current focus of the ABN is to gather information on what each of the neighborhoods is doing with its own Neighborhood Plan update.

5. City's Traffic Calming Program (TIP)

The City has asked each neighborhood association to identify places in their neighborhood that might benefit from traffic calming measures. FN identified three areas: 1) The L-shaped route along Cowgill to 4th Street, and then the section of 4th Street between Cowgill and Harris Avenue; 2) 11th Street between Harris and Knox, leading into the historic district; and 3) Mill Avenue between 10th and 12th Streets, again leading into the historic district.

6. Fairhaven Merchants Association

Ralph Thacker has been attending Fairhaven Merchant group's monthly meetings on behalf of Fairhaven Neighbors.

7. Neighborhood Questionnaire – Preliminary Results

Vince reported that the response rate to the questionnaire has been an astounding 33% so far. The tallying is still underway.

8. Design Review Code Revision

The big public meeting is scheduled for 7:00-9:00 p.m. on April 26th at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on 17th and Harris Avenue. Our hope is to have the results of the Neighborhood Questionnaire available at that time.

Phyllis McKee is still worried that some people won't be able to come up to speed in time for that meeting. It was suggested that the April 26th meeting is perhaps best seen as the start of a broad public discussion, not as the end of one; moreover, every property owner, merchant and tenant will be given two weeks advance public notice, along with a packet of information for them to study (the text of the proposal, maps, citations from the Comprehensive Plan, a cover letter). (Ms. McKee was also presented with several copies of the full text of the proposal and maps at last month's meeting, to distribute to interested parties.)

A couple of business owners expressed concern about the process and procedures set forward by the city that Fairhaven Neighbors has been following. A vigorous discussion took place concerning how to handle potential disagreement at the upcoming meeting. Doug Robertson put forth a motion, seconded by Phyllis McKee, to have a formal presentation against the proposal, to follow Michael Lilliquist's presentation in favor of Fairhaven Neighbor's proposal. The motion was defeated. At the April 26th public meeting, Michael will briefly present the proposal (20 minutes?), followed by an extended period of open public comments (90 minutes?).

9. 2008 Neighborhood Plan Update

The work session for the NP update that was scheduled for April 9th has been moved to Tuesday, April 10th, in order to accommodate many people's schedules. The meeting will be held downstairs at Fairhaven Library, starting at 7:00 p.m. Glenn, who is chairing the NP task force, will make available the latest draft, a worksheet, and the most recent draft version of the update

10. Bellingham School District Boundaries

Deferred due to lack of time.

11. Green Power Challenge Ceremony

The winners for Puget Sound Energy's Neighborhood Green Power Challenge will be announced at the Depot Market, at noon on Earth Day, April 21st.