

Fairhaven Neighbors board meeting notes, July 5, 2006

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 p.m.

[Treasurer's report slipped in, in writing, prior to meeting: \$2465 in checking, and \$2099 in savings.]

1. Electing a new president, new board members:

Thom Pritchard informed the board that he was stepping down as president, and it was noted that the board needs to re-elect executive officers from the board as specified in the by-laws. Ralph suggested that we really need to re-elect executive officers at the next meeting (in August). It was also discussed that there are two openings on the board, due to resignations. Following the by-laws, Glenn nominated Vince Biciunas; motion seconded, passed by unanimous voice vote. Ralph then nominated Elinor Pravda; seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Next meeting

There will be no general meeting in August, but instead a neighborhood pot luck is being planned for the end of August, being organized by Lori Wilkinson.

3. Up-dating By-laws

Michael noted that there exists no digital version of the by-laws, only the few circulating hard copies, and some procedures are out of date. Glenn offered to type the by-laws into a digital document. He and Michael will go through the by-laws, suggest some house-keeping changes to be voted on at the next meeting. They will circulate a copy of the proposed changes prior to that meeting.

4. New planning director and city planning

Thom met with Tim Stewart, the city's new planning director. Tim has asked each neighborhood to put in written letter form a list of its most important concerns.

The board went over a draft of the letter to Tim Stewart, point by point, suggesting a few changes. Ralph will revise the letter, per the board's directions, and get a copy to Thom for signing and then hand delivery.

Sue Kaun reported on all the activity with the city and port that she has been heading up:

5A. Follow-up on 1988 and 1989 Agreements with the City/Port

The Port responded back to our letter of May 4th, regarding the Padden Creek estuary. The Port says it has already deeded the lagoon to the city, but it has not deeded the 100' shoreline zones to the city yet. Currently, the 100' zone contains paved lots, buildings, and other man-made structures. The next meeting of the Port commission is August 1st.

5B. Storm water issues

Sue, Glenn, and Shelly Pravda met with Bill Reilly, Public Works manager in charge of surface and stormwater. Sue also began investigating the City of Bellingham "Storm and Surface Water Utility Funding Strategy" in which the storm water levy was intended to

fund the Padden Creek tunnel by-pass. Sue, Shelly, and Jim Johannessen also met with WA Dept. of Ecology people to discuss stormwater issues.

5C. Shoreline Master Program

The next public meeting for the city Planning Commission on the SMP will be July 20th. Currently the SMP is in draft form and this will be one of the last public meetings to consider changes to it.

6. Stream Stewards program

Wendy Scherrer of NSEA spoke with Thom about the Stream Stewards program that they have. NSEA is looking for people to register to take classes and receive hands-on training on how to be better stewards of our local rivers, and to give people both expertise and a sense of ownership. Thom said that FN should consider an official step to becoming a collective stream steward for Padden Creek.