

Fairhaven Neighbors board meeting notes, Aug 2, 2006

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 p.m.

1. Approval of July board meeting minutes

2. Up-dating the By-Laws

The purpose of the changes to the by-laws was to bring them in line with current practices and intentions; no revisions were made in the purpose, goals, or nature of the corporation. The most significant change was to split the office of Secretary/Treasurer into two offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Most of the revisions were accepted as proposed, with a few additional clarifications. The changes to the by-laws were passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. New Board election results, and electing executive officers

An election was held at the general meeting/pot luck gathering on August 30th. The newly elected board members are: Sue Kaun, Elinor Pravda, Thom Pritchard, Ralph Thacker, Migo Biciunas, and Vince Biciunas. Their 3-year terms will run from 2006 to 2009.

Previously elected board members are Jim Johannessen, Michael Lilliquist, Bob Keller, Janet Simpson, and Glenn Denkler. Their terms will run from 2005 to 2007.

Following the by-laws, the new board immediately elected its executive officers for the next year. The nominees were Vince for president, Migo for vice president (incumbent), Glenn for treasurer (incumbent), and Michael for treasurer (incumbent). All executive officers were elected by unanimous voice vote.

4. FN representative to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee

Thom's term on the NAC is expiring. The board moved to endorse Thom for re-appointment to the NAC; seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. Follow-up with FN Letter to new planning director

Tim Stewart, the new planning director for the city, received our letter, in which we highlighted several local planning issues. The planning dept, is setting up a "Planning Academy for Neighborhoods" to train citizens about the existing procedures and laws. The city would like two or three resident from each neighborhood to attend. Five evening sessions are planned for some time in September through October.

Tim Stewart also said that, in order for him to be able to support our requests as a neighborhood, we will need to obtain support from both residents and local businesses. If we can get that, Tim says that he will work to push changes through.

It was agreed that our new president, Vince, will write a letter to invite Tim to our next board meeting, scheduled for Sept. 6th, immediately following our regular meeting, i.e., meeting at 7:00 p.m., Tim at 8:00 p.m.

6. Shoreline Master Program update

The most recent draft of the SMP Update was considered at the July 20th meeting of the planning commission. After receiving feedback from the commission, a new draft will

be written by planner Steve Sundin. The SMP is intended to be at least as strong as the Critical Areas Ordinance, and trumps it when both apply. Sue and Jim will continue to follow this issue.

7. Neighborhood Relations Pilot Project

The city has initiated a new project, to be headed by Kathryn Hanowell in the mayor's office, "to increase services and outreach to neighborhoods and more effectively involve citizens in decisions and activities that affect them."

8. CSN Letters to City and Port

The Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods has finalized drafting letters to the city and to the port, concerning our perceptions of how the 1988 and 1989 Agreements have been honored or not honored, and official responses to neighborhood issues more generally.

South Neighborhood president Steve Wilson will hand deliver a letter to the city at next Monday's City Council meeting, and hee will also deliver a similar letter to the Port at the next meeting, Sept. 5th, requesting that the coalition has a representative at the table, when the port takes up Fairhaven issues.

8. NOAA Small Grants program

NOAA will be holding an informational meeting on August 15th at the Whatcom County civic center, to promote application for small grants for community-based habitat restoration.

9. Follow-up on John Blethen's Greenways proposal

John appears to be most concerned that not all southside Greenways monies go towards Chuckanut Ridge acquisition, but the board feels that at this time we simply do not know enough to recommend other southside locations for Greenways projects. It was agreed that FN should send a letter to the Greenways committee asking them to look at properties along Padden Creek below 12th for acquisition, rather than specify properties ourselves.

10. Treasurer's Report

We currently have \$2336.88 in checking, and \$2,100.00 in savings

11. Follow-up on Stormwater issues

Sue has continued to pore through the budget and spending statements from the city, in an effort to find out where all the money from our stormwater fees is being spent. Projects such as day-lighting Padden Creek have been budgeted, but never proceed.

12. Problem Teens?

The Fairhaven business association is worried about teenagers hanging out and harming business in the business district.