

## **Fairhaven Neighbors board meeting notes, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Fairhaven Park Pavilion, 7:00 p.m.

### **1. Approving Minutes from Sept. Meeting**

**2. Treasurer's report:** \$2101.64 in savings, \$2242.93 in checking.

### **3. Chuckanut Mt. Park District**

Update on effort by Robert Gibb to create this new park district. Pam Went conveyed Robert's request to have a contact person in FN; Migo volunteered.

### **4. Southside Shoreline Stewardship Taskforce update**

The SSST was organized by Ralph Thacker to maintain some focus on planning for the southside, while so much attention is being paid to the old G-P/New Whatcom site. Currently there are representatives from each of the 5 southside neighborhoods, two port tenants, and one member of the Fairhaven merchants association. Four meetings have been held so far.

One of the major issues will concern Burlington Northern, which controls the railroad rights of way that separate Bellingham from the water along virtually the entire bay. As it stands currently, Dick McKinley, the director of Public Works for the city, appears to be the de facto point man on any discussion with BN.

Another major issue is the future of the Haskell property, currently zoned Light Industrial, but for which Haskell may request a rezone to Mixed Commercial.

### **5. Association of Bellingham Neighborhoods update**

Glenn reported that the ABN has been developing a Neighborhood Plan Revision Kit, to aid neighborhoods in planning. ABN felt the need to step in because no agent in the city appears to have neighborhood plans as their responsibility. The ABN's extensive website can be found at <http://aobn.org/>

### **6. Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council update**

Thom says that the MNAC is still searching for its proper role, and that there's a lot of frustration among people who want to provide the city with input. For example, the MNAC put in hours of work, going line by line through the Comprehensive Plan Update, only to find that their input seems to have been entirely ignored by city staff.

### **7. Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods update**

CSN has scheduled a meeting with Port Director Jim Darling and Port Commissioner Scott Walker on Oct. 9, to continue to move forward our campaign for the five southside neighborhoods to be treated like active partners and stakeholders in the planning for the Fairhaven portion of the waterfront.

### **8. Report from the FN Environment Committee**

Sue Kaun has been very busy discussing stormwater and Padden Creek issues with city council members Joan Beardsley and Barbara Ryan, and city finance director Teresa Holm. A major sore point is why, after all the studies and planning, Padden Creek has yet to be day-lighted? Some of the resistance to rehabilitating Padden Creek is that Padden Lagoon

has not been rehabilitated, and part of the resistance to rehabilitating the lagoon is that the creek has not been day-lighted!

### **9. “Fairhaven Harbor” development update**

The design review appeal was denied for the simple reason that the appellants did not support their burden of proof. One issue that was never dealt with by any of the appeals and permit hearings is the potentially illegal vacation of the Mackenzie Avenue right of way. Each official denied jurisdiction to review the matter.

### **9. November Board Meeting**

The next meeting of the board will be on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The tentative topic will be neighborhood policing, with a member of the Bellingham police (Steve Felmy?).

### **10. December General Meeting: A Potluck**

We have set December 6<sup>th</sup> as the date for the next quarterly general meeting, which will be a social rather than a business event. It will be a potluck, probably starting at 5 or 5:30 p.m., until 7:00.

### **11. City’s Planning Academy**

Janet and Vince have attended three of five planned meetings so far. Among the things which they have learned so far: The now-updated Comp Plan has broad goals and policies, but nothing will really take effect until they are translated into municipal code – which has yet to be done. Fairhaven is no longer considered an “urban village,” but has been re-named an “urban district,” probably to reflect the fact that so much growth has and will happen, making it larger than a village.

Director Tim Stewart says that, as a one time deal, he will provide support for any citizen-initiated change to the municipal code so long as it meets three criteria: 1) is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, 2) has local consensus and was developed openly and democratically, and 3) is not “no growth” or anti-growth.