

## **General Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019**

Board members:

Stephen Dillon- President  
Claudia Oates - Treasurer  
Amanda Cook - Secretary  
Jenny Baker-Couch- MNAC  
Representative

Dave Arheholz - Director  
Joe Coons - Director  
MNAC Alternate - Vacant  
Vice President - Vacant

1. Call to order at before 7PM, 29 attendees present.
  
2. Chief of Police David Doll from the Bellingham Police Department (BPD) was our first guest speaker of the night. He spoke about how he became involved with the police department. He provided interesting statistics about the police force as well as crime stats for our own neighborhood. Below are some of the highlights:
  - Bellingham was the first in the state to mandate all officers wear body worn camera
  - Monthly stats for 'use of force' can be found under the City of Bellingham's website
  - Each of Bellingham's police officers receive 15 hours of de-escalation training which is more than the required two hours a year mandated by the state
  - We will be getting a new neighborhood officer soon as Officer Osterkamp has been promoted
  - The biggest calls for service is for mental health conditions/crisis
  - Think about what you leave in your vehicle to help decrease prowls, but vehicle prowls are down as a whole as well as bicycle theft
  - Homeless drop in centers and shelters like Winterhaven are starting to be successful
  - Not a huge impact since marijuana became legal besides an increase in DUIs, the biggest impact is when kids or pets accidentally ingest the content
  - Bellingham's overdose reports in opioids are increasing but the overall numbers are still low compared to the rest of the nation
  - Do not hesitate to call the police if something doesn't feel right
  - If you have been involved with an incident and you want an update you can call dispatch and ask for an update from the officer
  
3. Our next speaker was Nicole Oliver, the Parks Development Manager from Bellingham Parks and Recreation. She came to talk about the Galbraith Mountain developments as well as other parks related news in place of Mayor Kelli Linville as the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting.
  - The purchase of the easements in Galbraith was made with Greenways funds with the help from Whatcom Land Trust and other sponsors
  - There were two easements:
    - One is a conservation easement which ensures that the mountain can never be developed into housing

- The second is a recreation easement which sets parameters for the trails
  - Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition (WMBC) is part of the stewardship of the trails in conjunction with Whatcom Land Trust
  - Improvements are going to be made to the parking along the backside of Galbraith on Samish Way along with a flashing pedestrian crosswalk
  - Small and Simple Grants will be available to neighborhoods for improvements soon
  - There are new trails located around Lopez to connect pedestrians to Lakeway
  - Trail maps can be found on the COB website
  - Swim docks and lifeguards will be reinstated at Bloedel Donovan Park
  - There was concern from attendees regarding the parking along Birch St from mountain bikers. Nicole suggested Whatcom Falls neighbors gather together to create a proposal for increasing parking along Birch St for trailhead restoration. Make sure concerned neighbors send letters, emails and phone calls to the City to discuss this as a safety issue
4. Under New Business the floor was open to allow attendees the opportunity to volunteer to be on the board for any and all board positions. Although an official motion was not made, two people voiced interest in joining the board. Joe Mount has volunteered to be the MNAC Alternate and Todd Luther have volunteered to be the Vice President.
  5. Year end Treasurer report from Claudia Oates:
    - We received a total of \$67 in donations from the community for 2018
    - Expenses came to \$75 for the use of the school to hold our meetings
    - Leaving a remaining balance of \$56.95 in the account
    - Rental for the park from the summer picnic and raffle prizes paid for by direct donations
  6. MNAC meeting report from Jenny Baker-Couch.
    - December was a holiday social gathering but she was unable to attend
    - If you have any questions or concerns you would like to bring to the meetings, please reach out to Jenny and think about joining her at the next meeting.
  7. Next meeting will be March 12th, please mark your calendars!
  8. Local resources can be found at the following:
    - Officer Eric Osterkamp [eosterkamp@cob.org](mailto:eosterkamp@cob.org) or (360) 778-8785
    - Litter Control Officer (360) 778-8623
    - Social: [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)
    - On the Web: [www.whatcomfallsneighborhood.org](http://www.whatcomfallsneighborhood.org)
    - In the City: [www.cob.org](http://www.cob.org)
    - Our neighborhood plan:  
<http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/whatcom-falls.pdf>

Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Cook, Secretary