

With only 13 people attending, the Whatcom Falls neighborhood Association meeting on January 10, 2017 nevertheless turned out to be interesting and constructive!

ROUTINE BUSINESS & REPORTS: After the usual preliminary business including approval of the minutes, the group gave kudos to the city for the prompt sanding of the slippery areas during the recent cold weather. (Later in the meeting it was noted that when various public works concerns come up, neighbors should contact Rick Sawyer at 360.319.2355 rsawyer623@aoil.com. City officials are Dan Larson dlarson@cob.org or Amy Cloud accloud@cob.org.

Our neighborhood police officer, Eric Osterkamp, asked for suggestions regarding future programs for the group; a number of ideas were given; neighbors will hear of them when they are scheduled. President Rick Sawyer reported on the water treatment facility project in the park. Work has begun and neighbors are being warned to use caution and avoid closed off areas. He told us that part of the work included on artistic fence around the new facility when it is complete, with the city arts commission supervising the design approval.

Though the normal meeting schedule calls for us to meet the second Tuesday, our normal meeting room in the library is not available on March 14, and therefore we will meet on MARCH 7 instead. Other meeting dates are May 9, September 12 and November 14. We are also considering a potluck meeting in Whatcom Falls Park on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 1 – neighbors will be alerted if this extra event will occur; if you would like to volunteer contact Rick at his number above.

REMINDERS: Maps and other information exclusively about our neighborhood can be found at our Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Website, www.whatcomfallsneighborhood.org/. The site is maintained by volunteer Steve Dillon.

ELECTIONS: our January meeting is the usual time for elections, but with the limited attendance we were unable to permanently fill all posts; we hope to fill missing positions in March. However, Steve Dillon was named Vice President, Claudia Oates as treasurer and Rick Sawyer as the continuing President (in spite of his reluctance to be reelected). Although Steve Williamson agreed to serve as interim secretary (and recorded this meeting's minutes), we need to elect a permanent one and also a Board member at large and a representative to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION: it was recognized that attendance on January 10 was limited by the cold weather, recent snows, and the Farewell Address of the President on TV; nevertheless we were concerned about the relatively small turnout at meetings in general for our organization. As a result, we discussed ways to increase attendance and involve more people in the group. We discussed having some kind of flyer to introduce neighbors to our group and its value; publicizing the programs at our meetings to interest attendees; perhaps coordinating our activities with the few businesses in our neighborhood to involve them more actively. Joe Coons is working with the officers and some volunteers to implement some suggestions, including particularly development of an informational flyer to be distributed by hand to all homes in the neighborhood. Stay tuned!

NEXT MEETING: March 7, 7PM at Kulshan Middle School. Neighbors are reminded that there are no dues associated with membership in the Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Association! The WFNA's sole purpose is to serve as a link between the neighbors and the City of Bellingham so that each can be informed of concerns and activities of the other. The meetings last only about 90 minutes, and there are only five a year. ----- Joe Coons

Whatcom Falls Neighbourhood
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