

General Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

Board members present:

Stephen Dillon - President

Claudia Oates - Treasurer

Amanda Cook - Secretary

Jeff Cook - MNAC Representative

Jenny Baker-Couch - MNAC Alternate

Joe Coons - Director

Dave Arheholz - Director

Vice President - Vacant

1. Call to order at 7:00PM, 25 attendees present.
2. 1/9/18 meeting minutes approved.
3. A special thank you to Rick Sawyer for all his dedication to the neighborhood!
4. Announced the new board members and directors as represented above.
5. Officer Eric Osterkamp was present and had a few updates for the group:
 - There is Active Shooter training through the Bellingham Police Department for citizens as well as officers. There is a free two hour class available to the public and if we as a group are interested can set up a time for the presentation.
 - City of Bellingham has a statistics tab for crime statistics, but do please careful reading the data. Information can be misinterpreted. If you have questions please reach out to Officer Osterkamp. He can be reached at eoosterkamp@cob.org or 360.778.8785.
 - Police Chief Dave Dahl is available to come and speak to the neighborhood if we desire.
 - If you see something you think is criminal or suspicious please call 911 and be very direct with your words.
6. Our first guest speaker was Marcy Plattner, the owner from Garden Spot to address curb appeal. She brought an assortment of beautiful outdoor plants that are deer resistant, some with beautiful fragrance.
7. Our second guest speaker was Kirk Ghio from Muljat Group Realtors to address protecting your property's value. He brought insight into which improvements add value to your property. This included a great breakdown between return on investment if you plan to sell right away versus remaining in the house for years. He also included a seasonal maintenance calendar for year long reminders.
8. Old and New Business:
 - PSE/Potelco will be working on utility lines very soon replacing some old electrical cables along Alvarado and Kenoyer. There may be some planned outages.

- There is a discussion still in progress with the City regarding short term rentals including Airbnb.
- There is ongoing discussion of amendments to ADU (Attached Dwelling Units) ordinances with the City.
- There is a proposed residential subdivision to the south end of Xenia Street. The project is still in the beginning stages but discussion with the neighbors and neighborhood is critical at this time to make your voices heard.
- It was suggested a committee might be the best course of action to form to address questions and concerns regarding the Xenia Street construction. With questions prepared, we can give them to the City in the hopes they will be able to attend a meeting and answer what they can in order to facilitate a healthy discussion. Volunteers are needed to join this committee, let your voices be heard.
- Please visit our neighborhood website, Nextdoor or the City of Bellingham for additional information. Links at the bottom.

9. No significant MNAC updates to report at this time.

10. Treasurer report from Claudia Oates:

- \$15.00 was used in the last couple of months to pay for the meeting space at Kulshan Middle School. There is \$49.95 in the checking account and \$5.03 in the savings. We have no dues to be a part of this organization but donations are always accepted.

11. Joe Coons livened up mood with some gift cards to give away to participants at our meeting.

12. Mark your calendar for the next couple of meetings as the format is changing and should be exciting:

- May 8th - focus on Parks and Recreation and bicycle safety
- August 3rd - Neighborhood potluck in Whatcom Falls Park. Bring the family! Bring a dish to share! We are looking for volunteers to help organize and rally the neighbors, please reach out to Claudia Oates and Amanda Cook if you are interested.
- September 11th - focus on Schools
- November 13th - focus on Fire and Police safety

13. As always local resources can be found at the following:

- Officer Eric Osterkamp eosterkamp@cob.org or (360) 778-8785
- Litter Control Officer (360) 778-8623
- Social: www.nextdoor.com
- On the Web: www.whatcomfallsneighborhood.org
- In the City: www.cob.org
- Our neighborhood plan: <http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/whatcom-falls.pdf>

Meeting adjourned 8:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Cook, Secretary