

Our Whatcom Falls Neighborhood Association met last Tuesday, March 7, for its regular bi-monthly meeting at the Kulshan Middle School Library. Between the distribution of about 50 brochures to households in our neighborhood, our street signs, and word-of-mouth, we were able to turn out about 25 attendees in spite of it being a chilly and rainy night.

Association president Rick Sawyer gave us a report on the BELLINGHAM WATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT going on in the Whatcom Falls Park – it is on time and going well. Citizens can easily see details on the project by going to the city's website, COB.ORG, and searching for "water treatment project". That takes you directly to pictures of the project as well as what's being done; just click the "water treatment plant pretreatment" headline.

A REMINDER TO ALL OF YOU THAT USE "NEXTDOOR" TO GET NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS: if you are receiving too many emails particularly if they are from outside our neighborhood, you can easily solve the problem by logging on to NextDoor and clicking the little drop-down arrow on the top right of the screen. You will then see a variety of choices including "profile", and if you click this and roll down near the bottom you will see "Settings". Here you will see choices that include what things you wish to see, including which neighborhoods! You can see any or all of the 21 neighborhoods in Bellingham; if you live here, you will always see our own Whatcom Falls...

While were talking about information, remember that just as we can check on projects in our own neighborhood at COB.ORG, we can also see city planning, City Council reports and more. This is a great resource and recent improvements to it and made it easier than ever to navigate. Give it a try!

(A note: so far there are no development plans for "Whitworth Park, Residential Single Zone Area 8", the area that was logged by the Nielson brothers at the end of Raymond Street.)

OUR MAIN PRESENTER WAS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD POLICE OFFICER, ERIC OSTERKAMP, from the Bellingham Police Department. All 25 of us came away from the meeting with a new appreciation for officer Eric and the work of the department as he covered topics including crime statistics, the new Bellingham Neighbors Together volunteer program, possible future programs including a canine demonstration at a future meeting, and some of the training that police officers receive including ways to de-escalate difficult situations. He also talked about the body cameras that all police wear, the Taser that officers carry, who is being booked and released at the county jail in downtown Bellingham, gang activity, graffiti, Narcan, Special Police Units and more. Eric answered so many questions that eventually the meeting had run over 15 or 20 minutes – an indication of the response from our neighbors who were present. Officer Osterkamp attends almost all of our neighborhood meetings.

IN ADDITION TO RICK SAWYER, OUR PRESIDENT, our association officers include Steve Dillon, vice president; Claudia Oates, treasurer; and Jeff Cook, our representative to the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Committee. Up through this meeting, our secretary has been Steve Williamson, and he has served us loyally and well, providing complete and accurate official minutes for our organization as well as the information that I use in preparing this bulletin. After Steve's begging to be relieved for quite some time, our neighbor Amanda Cook has stepped forward to replace Steve. We thank her for volunteering, and Steve, especially, for his years of loyal service! (We still would like to have an alternate to help Jeff Cook representing us at the once-a-month

Mayor's Committee meetings.)

OUR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 9, followed by meetings on September 12th and November 14th; put them on your calendars now: you'll be glad you did! We're hoping also to have a summer gathering on National Night Out and/or a potluck at Whatcom Falls Park.

I've been attending these meetings for about a year now, and I've yet to hear anyone grumble that the time it takes isn't worth it! Why not come to the next one on May 9? I look forward to meeting you then! Remember, there are no dues or other costs, and everyone in the Neighborhood can attend!

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Coons