

## WHATCOM FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES - 5/14/19

- Mayor Linville spoke about her history growing up in Bellingham and time as mayor. Not running for re-election.
- First 4 years.
  - Consolidated county ALS system
  - Joint plan to protect lake Whatcom
  - Opened emergency management center near airport.
- Met Eric Ritchey new prosecutor. Working on alternatives to prison/criminal justice.
- Top 2 concerns in community
  - Affordable housing
  - Homelessness.
- More money going into those two concerns
- Infill tool kit – using land for homeless & urban villages.
- Birchwood neighborhood has multi level housing without amenities.
- Biggest achievement: agreement with port for waterfront.
  - Condos going in by the waterfront.
- Biggest disappointment.
  - Housing & homelessness.
  - Trying to relocate drop in center for last 3 years

### QUESTIONS FROM THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MAYOR

- Raymond & Roland St supposed to be permanent dead end.
  - If any change has to go through re-zoning in order to get them connected.
  - The ability to build past those permanent dead ends will be very expensive
- Impact of parking on Galbraith in WF neighborhood
  - Expanded parking is coming on Samish Way. Donated by WIMPS
    - Facilities will be built there for restrooms and changing
    - Adding more signage for dogs and dog bags
  - Building San Juan Blvd through to the south?
    - There may be some smaller construction, but the chances of San Juan Blvd going all the way through aren't happening.
  - Concern with development and tree cutting
  - Student housing
    - Trying to free up single family houses and get students into student housing
  - Sewage treatment plant
    - Going from incinerators to "bio-digesting?" to dispose of waste and decrease carbon footprint.
    - Originally built for about 90k people.
    - Bonding rate is good and the city has very little debt
- TIELA COMBS – HOW TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AT HOME
- Runs a nonprofit in Bellingham "Sustainable Connections"

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- “Squatch?” food waste program
  - has two parts
    - public education and community outreach
      - 99% of everything purchased in the US is thrown away in the first 6 months.
      - 40% of all food grown in the USA is thrown away.
        - 50% of this is food from our homes
      - 25% of our grocery bill is thrown away on average
      - Earth overshoot day. The day we’ve used all the resources the earth can produce that year.
        - August 1<sup>st</sup>
      - 25% of freshwater is used to grow food
      - 20% of all crop land is used for wasted food
      - \$218 billion in food thrown away
    - started a food recovery initiative
      - started in 2017
      - recruited 31 food producers donating left over food
        - The food goes to 3 places
          - Goes to NW Youth Services (kids homeless or at risk)
          - Francis Place helping homeless people
          - Lummi Nation – 3 churches there.
        - 30k lbs of food collected last year.
        - 45k lbs of food collected total.
      - Their grant ends this year in June and they’re re-applying.
  - Tips
    - How you shop
      - Having a shopping list. Write down and buy only what you need.
      - Left overs.....eat them....
      - Produce. We throw away 50% of lettuce and 25% of veggies. Store it correctly.
      - Cut your carrots. Don’t wash your strawberries ahead of time
  - Picnic 8/8 6-9 pm in small shelter at Whatcom falls park