

General Meeting Minutes September 12th, 2017

Board members present:

Rick Sawyer - President
Stephen Dillon - Vice-President
Claudia Oates - Treasurer
Amanda Cook - Secretary
Jeff Cook - MNAC Representative

1. Call to order at 7:00PM. 29 attendees present.
2. 05/9/2017 meeting minutes approved.
3. Update on the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. Work is ongoing and on schedule. Monthly updates are posted to Nextdoor and are available at: www.cob.org/gov/projects.
4. Bicycle Pump Track is completed in Whatcom Falls Park and now open!
5. Recap of the Emergency Preparedness presentation from May's meeting. In light of the natural disasters in other parts of the country it is a good idea to look over the extra pamphlets from the presentation or for more information visit the website at www.whatcomready.org. There is great advice on how to be prepared incase something should happen.
6. Bellingham Public Works wishes to let the public know the planning continues on the Resource Recovery Process for the Post Point Water Treatment Plant. A flyer was available to review at the meeting and additional information is available online as well.
7. Neilsen Property update from Kurt Knabbefeld regarding logging in our neighborhood at the end of Roland and Raymond Streets. He was quoted to say, "The city has not yet received any formal applications for the Neilsen property nor am I aware of any informal proposals. DNR continues to issue forestry permits for more of the Galbraith area and the city / DNR recently issued permits for a selective harvest on Samish Hill." Rick is doing a great job communicating with the city to make sure as soon as something changes on the Neilsen Property we will all be notified so our voices can be heard.
8. At the time of the meeting there was still a couple remaining September Stream Tours open to the public to attend. The last two dates for September was the 14th and the 21st. These tours highlight environmental protection and improvement of the hiking trails around streams.
9. To find more information about any of these topics and whole lot more, please visit www.cob.org/news. The city does a great job updating the site constantly.

10. NextDoor is up to 473 neighbors in the Whatcom Falls Neighborhood. Members can set their preferences on the home screen using the upper right pull-down menu. This will allow only Whatcom Falls Neighborhood to show in your feed or it can be set to show all posts from the surrounding neighborhoods. www.nextdoor.com. Please be respectful of your posts. If you find something offensive please tag it as offensive within Nextdoor at 'Report Comment' or 'Report Post' and it will be reviewed.
11. It was brought up during the meeting if you know of a neighbor who does not have access to electronic devices to view the vast amount of information on websites from our meetings or Nextdoor, please reach out and work with them to see how you might help them gain information. Encourage coming to the neighborhood meetings together. There is always paper copies of information from past presentations at our meetings free to take.
12. Our first presentation was from Izzy Juell. She is the Marketing and Communications Coordinator Intern at The ReStore. The ReStore is a reclaimed and used building materials retail store located in Bellingham.
 - They are a program of resources for sustainable communities which is a 501c3 non-profit organization.
 - ReSources promotes sustainable communities and protects the health of Northwestern Washington people and ecosystems through the application of science, education, advocacy and action.
 - Primary goal of ReStore is to divert as much reusable material from the landfill and build a culture of reuse.
 - Working on a remodel or other projects around the house? The ReStore offers free pickup of materials for reuse. They can be reached at (360) 815-4339 or if you are unsure if it's an item they want, give them a call at (360) 647-5921. All donations will be met with a tax receipt for tax reporting.
 - They also offer a job training programs and opportunities.
 - www.re-store.org for more information.
 - Located on 2309 Meridian Street in the Fountain District.
13. The second presentation was from Chris Comeau. He is the Transportation Planner with Bellingham Public Works Engineering. He returned to our meeting to discuss the Lakeway Bike Study findings and outcome.
 - The Lakeway Drive Bikeway Study began in March 2016.
 - Outreach went out to neighborhoods and businesses along the Lakeway corridor to determine impact.
 - Lakeway was the number 1 ranked further study needed project in the entire city to try to get bicycle facilities on it. It is a complicated corridor beginning from Ellis and Holly to Woburn St.
 - What they are trying to do is look at the needs of people, to try to create a situation where you have many opportunities to get around the city not just in your vehicle. Instead walk, bike or take the bus.
 - The hope is to target those interested in bicycling but are currently not comfortable riding on busy roads without a built in infrastructure.
 - The project team consisted of: City of Bellingham, WTA Transit, WSDOT and TranspoGroup & MIG/SvR. Along with input from neighborhood associations, property owners and businesses and the Bellingham School District.
 - There will be some improvements to the current crosswalk yellow flashing lights along Lakeway in the next year or two. They will be upgraded to the

new HAWK signals you might be familiar with on Alabama. A new HAWK light will be installed along Lakeway and Undine to make it safer for pedestrians and bicycles to cross.

- A new uphill bicycle lane and downhill sharrow lane on Woburn from Iowa to Lakeway will be installed.
- Chris Comeau brought extremely detailed data for various bicycle path options along the Lakeway corridor. It did not appear there was a one size fits all approach that will work and satisfy all the needs and further study may be required.
- He fielded many questions from the neighborhood and it was a lively discussion.
- Many folks had questions how HAWK lights work. Flashing yellow is the warning light. Solid red means stop. Flashing red means stop and proceed as long as the intersection is clear.
- For further information you may contact Chris at (360) 778-7946 or ccomeau@cob.org

14. There was a request from the group to be cautious about leaving food outdoors for pets as it attracts wildlife such as raccoons.

15. 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.whatcomfallneighborhood.org
- In the City: www.cob.org
- Our neighborhood plan: <http://www.cob.org/documents/planning/neighborhoods/whatcom-falls.pdf>
- Upcoming Planning Commission meeting: <http://www.cob.org/meetings> (approximately two weeks before the meeting date)

16. Mark your calendar, the next meeting will be November 14th at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Cook, Secretary