

MINUTES

Mount Baker Neighborhood Association
January 23, 2008, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Dorothy Haggen Building

In Attendance: Stowe Talbot, Robin Hitz, Mark Holzband, Elaine Cook, Kaye Faulkner, Darlene McLeod and Steve Niedermeyer

Guests: Gene Knutson (City Council), Pat Carmen (COB Planning Dept.), Mark Hanzlik (COB Public Works Dept.).

Introduction by Stowe

Previous meeting minutes (10/24/07), Kaye made the motion to approve, Robin seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Sunset Widening Project: Mark Hanzlik from the City of Bellingham discussed the widening of Sunset Drive from Woburn to McLeod. Due to waterline issues, during construction, traffic may need to be stopped entirely; but hopefully this will be minimal. He expects that there will be some thru traffic allowed at most times.

Alternative routes during construction:

1. Van Wyk and Hannegan
2. Britton to Barkley

Approx. 8-acre parcel at south end of Irongate will be used as a mitigation site for the project. Also, three massive vaults under the sidewalk will contain storm water. Unknown at this time is the time frame for the project as many permits are still needed, as well as public information meetings. The process of bidding and hiring a contractor still needs to be done.

"Splitting the boundaries of the MB Neighborhood" Issue: Pat Carmen from City Planning Dept. handed out color-coded maps of our neighborhood showing our current boundaries and zoning in our neighborhood. She also identified annexation areas (East Bakerview/ James St. Annexation Area to the northwest and the Dewey Valley Annexation Area to the northeast) that may or may not be coming into our neighborhood.

Pat was here to discuss our group's desire to split the neighborhood/ and or adjust the boundaries with our neighboring neighborhood associations to make the neighborhood size more manageable. Pat expressed that it will be a lengthy process and that the city is willing to initiate the split, rather than have it be initiated by our group. Pat proposed a timeline: City will initiate the split. She says we need to begin work on this in the fall of 2008. She expressed the need for a core group of people from our association to work with a City planner (right now that would probably be Pat), and form a committee to work on the necessary neighborhood plan amendments that would be needed to coordinate a change of boundaries or a split. The city would anticipate a formal proposal at the end of 2008. The proposal would be submitted and processed in 2009. A representative from our surrounding neighborhoods would be helpful to work on this committee. Pat listed the Roosevelt and Meridian Neighborhoods.

The City planner working with our group would come up with recommendations on how to define and divide the neighborhood. It may be possible for the city planner to have weekly meetings with this core group. Pat did express that there may not be enough staff at the city to handle working on this project this year due, to heavy workload and shortage of staff. She wants our core group to work on how we want to divide and shape the neighborhood, then invite other neighborhood associations for their comments and input.

Motion #1

Steve makes the motion to request a letter from the city:

- 1) stating what is being initiated and when;
- 2) giving a "recipe" of what is in a "good" neighborhood (What constitutes a "best practices" of splitting?);
- 3) suggesting what might be a good option concerning the split.

2nd by Elaine

Motion passes unanimously

Steve also would like us to "petition the city for guidelines and definitions for us to begin this project." Pat said to direct the letter to Tim Stewart and Linda Stewart to make a formal written request.

Motion #2

Steve makes the motion to get our group together in the next month to discuss potential options for splitting the neighborhood. We may need to contact people from the Annexation areas. Motion seconded by Robin. Motion passed unanimously

Elaine expressed concern that our letter may be asking the city for too much, which may make the city take longer in getting a response back to us.

Library: Stowe announced the library extension will happen in the first floor of the Drake building. It will have room available for community events and meetings.

Traffic & Streets:

a) NTSP: Stowe stated that our 3 proposal for NTSP for last year were not deemed a priority and did not qualify. If anyone has a new proposal for this year, please contact Stowe. This recommendation is due March 3.

b) 6-yr. TIP: What is our priority for major transportation improvement project? Do we have any new ideas for what to propose this year? Deadline to get ideas to Stowe is April 1st.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wed April 23, 2008.