

May 19th, 2009

MT. BAKER NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING - Minutes

Present:

Don Hale, President

Joy Hale

Robin Hitz, Secretary

Linda Stewart, City of Bellingham representative. Lstewart@cob.org

Warren Rosenthal, MNAC Representative, warrenrosenthal@yahoo.com

Gina Urcuyo, Luvtaplay@aol.com

E. James (Jim) Brennan, 3622 S. Pebble Place, 98226, ej.brennan@erieri.com

Laura Hinds, gummycat07@yahoo.com

Guests:

Larry Fehr, Bellingham Residential Reentry Center, Larry.Fehr@p-h-s.com

Scott with Whatcom Leadership group

1. Meeting began promptly at 7:00 p.m.
Introductions of all people present and a brief summary of the last meetings minutes.
Our meetings will be one-hour in length, overview of website, benefits of e-mail tree, and any correspondence from the 1600 letters that were mailed out were briefly discussed.
2. Next meeting August 18th, 7:00 p.m., location to be confirmed later.
3. Discussion stating that any donations made to our organization are tax-deductible since we are a non-profit.
4. Warren commented that Northridge Park has been halted this calendar year, and may not commence until financing issues for the park have been resolved. Brief discussion concerning the possible impact on local streets near the park, access issues, location is totally surrounded by development, possible emphasis as a bike and pedestrian destination, park maintenance, etc.
5. Scott, a member of Whatcom Leadership, is helping to find out what concerns the people in our neighborhood have with a great on-line survey that is linked to the front of our Mt. Baker Neighborhood web-page at mtbakerna.org. We need volunteers to do the survey. We also need some volunteers to meet people face to face and get survey information in order to get a wide variety of people from our neighborhood to give input (some people may not have computers or want to do the survey on-line, for example). Please direct your neighbors to the website to take the survey. Encourage as many as you can.

6. Joy Hale is our new Public Relations person and will help us to get information about our organization to the media.
7. Our new signs are portable and there was discussion on moving them around the neighborhood, getting more signs, or actually getting permanent signs installed. There is a lack of identity in our neighborhood. Many of us do not know we are in the Mt. Baker Neighborhood or where the boundaries of our neighborhood are. Linda from the City of Bellingham says we need to engage the community with more signage / notification. Sandwich board, portable signs are the most economical, with permanent signs costing approx. \$2500 per sign and a 6-week permitting time.
8. Larry Fehr with Pioneer Human Services for the Residential Reentry Center handed out a 2009 Program Profile for their Reentry Center located at 1641 Baker Creek Place, Bellingham, WA 98226 which is located in our neighborhood in the Irongate Industrial area.
Director: Albert Diaz
Temporary Phone No.: 206-290-3342 (Jane Jackson, V.P.)
Contract Customer: Federal Bureau of Prisons
Date Established: June 1, 2009
Capacity: Contract is for 16; Capacity is 34
Larry gave a summary of the center's program, clients, staff, assessment(s), the services delivered and evidence-based practices utilized, outcomes, community involvement and current issues and opportunities.
The program is accredited and is an opportunity for a structured chance for a new life.
9. Brief discussion concerning signs and their effectiveness, as well as the possible suggestion of a name change in the future for our neighborhood.
10. Meeting ended promptly at 8:00 pm.