

Mt. Baker Neighborhood Meeting 9/16/09 7:00-8:00 p.m.
In attendance: Don Hale has list

I. Last meeting minutes approved and seconded

II. Pat Carmen from the City of Bellingham Planning Department

Pat will be retiring in a few days. This will be her last meeting with our group. Nicole Oliver will be replacing her. - CONGRATULATIONS, PAT, & THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE.

Pat went over the brief history of our neighborhood organization concerning the discussions since 2005 on how to split the neighborhood. Our neighborhood being so large and diverse would be split into more manageable sizes to help facilitate better planning for the future, as well as addressing current concerns related to the specific interests of the different zoning in those areas. Industrial concerns for example are traffic and transportation, while the residential areas may be more concerned with schools, commercial businesses, and parks.

The boundaries suggested by the City were based on existing zoning lines, not streets. Names of the neighborhoods, Irongate and Barkley, were just picked to be used on the maps and to help with discussion and can be changed by the MBNA if we so choose.

Pat handed out:

1. Northern Neighborhood Boundary Review Project, 2009- Comprehensive Plan, Neighborhood Plan Amendment
2. Two maps of the Northern Neighborhood Boundary Review Project Showing the split of some of our neighborhood to the King Mt. Neighborhood (to the west), proposed Irongate Neighborhood (north), and proposed Barkley Neighborhood (south).

We are required to have at least 1 neighborhood meeting to get issues and concerns addressed concerning the split; and to address the procedure to split. Public hearing with the City Planning Commission is Oct. 22nd to discuss this issue. Hearing in front of City Council mid-November/December to approve or postpone to next year.

Everything will stay the same with our neighborhood and association until the split is final. City Planning will pull apart out existing Neighborhood Plan, allocating each neighborhood with the maps and existing verbiage that correspond with each neighborhood's new boundaries. Then each neighborhood can change to meet their individual specific goals to be determined later by each new group. The City Council may make the decision at the end of 2009, or they may ask for another year.

III. Linda Stewart, Neighborhood Coordinator for the City of Bellingham and Liaison to Mayor

Linda expressed that there are resources, funding, and technical assistance for the neighborhoods to start and organize; and that she would be available to help.

Takes approximately 4 meetings to set up a new association. Go over by-laws, officers, etc. One of the neighborhoods will be able to take over the existing "set up" for the MBNA and just change the name if they so wish; while the other can either duplicate it and make a name change, or just start over fresh.

IV. Motion was made and seconded, vote was unanimously in favor - to send the City a formal request for the split and that the names and boundaries presented by City staff were acceptable to the MBNA.

V. If anyone is interested in how a neighborhood association elects a new board, Linda Stewart stated that on Thursday, Sept. 24th at King Mt. Church, 300 E. Kellogg Rd., 6:00 p.m., the King Mt. Neighborhood is going through the process. She invited our members to attend.

VI. Our next meeting will be Nov. 17th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Venue to be finalized later. Suggested meeting at the Building Industry Association building, 1650 Baker Creek Place to accommodate a large group and have available two rooms which would allow the people to split into their separate groups to facilitate better discussion and organization. Also, we will look into whether our e-mail system for notification of meeting information is working; as well as some Bellingham Herald coverage and signage in our neighborhood (needs to be out 14 days before the meeting).

VII. Don Hale ends the meeting with brief discussion of results of Mt. Baker Neighborhood Survey

#1 issue: IDENTITY - No one knew they were in the Mt. Baker Neighborhood.