

**Mt. Baker Neighborhood Association
DRAFT Minutes**

Quarterly Meeting: Saturday, 2/13/10, 10:00 a.m. at Building Industry Association Building

Don Hale, President
Stowe Talbot, Treasurer
Robin Hitz, Secretary

In attendance: E.J. Brennan, B. Putich, P. Plageman, G. Volker, R. Maneval, M. Holzband, S. Daymon, D. Lam, K. Alexander, B. DeStell, B. Walker, S. Walker, S. Niedermeyer, S. Moore, A. Bordus, P. Hinton.

Guests: City of Bellingham staff Linda Stewart and Nicole Oliver.

I. Meeting minutes from 11/10/09 were approved. Minutes are posted on-line at www.mtbakerna.org.

II. Presentation: Richard Maneval is the chair of the Whatcom County Law and Justice Council (http://www.whatcomcounty.us/boards/lawjustice/law_justice.jsp). The purpose of the council is to provide a permanent ongoing forum and structure to coordinate and enhance criminal and juvenile justice agencies, programs and services in Whatcom County. Richard is reaching out to the various neighborhood associations asking them each to provide one or two people to serve on a steering committee which will help decide how best to disseminate information to the citizens of Bellingham about the Law and Justice Council and its plans (such as the eventual construction of a new jail facility). Please contact Richard for details: rjmaneval@earthlink.net or call (360) 671-9559.

III. Presentation: Linda Stewart is the “Neighborhood Services Coordinator” for the Mayor’s Office. Nicole Oliver is the “Communications Manager” in the Department of Planning and Community Development. Nicole explained the history of the proposed neighborhood split, which involves creating an Irongate Neighborhood and a Barkley Neighborhood out of the current Mount Baker Neighborhood. The proposed split boundary would be roughly along Sunset Drive, but Sunset Square mall would go to Barkley Neighborhood. The City is working on this initiative in the context of several new neighborhood boundaries in the north part of the city including Cordata, Meridian, King Mountain, Irongate and Barkley. Nicole presented draft neighborhood plans for Irongate and Barkley respectively. These plans are available online here: <http://www.cob.org/services/neighborhoods/communityplanning/neighborhoodplanning/npas/2009/2009-s1-northern-neighborhood-boundaries.aspx>
NOTE: These neighborhood plans have no new land-use or zoning changes different than the current Mount Baker plan. These draft neighborhood plans will be presented to the planning commission Thursday April 15 at 7pm. They will only be approved and formalized in December when City Council makes its yearly update to the Comprehensive Plan.

IV. Don Hale explained the purpose and main activities of “neighborhood associations” like ours, as opposed to homeowners associations. Membership in the neighborhood association is limited to those who either operate a business in, own property in, or live in the neighborhood. Currently we charge no dues, and you only have to be present at a

meeting to vote on issues. We have a website at www.mtbakerna.org; please join our mailing list there! Don also explained that he recently sold his property in the neighborhood and therefore must resign from his post as president. Duties will revert to past-president Stowe Talbot. Stowe introduced himself and proposed that the two neighborhoods (Irongate and Barkley) continue to meet jointly for the remaining three quarterly meeting this year. Then, we can start meeting separately starting in 2011 when the split is official. Meantime, we will try to enlist the services of two or three interested people from Irongate and Barkley each, to serve as officers of each neighborhood association respectively. Then we can register the new associations with the State by the end of the year.

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stowe Talbot

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 18th, 7:00 pm. at the BIA Building in Irongate.