

3/8/22 - With submitted corrections

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

7:00 - 9:00 pm via 'Zoom'

Present included: John Hymas, Todd Lagestee, Alex McLean, Sheilagh Brown, Kathy Hosigneger, Margo Hammond, Bobbi Vollendorff, Hue Beattie, James Spaich, Bridget Galati + kids, Pat Burnett, Wendy Scherrer, Jennifer Tennessen, **Jake Charlton**.

1. Welcome + Introductions

Alex welcomed all and lead introductions.

2. Treasurer Report: Bobbi, Treasurer

Totals from WECU accounts:

- Checking account: HV Membership account = \$324.58
- Savings accounts:
 - Tree account = \$3157.40
 - Grant account = \$0.24
 - HV business account \$1181.67

Note: \$230 in the Tree account needs to be moved to the Membership account. Bobbi will do this soon.

Additional information:

Bobbi completed the annual renewal of the HVNA non-profit status for the State of WA. She spent many hours on the phone trying to get through. No answer, so filed online, and sent the check (\$20, signed and dated) by the deadline.

3. Approve Minutes

2022 - Jan minutes to approve.

- Motion = John motioned to approve. Wendy 2nded. All voted aye. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

2021– Aug, Nov, Dec minutes to approve.

- Motion = Motion to approve. Wendy 2nded. All voted aye. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

AGENDA

1) Reorganization #1 – What is a HVNA Newsletter?

Digital vs. Print, Outreach vs. Information

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Alex can remember a newsletter only twice in the last 4 years. It takes a lot of work and money to create. Question to the board: Should we shift to a digital newsletter on what Happy Valley is doing? A potential outreach tool, let people know we exist, explain our issues we are working on. He has seen digital newsletters from Columbia and South Hill neighborhoods.

Comments:

- Even digitally it takes a lot of work.
- Older people may like to hold and read a paper newsletter.
- One person expressed enjoyment writing articles for past newsletters.
- It is work yet might as well make a hard copy of the digital.
- One person supported a process which, upon request, would print a newsletter for people who would like a printed version. (i.e. if they don't have a printer.)
- Minimal frequency – quarterly.
- Digital distribution – MailChimp (yes still current with emails) and perhaps via our HV website.
- City provides no technical support for newsletters. Perhaps the new HV Pres could speak with other neighborhoods to put together a request to the City to sponsor neighborhood communications with each other.
- Thank you to everyone who has worked on past newsletters, articles, etc.
- Believe a paper newsletter entails extra costs, so a hard sell.
- The City may have paid us for threshold documents. This comes out of \$500 which we are given at the beginning of the year. This could be used for communications, such as newsletters.
- Stretching people too thin in our group?
- Perhaps a good idea would be to list the HV initiatives and the various people working on these.
- More issue driven commentary.
- Is this a good subject for MNAC? Print or digital or both. How to afford?
- Pat showed his WCERTE website. Free and easy to create and use. He offered to create a site for HV. Our website is old. This could be for storing of documents also. We could store a digital newsletters and these would be able to be printed off. We could keep this private for HV or public facing.
- Alex mentioned that this might be good as we don't have our community meals. Liked monthly newsletter.
- Previously we had quarterly newsletters.
- Margo liked the idea of issue driven newsletters, i.e. prior to a tree fundraiser, to use them to forward our agendas.
- Alex added perhaps focused topics.
- Bobbi likes the idea of using newsletters on things we are working on, i.e. Douglas street ROW.
- John comment on newsletter distributed to spread upcoming information, i.e. tree planting. Additionally, it could reach more people in our neighborhood. Our neighborhood needs another connection, such as a newsletter.
- Wendy commented the HV website should include HV all events: Schedule of events (how, when where), issues and contacts, etc.
- A recommendation to work together with putting together a newsletter.
- Alex said not more than quarterly as a newsletter is a lot of work to produce.

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- Suggestion 1: Present ideas for a newsletter.
- Suggestion 2: How about a call for collection of articles? Then we can move these ideas forward. Yes. Bring articles to the next meeting.
- Suggestion 3: Hue liked Pat's suggestion of the newsletter. A thank you to Pat.
- Hue commented that the City Communications could have our website noted, i.e. in engineering notices related to HV, etc.
- Addition of our HV website to the City website. Someone noted that a link for HV is already on the COB website. (Need to confirm.)

2) Reorganization #2 – Volunteering vs. Advocacy and Activism?

HVNA in an era of dysfunctional local government

Friction points. Perhaps we are not as efficient as we should be.

- City Finances
 - The C.O.B. has much money available; \$53 million in their general fund reserve fund.
 - Last year, COB showed a deficit budget. The remaining 2021 scheduled furloughs for employees had to be cancelled as it looked so bad.
 - They have the money, so they should pay for work, not volunteerism.
 - A surplus, yet
 - A failing level of service for parks.
 - REIT money accepted from developments
 - We shouldn't spend 800 hours of neighborhood volunteer time to build a trail, (i.e. the Larrabee ROW.)
 - We need to identify issues, as the City has money. Please help.
- Advocacy
 - Advocacy
 - Advocacy when we want to attract someone to your point of view.
 - Advocacy can be a personal issue.
 - Advocacy as a board member
 - As a board member we can be an advocate if we vote together.
 - We shouldn't advocate for an individual issue as a board member.
 - Note that there is power as an individual. The count of all the comments is valued. The HV board counts as one opinion. So, there is power of numbers with individuals who can additionally comment.
 - Advocacy and activism as a board member
 - Both can still happen while being a board member.
 - Power of numbers, we should be involved in any way we can to help accomplish issues that are important to us.
 - As an individual member, can we speak out? Yes, this shouldn't restrict one from speaking out. Also, ideas can be brought to the board and see if there is support for board agreement.
 - Examples as local items, such as street improvements.

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- Historically the City has respected us. We need to speak out more. Especially during this time of Covid. A newsletter could communicate and inspire the newer generation.

3) Reorganization #3 – Board Elections and Committees

What are the roles, duties, and functions of HVNA's various volunteer positions and endeavors?

Do we need a "ROW Committee," a reinvigoration of "Mill Street," addition of a "32nd Street" committee?

(Editor note: Content rearranged in order for consistency.)

Review of **Current** slate of people in HVNA officer roles:

- **Board Roles – review of current holders**
 - Treasurer – Bobbi volunteered to stay on in this role.
 - Vice President - Hue – would like to step down.
 - Secretary – Margo will stay in this role.
 - President – No takers at this time for the President role. (Note: Alex indicated he would like to stepdown at the Jan. Board Meeting.)
- **Board Members:** People interested in joining the board:
 - Debbie Garrett – Interested in rewriting the Bylaws, and work with Padden Tree Alliance. (Per Wendy.)
 - Sheilagh – Previously helped write our HV tree infrastructure plan.
 - Pat Burnett – Interested in spreading the word of HV and creating a HV newsletter.
 - Kathy - Interested in the Housing Committee.
 - Note: People not interested in participants at this time: Shovia, Jenny, Bridget. (Per Wendy.)
- **Board details**
 - Wendy reviewed the responsibilities of a board member:
 - Attend board meetings, and
 - Be on a committee.
 - Hue offered a review of voting options.
 - Bobbi read the bylaws to confirm the number of board members: 5 people minimum, 15 max.
- **Committees:**
 - Tree and Trails committee – John will continue his work.
 - Padden Creek Alliance - Sully want to stay on to the board and continue his work with PCA. (Per Wendy.)
- **MNAC**
 - Jake – To continue.
 - Bobbi – To continue.

Review of **2022** slate of people in HVNA roles:

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- **Officers**
 - Discussion
 - Vice President position. As Hue is stepping down, who to fill this role? Margo nominated Pat for this role. John concurred.
 - President – Alex will continue in this role for one more year.
 - Confirmation of slate / Voting
 - Motion – Wendy moves for approval of the new slate board officers: Bobbi, Pat, Alex, Margo. John seconded. All voted aye in favor. Motion passes.
- **Board Members**
 - No additional discussion
 - Confirmation of slate / Voting
 - Motion – Wendy made a motion to vote in the 2022 slate of board members. (As noted above.) Alex and Bobbie seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- **Committee review**
 - Discussion - Any new committees?
 - Addressed revisiting the Mill Ave. committee. Yes, Jennifer to reactivate.
 - Addressed a new committee regarding personal transportation in the neighborhood. Creation of a Pedestrians, Sidewalks, Bikes, Trails committee. This committee moniker may evolve.
 - Confirmation of slate of committee and members
 - Trees, trails and street – James, John, Sheilagh – Split
 - Tree committee – Fundraising - Wendy
 - HVNA website – Jake, Pat, John Hatten (not present)
 - Housing Committee – Wendy, Kathy
 - Newsletter – Pat, Bobbi, Jake
 - MNAC – Jake, Bobbi
 - Mill Ave. committee – Jennifer
 - Pedestrians, Sidewalks, Bikes, Trails (or so named) - James, Bridget,
 - Voting
 - Motion – To approve the above slate of committee and members. All agreed. Motion passes.
- **Additional - Review of check signers**
 - Current slate: Aaron, Hue, and Wendy.
 - Discussion: Aaron just resigned his participation with HVNA, which includes this role.
 - Confirmation of slate / Voting
 - Motion – James moves to add Alex to check signing. Pat seconded. All voted to agree. Motion passes.

Old/New Business

(Editor note: Comments were organized to fit to fit in old and new business categories.)

Old Business

- Hospice property - Alex

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- Lane and Nicole
- Will return the map to them with no new additions.
- Plan submittal back to Parks/Laine Potter regarding the Hospice House parcel
- Post office boxes - Todd
 - Todd reviewed his work on the mailbox issue.
 - Michael Lilliquist admitted there is an issue.
 - Todd will move forward with writing an updated RCW.
 - Motion = Hue makes a motion for HVNA to support the requirement for locking mailboxes installation by landlords. Todd Seconded. Aye from all. Motion passes.
 - Motion = Alex introduced a motion to send Michael Lilliquist this information. Seconded. Vote on the floor response = Aye. Todd will send out his previously written RCW to him right now.

New Business

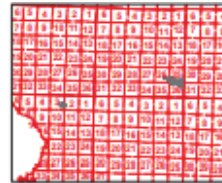
- Possible meeting speaker - Alex reported on a possible guest for March: Seth Vidana, Climate and Energy Manager, Public Works. New position with the City. Alex will reach out to him for next month.
- Possible meeting topic- Alex asked on thoughts who and what is on the ballot this year.
- Hue reported that last Monday night, the council passed a resolution for energy standards for Bellingham buildings.
- Kathy brought up the idea of a Climate Committee for HVNA.
- Housing
 - Todd brought up that there is \$8 million in the COB Home Fund. He would like to talk with Kathy and Wendy about housing funds as they are on the Housing Committee.
 - Todd joined the housing committee
 - Housing for the city needs to comply with the Marty v. City of Boise decision.
- Todd gave a voting update on the election underway this evening: The COB school bond is currently failing.
- Bessie Sorts Lumber sale – Todd gave an introduction of this issue.
 - The City has not taken a stance in reducing logging in the watershed.
 - Todd wrote a letter of descent and forwarded it to many orgs.
 - Some of this timber is close to 100 years old.
 - Climate Change issues: Carbon sequestering in the atmosphere
 - Motion = Todd motions to authorize himself and Alex to write a letter on behalf of the HVNA in support of this forest protection. Hue seconds this. Aye vote. Motion passes.
 - This is a natural reseeded 40 acres, so it has a better diversity of plants and wildlife in it.
 - Bobbi is happy that this was brought up and grateful that Todd is working on it.
 - Logging in the watershed is not good.
 - Est. 3 million dollars, Bessie 1 and Bessie 2.
 - Current lawsuit to about DNR logging for trust funds for the schools. Yet, this is natural resource is for all people.

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- Motion = Wendy makes the motion to have Todd keep us up updated on this timber sale as it is an important issue. Hue seconds. All in favor = Aye. Motion passes. Todd will send an update email soon.

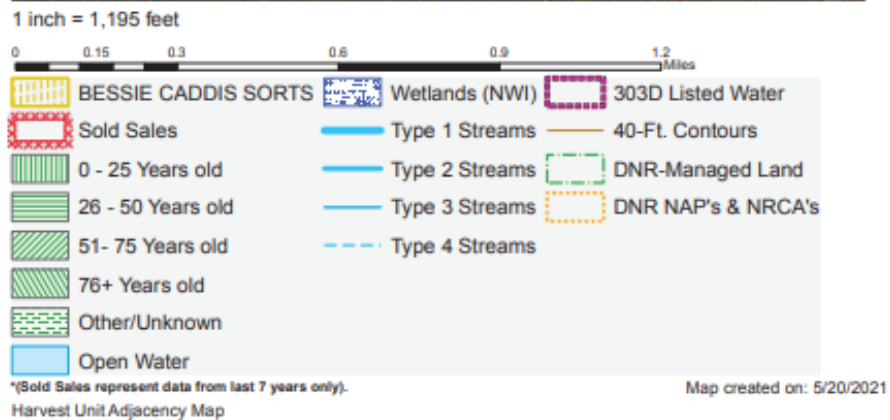
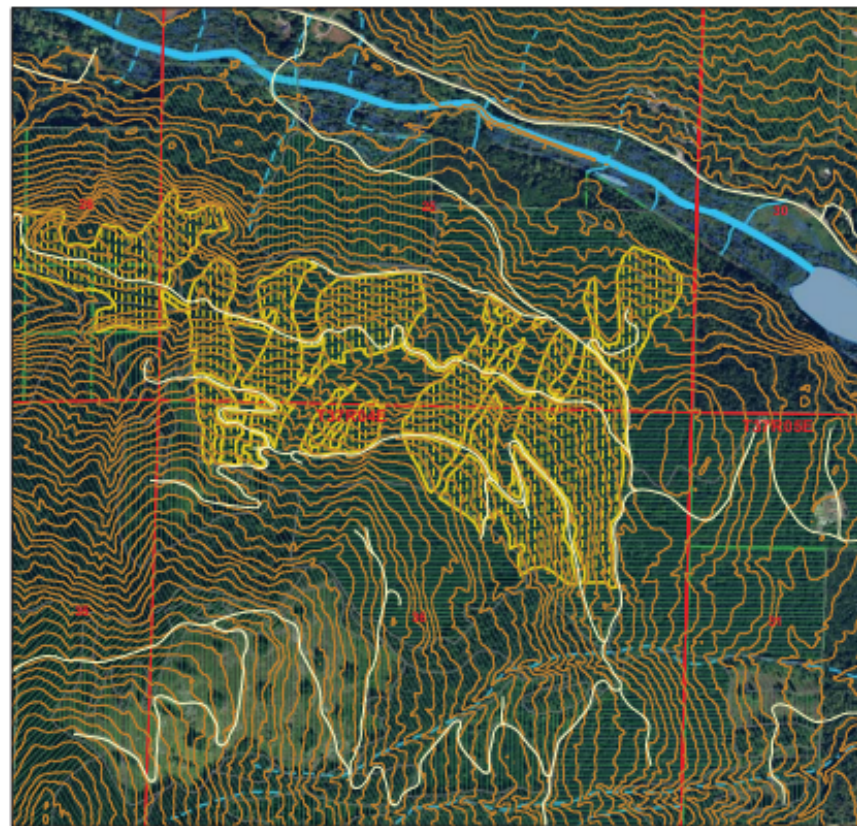
(Editor note: Below is a visual of the Bessie Caddis Sorts Stand.)

Sale Name: BESSIE CADDIS SORTS
Sale District: HAMILTON District
Sale Date: January, 2022
Sale (centered on) Activity ID: 324454
Sale Location: T36R03E 2, 3, T37R04E 25, 26, 36



This color map is produced by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), for discussion purposes only. If the copy you have is black and white, some of the information may not read correctly. Wetland locations are from the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) database. They are incomplete and may need field verification. The source data for this map is stored on the DNR's Geographic Information System. Although the DNR makes every reasonable effort to keep such data current, it cannot and does not accept liability for any errors or omissions. No warranty accompanies this material. REFER TO SEPA CHECKLIST FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL.





COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. HVNA website: Jake
- B. Trees, Trails and Streets: John. Wendy reported a street tree planting work day is upcoming.
- C. Housing: Wendy
 - Varsity Village Reimagined. The Housing Committee is hosting the UW Urban Planning graduate class for a 5-year plan for new site plan. This Saturdays agenda: 10am-12, Co-Housing meeting and tour of Co-Housing and Matthei Place in addition to Varsity Village.

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- Another local environmental event: Padden Creek Alliance, Zoom meeting Dept of Fish and Wildlife and COB. This coming Tuesday night. City is going to have an open house on rerouting the Creek, Phase 1 project. Email Wendy any questions.
- D. Newsletter
- E. MNAC: Bobbi/Jake.
- Jake reported that motorhome towing is now underway once a 72-hr. parking period is exceeded. The area near the fish hatchery was just cleaned up. There was a comment that this will just be moving the mess around instead of permanently cleaning up the streets.

CLOSING

- Alex thanks everyone for an interesting meeting. "I think we got some stuff done."
- A special thank you to our new board members.
- Alex closed the meeting.

Next HVNA Board meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.

And, the discussion continued:

- Website - Send emails to Pat to put items on the new web bulletin board.
- Mailbox - Todd will help with mailbox issues. This affects the low income population with late fees if their bills are stolen in the mail, and this would be a burden to pay.
- Fire safety - Todd reminded people of Fire safety: Change clocks, smoke detector, CO detectors batteries all at the same time.
- Newsletter column - Todd suggested that perhaps he can write a public safety column for the newsletter.
- More Bessie Sorts discussion - Todd reported that the Bessie lumber sale, though ongoing, has actually been delayed. This shows that an impact has been made with community advocacy. Hue hopes a reduction in logging results in the water levels in Lake Whatcom to go up.
- Homeless in motorhomes and where can they safely park. Wendy asked Alex about speaking with the owner of the old movie theatre in HV about parking trailers there? Alex has spent about 10 hours already checking on this possibility.
- Possible speaker idea. Our new City Council member [Kristina Michele Martens](#). She could learn about us, and we could learn about her. In the coming months. Alex, will put her on notice.
- Meeting comments
 - Hue mentioned this was "like the old days, sitting around Debbie's table drinking beer."
 - A barn burner.
 - **Thanks all for the good meeting!**

Corrections:

Received March 8th:

Re: HVNA Minutes - Feb



Jake Charlton <jakecharlton@gmail.com>

1:59 PM



To: margo hammond

Nearly the last line, about idea of the new City Council member learning more about our neighborhood, did you mean Kristina Michele Martens - <https://cob.org/gov/council/contacts-bios> ?

HVNA website – Jake, Pat, John Patten

John Hatten is the name of the guy who manages the email list and a few other things.

Received March 8th:

Re: HVNA Minutes - Feb



Hue Beattie <beattiehue@gmail.com>

1:00 PM



To: margo hammond

Thank you for your kind note.

Reviewing the minutes ; only a typo on page 5 John Hatten not Patten

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