

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
7:00 - 9:00 pm via 'Zoom'

Present included: Richard "Sully" Sullivan, Alex McLean, Margo Hammond, Jake Charlton, Bobbi Vollendorff, James Spaich, Pat Burnett, Wendy Scherrer, Nick and Bridget Galati & family, Sheilagh Brown, MJ Raikes, Daniel Kirkpatrick, Jake Charlton, Dunham, Hue Beattie,

Guests: Seth Vidana

1. Welcome + Introductions

Alex welcomed all.

2. Treasurer Report: Bobbi, Treasurer

Totals from WECU accounts:

- Checking account: HV Membership account = \$534.58
- Savings accounts:
 - Tree account = \$2220.64
 - Grant account = \$0.24
 - HV business account \$1181.67

3. Approve Minutes: February Minutes

Motion made for approval, seconded, and approved.

AGENDA

- 1) Seth Vidana** -- Climate and Energy Manager for the City of Bellingham – Seth will introduce us to the Climate Action Fund, address how HVNA can engage with it, and follow up with a Q and A.

Alex was interested if there was some synergy with HVNA and the Climate Action Fund.

Seth presented on the proposed Climate Action Fund.

Goals

1. Reduce carbon pollution as quickly as is feasible to meet Bellingham's emissions reduction targets;
2. Adapt to a changing climate including extreme weather events;
3. Serve our most vulnerable populations first.

Proposed areas of investment

- Renewable power procurement
 - 10% of population is enrolled in voluntary green power programs
 - Focus for the rest of the 90%

- Wind, solar for all electrical usage.
 - Washington State also has a related program SEDA
- Electrification and Energy Efficiency
 - Convert buildings - Heat pumps, insulation, etc.
 - Residential buildings
 - Commercial buildings
 - Labor and skill gap, so working with educational facilities for training
- Electric vehicle infrastructure & Adoption
 - Commercial - buses
 - Personal – Providing charging stations,
 - Education
- Adaptation
 - Increment weather shelters – for vulnerable populations, i.e. Homeless, BIPOC, elderly
 - Public Services – library, etc.
 - Trees

Timeline

- Target to get on the 2022 ballot and try to start to get property tax income in 2023.

Questions

- Q – Timeline of Funding and implementation goals . A – 7 or 10 years.
- Q - Grants: Could we get state funding as we have our own climate funding? A - Not sure. Yet, having a fund would help us get more dollars to expand existing programs. (State, govt or private dollars.) Leverage our dollars with more from other sources.
- Q – Synergy to getting people out of vehicles for our infrastructure for trails and sidewalks development. A - No answer on this topic.
- Comment – Trees – A program around trees is a desired outcome from the many focus groups conducted. Access to dollars for this.
- Q – Has the COB set any annual goals for city-owned buildings for solar and wind? i.e. more solar panels on the Farmers Market. School buildings, i.e. Sehome High School. A - Yes, i.e. carbon reduction goals, 40% reduction by 2030. The 2023 version of the plan will have more smaller resolution goals. Yes, broad to more defined goals are needed.
- Comment: HV 7000 people – largest neighborhood. Largest college. Largest high school. College students, WWU employees, etc. Disconnect with city, schools, and neighborhood. Safe Schools.
- How can we work interdisciplinary departments (Parks, Public Works, Schools, etc.) to get towards the goal of this Climate Plan? Can we think outside the department box to get the goals accomplished? Ground up actions from the neighborhood. A - Perhaps

small grants for neighborhoods. Perhaps WWU – Lindsey at WWU could be an opportunity.

- Comment - Varsity Village – future planning underway. Would appreciate coordination with this program.
- Q – Climate Funding and transportation / bike and walking infrastructure separate and unlinked at the COB level. Sustainable, yet the focus should be at reduction of consumption as well. Asking/ Pleading / Begging with you to link the Climate Action fund and multi-modal transportation. Make it a comprehensive process instead of a silo'd process. A - Transportation Improvement Fund was already voted in, and that is where this type of infrastructure is addressed.
- Q – Isn't biomass consider green energy, i.e. cows. Included with wind and solar? A – Looking at all options. Yes.
- Q – CNG – Trying to “protect consumer choice”, as they will eventually be phased out, and losing their business. A – COB has met with CNG to explain COB goals.
- Q – 100 Acre Woods – Municipal Park District. – Sunsetting of taxing. Can we keep it going? Hue commented that the plan was to sunset, sometimes next year. City moving towards MPD instead of another Greenways Fund.
- Q – Heat pump conversion funding support for single family house? Or other alternatives? A – The Community Energy Challenge – an assessment and funding opportunities with state and local. Lucky to have a working program like this.

Closing

- Seth appreciates everyone passion, comments, and support of this proposed Climate Action Fund.
- Additional related speakers
 - Save Streets – Chris Como – COB Transportation Planner could speak with TIP and safe routes.
 - Natural Resources – Analee Burns – Trees and infrastructure.

2) Brainstorm for Elwood “surplus” property – There's schemes for a guerrilla insurgency afoot on 32nd Street, and the Elwood parcel may be the first target

Q – Idea of monthly or weekly clean-up of this property?

- Nick is trying to form a student work group for labor. May have interest.
- Embarrass the COB into doing something on this site, or what they should do this.
- Park Dept has a park steward program. On the COB website.
- Public Works doesn't have a park steward program. No development on ROW.
- Lawyer said no, don't go there. Storm water usage.
- How about creating a solid plan: aggressive invasive removal, plant more trees. A restoration plan: Preparation, planting and maintenance. Perhaps the HV Tree Committee could create this. Combine with the COB Tree Master Plan, then this

would be a win/win. Meet with Parks and Public Works, no to this, yet perhaps yes to this idea.

- Can this be developed or sold? It has an address on Google Maps.
- Discussion outcome: “Guerilla action with moderation.”

- 3) What can we do to improve WWU’s stormwater detention acreage?** – The 22nd Street ROW, behind “JJ’s” mini-mart off of Douglas Ave and leading to WWU and Bill MacDonald Pkwy, has trail connectivity handicaps and is an outright ecological disaster – it is utterly infested with invasive species when it should be one of the most gorgeous and interesting Public Parks in the city. See link for reference:

<https://maps.cob.org/Geocortex/Essentials//REST/TempFiles/CityIQ-Land-Parcel-Report-370201520321?guid=f8125f7d-b1e6-4776-9c78-2d8c0f3b3037&contentType=application%2Fpdf>

Proposal: Schedule a day to walk this property to consider how to improve this section. Alex will send an email out for scheduling a good time.

Unique area with water, sequoia trees, surrounded by all the blackberries.

Good eye and vision for finding spaces for improvements and making excellent parts of our neighborhood.

Video propaganda to see what is happening there.

Proposal: Perhaps ask WWU to ask about the interface of WWU and HV. Facilities, compost, ROW, long-house, garbage pickup at storm water area. Send questions to Alex. Why did WWU stop pursuing a presence on the GP site? Hue let us know that the Port of Bham didn’t get NOAH to move to the site, and hence WWU dropped their interest.) Chris Roselli – WWU Communications could be a good speaker too.

Old/New Business

> 27th Street ROW

- Alex will talk with Nicole – COB Parks Director to see what she has going with this effort.
- Pat had some conversation. Yet what are the next steps to fence removal, and more. Pat would like to be included in this conversation. He wants to make sure that certain individuals are not protecting the public good. “How do we tear down this fence.”
- Wendy would like a plan for removal of invasives and a replanting plan. How do we work with Nicole to come up with a plan? Alex thought she would take care of it: money and action. Parks has built trails and could build this. Alex thinks the Parks Dept should come up with all the planning, information and action. Wendy’s has an expertise in native plants.

> Public Works/Bike Ped Plan for next month

- Public input.
- Next month Public Works + WWU talking about multi-modal transportation.

More new business:

- Hue reported in 8 days, there will be an open house by COB on the Chuckanut Community Forest (100-acre Wood) Plan. Zoom meeting 6:30pm. HV was the most involved in the comments.

<https://engagebellingham.org/chuckanut-community-forest-master-plan>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. HVNA website: Jake
 - Jake needs a list of the committees. MH can send a clip from the minutes to him.
- B. Trees, Trails and Streets: John
 - Last weekend, 6 street trees were planted. Then more plants and trees at the Larrabee ROW, including a hedgerow.
 - Signs up now at the Larrabee ROW at both entrances, and at the pollinator garden.
 - John will be putting up water bags on trees in the summer. Plan for ordering trees in summer for planting in the winter. Reconvene the tree committee in April to make the list of trees needed.
- C. Housing: Wendy
- D. Newsletter: Pat
 - Pat shared a screen shot of a newsletter visual example.
 - Will happily take feedback. "Well done!" "Wonderful." "Pretty cool!"
 - Please be cautious about personal emails posted. Photos need permission.
- E. MNAC: Bobbi/Jake

Meeting End

Hue moves to adjourn. Seconded. Alex closed the meeting.

Next HVNA Board meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.