

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association

May Board Meeting Minutes

May 10th, 2022, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm via 'Zoom'

Present:

Bobbi Vollendorf, Pat Burnett, Kathy Hasenjaeger, Wendy Scherrer, Shelagh Brown, Hue Beattie, Mary Raikes, Tip Johnson, Charles Wandler, Jake Charlton, Richard 'Sulli' Sullivan, Margo Hammond.

Guest: Greg Hope, Office of Emergency Management, City of Bellingham

Initial Meeting Actions

1. Welcome + Introduction – Pat, V.P
Pat welcomed all. He explained that he is chairing this meeting as Alex was speaking to another Neighborhood Association this evening.
2. Treasurer Report – Bobbi, Treasurer
 - Membership Checking acct = \$591.52
 - Business HV Savings acct = \$1181.82
 - Grant Savings acct = \$0.24
 - Tree Savings acct = \$2938.08
3. Approve Minutes – April Minutes
A call for any corrections to the April minutes. As none were offered, then a motion was made and seconded for approval. All board members voted in approval. Margo will document.

AGENDA

1. Greg Hope, Office of Emergency Management, C.O.B.

Greg was a speaker at our last 'normal meeting' in March 2020, right before COVID-19 hit.

Natural disasters and how to address the related emergencies that evolve

- Greg's introduced the potential for natural disasters in our area and how we can prepare for these possibilities.
- The largest eminent possibility is an effect from the Cascadia Subduction Fault – 800 miles long from B.C. to California. This could trigger an earthquake and a resulting tsunami.

How can we prepare? / Emergency Planning

- Communications –
 - Establish a contact to the East of us. As communication outages will run north and south, the operable communication options will be to the east. Annually do a phone call with this person.
 - Texting will be the main local communication mode.
- Have a family plan.

- What to do, where to meet, how to communicate, etc.
- During the school day, kids will stay there. The reunification process will be orderly and handled in a structured manner: released to a parent or emergency contact.

Plan for impacts when a disaster happens.

- Quantify needs
 - Identify special needs: trained service animal, walker, other needs.
 - Identify daily functional needs: eyeglasses, contacts, etc.
- Review at the household level – how to function with limited resources
 - Establish a toilet plan (bucket, toilet modification,
 - Water is critical. Everyone should be storing a gallon of water per person per day for two weeks.
 - Cooking – Fuel for a camp stove. Test it out.
 - Stock up on your pantry. Rotate items.
 - Fun things for kids.
- Transportation impacts –
- Safety issues - Debris of all kinds – In your house, flooding, old buildings, etc.
- Stock up on your pantry. Rotate items
- Review preparation books, and more local resources.

Message: Please share this information to the entire community.

Perspective on a time in emergency

- Realize that a time in within our history there was a time people lived without any services.
- In 1870 was the most recent time where people lived before sewage, electricity, etc.
- Times had challenges, as 8 to 10 trips to bring water inside, 50 lbs. wood or coal used every day.
- And they lived a good life.
- So, it is important to realize that we can have a good life even in a time of disaster.

C.O.B actions

- Working to set up Trusted Network for communications in languages other than English.
- Compiling a list of individuals with competence in English and a non-English language.

Message: Are there are people in our neighborhood that are bilingual. Could they be on this team?

Discussion:

- Bobbi – If possible, could we have Greg return for a deeper dive on some of these issues. As each neighborhood is the first line of defense.
- > Greg - Is happy to return and talk about specifics, i.e., water.
- Sulli – Commented on outrunning a Tsunami.
- > Greg – Spoke on a tsunami created from the Cascadia Subjection Zone. 2 ¼ hours after the earthquake before the tsunami hits the shore. Other things can produce a tsunami, such as a landslide, an underwater landslide, other faults. When you hear the tsunami alarm, then get up to a higher elevation. In HV, up to 10th St. will meet the 14' est. wave.
- Bobbi – Spoke of landslides, such as the Greyhomme apt complex above her house on the Knox hill.

- > Greg – We have good seismic code on buildings here. The Planning Dept. has seismic improvements for a house. Perhaps they could comment on this apt complex to see if there were seismic improvements done.
- Tip – Asked about local scenarios for a quake, specific for certain areas, i.e. Chuckanut Mt.
- > Greg – No studies identifying landslide and cliffside exposure.
- A Cascadia Subduction event is anticipated to last 4-5 minutes. 9.2 anticipated event. A very long time!!
- Practice with various scenarios. Such as a 24-hour blackout from electricity. A fun thing is getting the family around the table and then shake the table for an entire minute. It is an eye-opener how long this event could be.
- Tip – 7.8 Nepal disaster.
- > Greg - The seismic scale is logarithmic.
- Hue – Spoke of overpasses in CA.
- > Greg – 1989 – Loma Linda, CA event. The recovery effort when on for 20-25 years, wrapping up ~2013. Some FEMA people worked their entire career on this one event.
- > Greg - Balancing between safety preparedness and economic development. We are not ready for a low frequency high level event. Expensive to prepare for (i.e. overstaff of firefighters for this.) Benefits weighed against risk.
- Hue – Drought with wind we would have a disaster. Lake Whatcom management is needed.
- > Greg – Some of our beauty is also cause for disaster. i.e. large trees.
- > Greg – Thanks for all the good questions.

Thank you to Greg!

2. Urban Forestry Management Plan

Pat highlighted information on the HV website about the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

C.O.B. is looking for community input on this plan. There are various ways to participate:

- ***To promote this plan the City is hosting an in-person open house on May 15th, 1-3pm, Sunday at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave.***
- ***There will be an online open house May 18th 6:30-8pm, Wednesday.***

Discussion:

- Wendy shared as she is participating. Spoke of sharing the work in the HV Neighborhood Plan. Should we have a HV neighborhood response? or just work as individuals?
- Bobbi says individual comments are more important as it will be counted a one each vote vs. being lumping into only one neighborhood vote. Better coalescing our thoughts and communicating out as an individual with a uniform message.
- Tip agreed with strength in numbers.
- Hue shared comments on the Lidar, as it is old and needs to be updated.
- Pat – Could the Tree Committee write a statement and share with us?
- **Action item: Could the Tree Committee write a statement in regard to the Urban Forestry Management Plan? This could be a resource to HVNA members to communicate with a uniform message.**

Approved 6/14/22 at June Board meeting.

- Wendy and Shelagh would work together and prepare some talking points.
- Wendy said it is important to us to communicate in this process. We can benefit from their larger plan, and they can benefit from our successes we have had within the neighborhood.
- Pat – Lidar map location?
- Bobbi – 2010 HV Neighborhood Plan has this map. It is on the C.O.B. website.
- Pat – Will try to find this plan and post.

3) Varsity Village

Wendy updated on the progress.

University of Washington Planning Program students will come up with an idea for an update to Varsity Village housing and present to the housing authority. This is an academic exercise. In 5 years, this site financing will end. This is not a public process. This is an underdeveloped 10-acre piece of property.

Two meetings have occurred so far.

1. Meeting 1 – HV tours, visiting with COB staff. UW Students + staff.
2. Meeting 2 – 2nd only 3 people from Varsity Village attended.

3. Meeting 3 – May 23rd, Monday, Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 6:30pm

Discussion:

- Hue – Was there mention of his idea of incorporating an edible landscape?
- Wendy – Yes, this was discussed, including addition of fruit trees.
- **Wendy – Invited all to attend Meeting 3.**

Old/New Business

27th St. ROW Bike/Ped and related

HV Walk with Chris Roselli, WWU

- Bobbi went on this walk and commented on it.
- Jennifer prepared this walking route.
- Talked about Western’s role in protecting student population. Talked about working together with HV to create good transportation routes. Chris mentioned a good time for WWU planning. Sometimes look for partners in grants. Bobbi will meet with him again the week of the 23rd.
- Pat mentioned that this is an obvious connection, so happy this is happening.

HV Elementary School Walk

- Will have a joint walk with the Parks.

HV Volunteer Opportunities

Website update

- The HV Website has a Volunteer Opportunities section now. Info and sign up.

- www.volunteerbellingham.org
- Thanks Pat.

HV Work Parties

- **June 4th 9am-noon is the next Connelly Creek North work party.**
- Register online or contact Alex.

Happy Valley history

- Hue described a new initiative in documenting the stories of Happy Valley.
- How did the Connelly Creek Nature area come about? George Hunsby's input back in the 30's.
- Hoag's Pond – Nature area? No, the gravel was removed to sell, then became a pond.
- 100-acre woods. The trials of how this came about.
- Then new residents could read it.
- **The new Happy Valley history club –To meet monthly at the Firehouse Café. All welcome.**

Committee Reports

A. HVNA website – Jake

- Archive board meeting minutes – Margo will make available to the website team.
- Pat and Jake had an hour meeting about how move forward. Pat working in the Google format and then will work with Jake to clean up to make it more public facing.
- Pat shared how he is compiling information.

B. Trees, Trails, and Streets – John

- Next meeting May 17th at 5pm. At Shelagh's house.
- Wendy recommends that on our website that there should be a prominent tree section. A tree tab. Then it makes more transparent what we are doing: planting, watering, etc. Include how to donate – small and large donations.
- Good to get with John to find out the plan for the year.
- Good to create the tab and spread the information to our HV neighbors. Lively happening current information would make this valid and good to share.

C. Housing – Wendy

- Varsity Village project.
- Donovan blight house discussed as an idea to add to HV park.
- Recently the COB put up signs to restrict parking on Donovan. This minimizes usage of the park.

D. Newsletter – Pat

- Tied in with website.
- Google site is being used as our newsletter/current information site now.

Approved 6/14/22 at June Board meeting.

E. MNAC – Bobbi/Jake

- Invite diversity of housing with land use of parks, housing.
- It would be worth inviting Reis Southworth to go on a walk in the neighborhood.

Additional:

- ***Hue will have a 76th birthday party October the 4th at 4pm.*** The upper pavilion has been rented. So, all come on over! Bagels and coffee 10am, Guests at 2pm, neighborhood at 4pm. Mark your calendar!
- Clare Dykeman recently died. She helped with environmental education. Along w/Binda Colbert.
- ***Wendy is having a garage sale, this Sat 10-3pm***
- Native Plant Society – Sale soon.
- Hue – Electric School busses – solar panels – then a bus could power a school.
- Community Solar for the Lutheran Church? PSE monopoly? Bobbi - Western Solar is working on this, but a problem.
- Lutheran Church would like to start the community meals again.
- ***Jake 40th birthday celebration during Ski-to Sea weekend. Celebrate!***

Next HVNA board Meeting:

June 14th 7pm., Tuesday. Featuring Safe School Routes with Jessica Sankey, Bellingham School District.

Location: In person? Perhaps meet outside when warmer.

Zoom Meeting Chat Log:

Approved 6/14/22 at June Board meeting.

Greg Hope

7:31:57 PM

Disaster Ready Washington

<https://mil.wa.gov/preparedness>

Prepare in a Year

<https://mil.wa.gov/asset/5f171cc0a935f>

Preparedness Publications, Links, and Videos

<https://mil.wa.gov/publications>

Map Your Neighborhood

<https://mil.wa.gov/map-your-neighborhood>

Community Emergency Response Team

whatcomcert.org

FEMA Preparedness Resources

<http://ready.gov>

2020 National Household Survey

<https://community.fema.gov/story/2020-NHS-Data-Digest-Summary-Results>

360.778.8443

oem@cob.org

<http://cob.org/services/safety/emergencies>

Pat Burnett (he,him)

Approved 6/14/22 at June Board meeting.

8:02:44 PM

<https://sites.google.com/view/happy-valley-neighborhood-asso/2022-may-meeting>

Margo H.

8:06:56 PM

Thank you.

Greg Hope

8:07:07 PM

Good night, all! Thank you for allowing me to join you. My contact info has been added to your meeting agenda and I'll be happy to hear from any of you!

Margo H.

8:07:42 PM

Thanks for being here!

Jake

8:08:13 PM

I think this is our neighborhood plan under current discussion:

<https://cob.org/wp-content/uploads/happy-valley.pdf>

Margo H.

8:41:27 PM

Here is the request I sent to Michael Lilliquist for the park idea:

Hello Michael,

Addressing the current Greenway project priority of "Acquire a Neighborhood Park in Happy Valley", there is a piece of property for sale right next to the current Happy Valley Park which may be a fit. The house at 2710 Donovan Ave., which is currently for sale, abuts this park. A welcoming entrance to the park could be created from this property, making the park more usable to the community.

Approved 6/14/22 at June Board meeting.

Thank you for your work on the City Council.

- Margo Hammond, HV neighborhood.

Jake

8:42:49 PM

Some background info on Blake Lyon:

<https://cob.org/news/2022/new-planning-and-community-development-director-begins-march-1>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bllyon>