

Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for in-person and Zoom

Attendance:

Wendy Scherrer, Jake Charlton, Margo Hammond, Sheilagh Brown, Hue Beattie, Alex McLean, James Spaich, Bec Nelson, Donna Rushing, Breanna Reynolds, MJ Raikes, Amy (Durbin Court), Michael Lilliquist

1. Welcome + Introductions.

Everyone made introductions.

2. Treasurer Report:

\$5208.15 total from WECU

WCF Tree account: \$26,593.21

3. Approve Minutes: Minutes approval delayed to next meeting.

AGENDA

4. Q&A for City Council member Michael Lilliquist.

Due to city growth primarily occurring on the north side, our ward has moved north a bit from population rebalancing.

On the topic of trees:

Forestry comp plan in 2015 has been implemented.

City tree canopy has been inventoried.

We are now in Phase 3 to set policies to attempt to grow our canopy from 40% to 45% coverage.

Landmark Tree ordinance implemented to try to save the bigger trees in the interim.

Street Trees could add up to 1%, not enough for our goal. Publicly owned land is also not enough to reach our goal.

When we plant street trees, currently we are missing tree wells for roots to grow.

Discussion about Rentals that have completely cleared their lots of trees.

Utility storm-water fees, Commercial is by square footage of the lot, residential is a flat rate.

What to do around Lake Whatcom for older construction that are not up to modern codes?

Possibly offer discounts to utility fees if they update, small percentages.

On the topic of Housing:

A State law was passed that allows up to 4 dwellings per lot. Realistically many cannot have that many.

Supply side isn't a solution to the housing market we have, systemically.

Lands trusts do not scale to systemic levels of affordability.

Trees between Triplexes is a viable way to balance Canopy coverage and density.

State law mandates residential locations must be taxed the same way.

Taxes are not a legal mechanism to address housing.

Capitalism, Democracy, Economy, Government, are not really compatible.

It would cost \$280 Million to add sidewalks and pedestrian paths for all identified missing sidewalks and trails.

\$1.5 million per year in city budget to add those.

27th street is likely to be a trail, which goes through Parks Department.

Kim Lund knows the responsibilities between City Council and Mayor's Office.

5. Grants:

Between signs and communication, about \$7,000 in grants.

Trees Grant, all on private property, 2 addresses along Padden Creek, 1 on 32nd, and the Hospice house, 30-70 trees in total, estimated to cost \$5K.

Run Salmon Run discussed.

Hue suggested a lot of solar opportunity.

Suggestion on posting a sign where salmon spawn.

24th to co-housing is the 3rd section of Padden Creek getting enhanced, July 16th-17th start?

(One we are recommending)

August 5th-7th is the other potential start time.

Next HVNA Board meeting:

August 13th is the next scheduled meeting