

Columbia Neighborhood Association - Board Meeting

Date: May 14, 2025 Time: 6:30 Location: TBD	President: Renee Running Vice President: Maddie Marvin Secretary: OPEN Treasurer: Christina Tawes	Communications: Zoe Harper MNAC Rep: Deb Valentine MNAC Alt: Greg Hope
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Present: Renee, Christina, Deb, Zoe & Maddie (via zoom)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

- i. Current Bank Balance
- ii. Review Budget: [Link to Budget File](#)

Renee explained the new budget document, linked. We have the final total of reimbursement available from the city (\$1000). There are questions surrounding what is reimbursable, like the SS gates and the GT Girls.

We are considering buying 4th of July insurance, and the payment value for the guest speakers for general meetings. Christina's balance report was right on with the spreadsheet.

Maddie raised the question: how low is too low for our bank account to be at? Do we want to set an amount that we're comfortable with?

- Zoe asked how long the city reimbursement process is, and Deb and Christina said that we should be able to submit for that as we go.
- Decided that we will try to submit the SS Gate cost and the Guest Speakers to the City. Projected to have \$1051 in the bank after reimbursements are submitted and approved.

Renee will be submitting the change in officers to the city. The signature Authorization form will need to be completed at the beginning of each year.

We chatted about bringing up the budget at the next general meeting, so that we could engage members in donating money towards the cause of throwing events.

b. President's Report

- i. Internal reimbursement forms - finalize
- ii. Frequency and content on city reimbursement
Renee to submit reimbursement form to the city within the next week. We talked about submitting that form biannually.
- iii. IRS, Annual report & WECU - update
IRS still is not updated with our ID number. Our WECU contact is maybe not working there any more, we're going to have to go in and talk to them.
- iv. Update Givebutter - advertise for donations?
Givebutter is in the process of being updated, but the contact has not reached back out. It does not list us as a verified non-profit.
- v. Way of working suggestion - [action log](#)
Everyone agreed on using this too, we want to check it at the beginning and the end of each board meeting. Could serve as the end of year report as well.

c. MNAC Representative Report

- i. Roster update status
City publishes a roster of the NA's and they have updated it within the city, but they only show our MNAC reps and not our president's contact. Instead it links to our website. Deb had only ever submitted an application to be the secondary MNAC rep, but never submitted an app for the main rep. Technically the mayor has to accept your application, so Deb is going to submit that application, but is still able to attend meetings in the meantime.
We'll tell Greg that he will need to submit an "alternate rep" agenda as well.

City received a grant for Solar Arrays that could maybe power 100 homes.

B-Ham is selected as a "Fan Zone" for the upcoming World Cup, so we as a city are preparing for many visitors.

Lobbying hard at the state level to keep city funding.

1.8mil in projected spending for new city ordinances, we're now at our "Emergency Reserve Floor". 32 full time positions with the fire department are at risk for firing if the federal funding falls through.

Someone next door is making a fuss about the Post Point Water Treatment Plant not being compliant in terms of emissions. It's now under investigation.

Birchwood is going to be hosting a new "tiny home village".

Birchwood is going to lobby for quieter trains within Bellingham just like as accomplished in Fairhaven.

d. Comm Chair's Report

- i. Newsletter

Scheduled to send 5/15/25

- ii. Calendar - updates or additional sharing?
- iii. Facebook - calibration on business posts (Jon ask)

3. 2025 Goals Progress

- Goal 1: Improve communication and host activities that increase participation and interaction amongst our neighbors
- Goal 2: Provide space and information for neighbors to support leading their own neighborhood activities

Strategies	Tactics	Lead	Progress
Shift to more frequent smaller events	Garage Sale	NA	50%
	4th of July	Renee	15%
	Halloween House Map	TBD	0%
Grow share shack activities and interaction	Add security measures and reopen	Maddie	100%
	Kick off event 5/4	All	100%
	Plan monthly summer events	?	40%
Improve publications frequency, style and tools	Build sandwich boards	Jon & Zoe	?
	Develop newsletter template and frequency	Zoe	Done!
	Calendar	Zoe/Renee	Done!
Provide helpful information	Develop block party templates	TBD	0%
	Add more in Q3/Q4		

4. Subcommittees & Activity Leads

- a. Share Shack Committee
 - i. Team: Maddie, Jon, Deb, Christina, Karen
 - ii. Maddie's report
- b. Garage Sale
 - i. Advertising status - facebook / nextdoor
 - ii. Push to register house and deadline - timing?

- iii. Rhonda & Steve (volunteered to help) - what needs do we have?
- iv. Anything else?

c. 4th of July

- i. Team: Desiree, Deb, Christina, Karen, Carla ?
- ii. Report out on subcommittee meeting on 4/15 & 5/13
 \$375 to be spent by Desiree to get permit fee (\$75) park rental (\$150) Gazebo (\$150). Desiree is also taking care of the traffic control plan, closing the streets between 10-12, in contact with the city. She is also gathering sponsors with an early June deadline. We need insurance from the city (\$175) but will for sure be reimbursed by the city. Maddie and Renee will look at the insurance form over.

Need Volunteers for:

- Food Team
- Parade Team
- Fun Team

5. Next General Meeting Planning

a. May Meeting:

- i. Location - ReStore, small room
- ii. Guest Speakers: Bellingham Shipping Terminal, Tiffany DeSimone – confirmed
- iii. NOTE - she will be using a powerpoint - bring equipment!
- iv. Agenda
 - 1. Have goals and tactics on screen
 - 2. Hang up flip chart paper with post its for spontaneous ideas
 - 3. Board talks to people during social hour to get ideas informally
 - 4. Introduction question: “in your ideal world, what would this association be doing?” “what brought you in today?” “how did you hear about us?”

b. August:

- i. Location - Elizabeth Park. Reserved.
- ii. Guest Speakers: Good Time Girl - payment?
 - 1. Or John the Tree Map guy?
 - 2. Candidate for city council Michael Inquist has asked for time - what is our position?

c. November:

- i. Location: ReStore - small room
- ii. Guest Speakers?

6. Adjournment