

Columbia Neighborhood Association - Board Meeting

Date: Sept 10, 2025 Time: 6:30 Location: Elizabeth Station	President: Renee Running Vice President: Maddie Marvin Secretary: OPEN Treasurer: Christina Tawes	Communications: Zoe Harper Member at Large: Jon Running MNAC Rep: Deb Valentine MNAC Alt: Greg Hope
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Agenda

1. Call to Order 6:39

2. Reports

- a. Action Log Review: [Link to Action Log](#)
 - i. None this week
- b. Treasurer's Report
 1. Current Bank Balance: \$1276.03
 2. Balance as of August 30: \$1214.48
- ii. Review Budget: [Link to Budget File](#)
 1. \$60.00 payment due to Restore for November meeting space
 2. \$100.00 payment for web hosting due in December
- iii. Remaining reimbursements for 4th of July?
 1. Reimbursement still pending for Desiree (July 4): \$53.00
- c. President's Report
 - i. Decision needed for Dept of Revenue update timing
 1. SOS and DOR records need to match in order to update bank records at WECU.
 2. Christina and Greg will remain as signatories at WECU until new board officers are seated in 2026 at which time records will be updated.
 3. Roles and responsibilities task list will be updated to include need for SOS and DOR record update.
 - ii. Notifications from City - what is our accountability?
 1. ~~Greg will ask Kate Bemis about links to PDF copies that can be shared in neighborhood.~~ Jon will add link to cob.org/notices onto web page, pin on Facebook.
 - iii. Emergency Response emails from Greg - how do you feel about forwarding to the membership monthly?
 1. Emergency preparedness content from monthly emails will be Included with newsletter.
- d. MNAC Representative Report

- i. The August 20 meeting of the Mayors Neighborhood Advisory Commission took the form of a guided walking tour of middle housing in Bellingham (see attached brochure). The tour was led by Blake Lyon, Director of Planning & Community Development and followed a path through the Lettered Streets neighborhood. At the stops along the route, Blake pointed out a variety of examples of middle housing that range in age from the early 1900s to 2025. Blake explained the variety and complexities of middle housing, from familiar duplexes and apartments to accessory dwelling units and remodeled former single family dwellings. Aspects of future development and middle housing configuration that might concern current residents include elevations (external design) and finishes, height, occupancy maximums, parking, and forms of ownership. Some of these factors can be addressed in the public forum and design guidelines, but others are merely aspects of a free market and freedom of movement within the country. Blake encourages anyone with concerns to describe them to the greatest degree possible in objective terms (e.g., windows will have the longest dimension on the vertical axis and framed trim at least 3 inches in width versus "will be consistent with existing nearby dwellings"). The approach that Bellingham is taking to deal with rapid population growth and the price pressure on housing resulting from inadequate supply for increasing demand includes emphasizing middle housing to yield more dwellings within city limits, streamlining of the permitting process, and flexibility in requirements (e.g., parking) to encourage developers to produce more and smaller dwelling units as rapidly as possible. Growth and development of housing are also taking place outside Bellingham, but our city and the rest of Whatcom County share the need for housing inventory and efforts to increase housing supply on approximately a 50/50 basis. For more information on middle housing in Bellingham, refer to the links below.

<https://cob.org/gov/dept/pcd/middle-housing-in-bellingham>

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6629251709124aef9432b84548ecb33>

<https://cob.org/services/planning/development/city-progress-on-state-legislation-affecting-housing>

<https://engagebellingham.org/bellinghamplan-housing>

e. Comm Chair's Report

- i. Newsletter (sent after monthly board meeting), **Greg will maintain** until new communications volunteer can be found
1. Emergency corner (emphasize Map Your Neighborhood)
 2. Volunteer/Board recruitment
 3. Neighborhood events (**Share Shack [10/5, 10a-2p]**, July 4, Halloween, etc.)
 4. MNAC report

ii. **FB event for membership meeting in November**

1. **Renee will cover this.**

- iii. Idea: welcome postcard to homes just sold

1. Welcome from the association, send newsletter to subscribe, quarterly meetings (Greg will draft, graphics on Google drive)

3. Next Board Recruitment

- a. Brainstorm ideas to get volunteers
 - i. Encouragement, "It doesn't just happen," (emphasize need for volunteers to step forward) canvas at Elizabeth Station, Roam Coffee+Beer, Goods Produce, Menace Brewing, Cascade Pizza, Share Shack [Greg to draft flyer by October]
 - ii. Trivia night at Menace maybe
 - iii. Develop walking/canvassing schedule before November meeting (every week, other week)
 - iv. Social media push
- b. Timing / Appointment Process Planning
 - i.

4. Subcommittees & Activity Leads

- a. Share Shack Committee – Updates
 - i. Successful produce swap on September 7, 10-2, lots of chatting, lingering
 - ii. Next is October 5, harvest festival, actual meaning tbd by committee
 - iii. Many people are still visiting during closed hours, peaking inside the shack, 2 gallons of moisturizer base were recently left unattended and required disposal
 - iv. Immanuel Bible Church has been great host (maybe extend thanks from CNA?)
- b. Map Your Neighborhood / Local Resilience Meetings Program
 - i. Publication "Push" ideas? (Greg to draft DIY guides for MYN and block party)
 - ii. Tips / tricks?

5. Next General Meeting Planning

- a. November: November 18, 6:30, 6:00 social half hour
 - i. Location: ReStore - small room
 - ii. Guest Speakers - Request for WTA - status? Greg will do this. Also check Good Time Girls
 - iii. Conduct poll for Kiosk? Instead consider Share Shack for this purpose.
 - iv. Block party template
 - v. Local resilience

6. New Actions review: [Link to Action Log](#)

7. Adjournment

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	100%
	4th of July	Desiree	100%
	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	Ss committee	40%
Improve publications frequency, style and tools	Build sandwich boards	Jon & Zoe	50%
	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		