

Lettered Streets Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2012

Attending: See Attendance Roster

Minutes submitted by: Kate Ramsden, Secretary

Program: Mayor Kelli Linville and everybodyBIKE's Linda Blake.

Mayor Linville discussed her first few months in the mayoral position and the changes that have occurred. She is focused on developing collaborative relationships with city departments, the county executive, and Port of Bellingham. Some changes have occurred at city hall including the addition of an information desk at the city hall entry way, lesser security presence, and more community outreach. Mayor Linville is also focused on fiscal responsibility. Other issues include Medic One, protection of Lake Whatcom, waterfront redevelopment and a brownfields grant to clean up the waterfront. She responded to audience questions and a discussion about waterfront redevelopment, trains, and train pollution ensued.

Linda Blake is the Outreach Coordinator for everybodyBIKE, which is the biking component of the SmartTrips program, and promotes alternative transportation. From May through August, there will be weekly social bike rides, each of which has a theme and is guided. All ages are encouraged to attend. One of the rides will take riders to Fouts Park, in the Lettered Streets. everybodyBIKE also has free services including bike safety courses, bike rodeos, and home visits to give bike advice.

Other announcements: Nancy Duncan announced that the Bellingham Books to Prisoners program is looking for a new space. Rae Edwards announced that the WSU county extension hosts information on county-wide community garden space (and will be at the meeting in May).

Board Meeting:

Present: Arlene Feld, Kate Ramsden, Howard Steiner, Vince Brown, Rae Edwards, Chris Eltrich, Nancy Duncan, Earl and Carolyn Hutchins, Mike Kimmich

Minutes: February's meeting had been cancelled, but minutes were written to reflect the phone vote to elect Nancy Turner as the new Treasurer. Minutes were read out loud and approved.

Street Trees update: Kate and Arlene met with one of the Street Tree sponsors, Shannon Neufeld, to discuss future sponsorship and community outreach.

Outreach: Articles and ideas are wanted for the upcoming newsletter. Potential ideas include a piece on Elizabeth Station, and the owners of the Acme Farm & Kitchen CSA.

MNAC: Howard Steiner attended the MNAC meeting. Mayor Kelli Linville is now chairing the meetings. The neighborhoods expressed that one of the biggest concerns is communication between the neighborhoods and mayor's office. Additional topics discussed included: the rezone of King Mountain, reimbursement forms are due to the city, the York district historic preservation talk on 3/14, and the city demolishing and rebuilding the fish hatchery.

Treasurer: Vince Brown's last meeting as Treasurer. Nancy Duncan is the new Treasurer. There is currently \$1,703 in the account, with \$360 designated to the street tree fund.

Other: On April 7th, both the Old Village Trail work party and the Lettered Streets Congregational Church Easter Egg hunt will both take place.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2012. Topic will be safety in the neighborhood.