

## Edgemoor Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

June 13, 2013

The Annual meeting held at Lairmont Manor was called to order at approximately 7:00pm by ENA President Lylene Johnson. Lauri Grove recorded the minutes. There was a quorum of the board present. (A smaller than usual group was in attendance for the 2013 Annual Meeting.)

After a round of introductions, Lylene turned the floor over to the first guest speaker of the evening.

### **#1 Guest Speaker: Chief Cook**

Chief Clifford Cook has been head of the City of Bellingham Police Department (BPD) since February 4<sup>th</sup>, four months. He comes to the department with 36 years of law enforcement experience behind him. A career that began in South Detroit moved on to Fort Worth, TX, and most recently Vancouver, WA where he served as Chief of Police for the past 5 years. Cook was impressed with the BPD as a department that “police with heart” and a desire to connect with the community. The officers have a positive attitude, want to do a good job, and spend the time needed. Community Oriented Policing is a philosophy that Chief Cook would like to continue to expand and he expressed satisfaction with the success of the Neighborhood Anti Crime Team. Cook offered there are a few problem areas – staffing is low and budget cuts impose limits. He plans to improve technology and work toward greater efficiency in the office. In conclusion, Chief Cook responded to several questions from the audience that included concern about emergency services, computer scams, fireworks, drug traffic on Samish, and drones... “No we don’t have them we don’t even have a helicopter”.

### **#2 Guest Speaker: Michelle Thomas**

Michelle Thomas is a *whirlwind* working as a dispatcher for 911 emergency services. She attempted to give us an idea of all that goes on behind the scenes. Once a dispatcher answers a call they must first determine whether the caller needs police, fire or medical response and transfer accordingly. For police calls What-Comm-911 is the primary answering point for several areas that include Bellingham and Ferndale. Annually, What-Comm dispatchers receive and make more than 300,000 calls. Michelle has about 7 screens, data bases, radios, phones, and a lot going on at any one time. She offered that dispatcher must be able to handle the stress of juggling multi tasks and about 50% can’t do it. In an intense 10 week program they are specifically trained to follow a standard procedure, carefully question each caller, determine urgency and dispatch police. People don’t always know where they are and it’s so critical to provide accurate information especially about the surroundings. When possible use a land line which will automatically display an address. Michelle told us about a couple of her personal experiences with calls and incidents. She also emphasized the importance of making the call if something seems suspicious. Let them determine if the information is important or not – it may be the missing link to solve a crime. Michelle likes puzzles she is good at piecing together information.

### **#3 Guest Speaker: Jeremy Harper, Kevin Bean**

Neighborhood Anti Crime Team officers Harper and Bean have attended several ENA meetings to keep us informed and be informed of our concerns. They recapped a our complains about speeding, extra patrol at times speeding most occurs, mail theft, vehicle prowls...They want to get to know the neighborhood, fight crime, keep Edgemoor safe, and provide a face to the community. NACT does not respond to 911 calls.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the May meeting were approved as submitted.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved with no additional items

***Treasurers Report: Diane Maclean***

The Annual Budget was presented and approved. Diane offered that we are running low on funds and may need to ask for donations next year. Account Balance \$1555.80

***Summary Report: Lylene Johnson***

Lylene highlighted this past year for ENA.

The Padden Creek development (denied)

The Fairhaven Neighborhood Updated Plan (passed)

The Chuckanut Community Forest Park District (passed)

Edgemoor Neighborhood Updated Plan (not docketed and no benefit to continue)

Coal Trains (continue to inform)

Nextdoor Edgemoor (continues to grow)

Lylene reminded neighbors to get out on Neighborhood Night Out to start talking and get to know each other. Friendly neighbors keep the community safe.

***Elections***

Bernie Waltz, Lylene Johnson, Lauri Grove, and Sandie Koplowitz were elected or re-elected to the board.

***Closing:***

The meeting was adjourned around 8:30pm

Refreshments were served.

Reminder - no meetings in the months of July and August. Have a nice summer.

The next meeting will be the ENA Monthly Meeting held 7-9pm on Thursday, September 5th in the Library at Fairhaven Middle School. Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to come meet your neighbors and get to know your neighborhood.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lauri Grove*

(Minutes are subject to approval)