



Safety Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025, 2:00 PM, LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:03pm.
2. Land Acknowledgement and Anti-racism statements were read.
3. Attendance: Rick Asai, Chair; Tom Henning, Vice-Chair; Judy White; Kolleen Mitchell; Ted Wang; and Debbie Davolio. (Quorum achieved: min. of 4 members; one chair)
4. Review of February 20th meeting minutes; with correction made to the spelling of Chief Nolze's last name, the minutes were accepted.
5. Adoption of the agenda as posted.
6. Announcements: May 12 Firewise Workshop (6:30) Dance Barn (Barn #8) with discussion to follow.
7. Program Updates (continuing business):
 - a) Judy White confirmed the details of the 1st in the series of Fire Wise Program Events: The Wildfire Prep Event, to be undertaken with the Whatcom Conservation District and the South District Fire Department. Robert Walters (WCD) and Fire Chief Mitch Nolze are the confirmed speakers. Judy shared the flyer now available on the WCD's website.

Where a discussion/ Q & A's will follow the presentations, it was decided that audience members will be asked to come to the podium to comment or ask questions. The speakers will be asked to repeat the question before responding. A stationary microphone will be placed at the podium.

 - i. KM suggested asking GroundWorks, a local landscaping company, if they'd be interested in setting up a table to talk with audience about replacing mulch with rocks, etc.
 - ii. How to best promote the event was also discussed. The announcement will be in the next E-blast and advertised in the April and May editions of "The Sudden Valley Views".
 - iii. Refreshments will be provided: water, coffee, crackers, cookies. It was suggested that a non-profit be approached for donations.
 - b) Ted Wang provided a status report on the Water Safety: Life Preserver Loaner Program being planned in conjunction with the Division of Natural Resources. Given the possible impact of federal cuts on the availability of funding for life jackets, Ted will recontact DNR.
 - i. Ted shared that local Scoutmaster Brett Anderson has a student interested in building the display rack as an Eagle Scout project.
 - ii. A construction plan will need to be developed. A rendering and an estimate of material costs for building a 2-sided rack to display a variety of life jacket sizes; space for information will also be part of the design. As required by DNR, SVCA agrees to store the life jackets off-season.

- iii. The first rack will be installed at the Marina; the desired timeframe is this May.
 - c) Kolleen Mitchell provided an update on the School Bus Safety Program. She is continuing to research companies and the cost of installing permanent safety lights at bus stops. In the meantime, while the sandwich signs currently in use are not considered to be adequate for long-term purposes, a temporary measure to improve their effectiveness could be adding blinking safety lights.
 - i. KM shared that she continues to observe cars traveling above the speed limit around stops and passing buses when the paddle is up. Along with the permanent lights that have been discussed, she'd like to propose that the speed limit on all streets approaching bus stops be 15 mph.
 - ii. KM also stressed the danger around the stops caused by poor lighting and limited visibility. She discussed lighting that's opposite the Gate 9 stop, installed by the County. She's been in touch with Carr at Target Zero (?) in an effort to better understand the history and reasoning of these lights as placed.
 - d) Two additional events in the Fire Wise Series will be A Go Bag Presentation and Neighborhood Mapping. JW reported that Greg Hope, an Emergency Preparedness Specialist for the City of Bellingham and his counterpart at the County, Amy, have agreed to co-present on one or both topics. Further discussion of the format and scheduling of the events is needed, i.e., should a presentation be scheduled monthly, or topics combined?
 - i. A fourth event was considered: An Update on SVCA's Emergency Preparedness Plan. The goal of the event would be to raise awareness around our community's readiness and preparedness for an emergency. Fire Chief Harris, a representative from the County, and a Sheriff department representative would be asked to participate in a focused presentation/panel. Responsibilities of each department would likely be part of the discussion. Evacuation Planning will be a part of the discussion.
 - ii. Tom Fields would also be asked to speak on Radio 1510, which will be situated again in the Fire House once completed. The estimated completion Chief Harris recently shared with TH is late 2025. The architectural plans for the firehouse include engineering for the emergency broadcast system. Michael Bennett will be responsible for assigning responsibility for forwarding information pertaining to emergencies to the Communication Specialist.
 - iii. DD requested the opportunity for the committee to discuss the importance of there being at least two exits from each gate. She requested that this topic be an item on the agenda of a meeting in the near future.
8. New Business:
- a) Review and discussion of the Declared Emergency Towing Policy submitted by GM, Michael Bennett. Preliminary feedback offered by committee members included questions on sections:
 - Policy.Statement: What are the practical means for dissemination. Examples should be identified.
 - Notification.and.Coordination: Should the wording be changed to: Prior to declaration of an emergency and implementation of the plan, the GM will notify.....

Termination.of.State.of.Emergency: The practical means identified for declaring the emergency should be similarly stated for rescinding the emergency.

As the committee reviewed the Citations..., Documentation of Abandoned Cars..., Notice Requirements..., and Liability and Costs section, it was requested that the committee have a chance to discuss the content of the policy and plans for implementation with Michael. Considerable concern was expressed about the manner in which these changes may be received by community members. In particular, it's felt that it will be important for the association to take steps to forewarn residents and to identify alternative locations where residents could park their vehicles during inclement weather. The discussion included consideration of the extra space in the cluster mailbox lots, as an example.

The next meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2:00pm, Library Conference Room.

Adjournment: 4:00pm.