

REPORT ON SOUTHSIDE CIVIC ACTIVITIES

for

League of Women Voters from Pam Went

January 2008

During discussions of growth and land use, many south side neighbors have expressed interest (and at times concern) about growth in adjacent neighborhoods. Because of this interest, neighborhood organizations have been monitoring projects with larger implications.

A mixed-use residential and commercial building called "Fairhaven Harbor", that will be between three and eight stories tall, with underground parking, has been approved by the city. It will be located at 800 Harris, the block bound by Harris, 9th, McKenzie and 8th (in front of the tennis club). (More info at ww.cob.org)

Also, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) requirement is proceeding for the proposed "Fairhaven Highlands". This is a housing development proposed by Greenbriar Northwest Associates, LLC on property located between Fairhaven Park, Chuckanut Drive and Old Samish Highway. The proposed development includes construction of 739 housing units on approximately 85 acres of land, including single-family detached, townhouse, and multi-family structures, a 6,000 square-foot clubhouse, and related public and private infrastructure. Primary vehicular access to the development is proposed from Chuckanut Drive at the intersection with Viewcrest Road, plus two emergency-only access points.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the "Fairhaven Highlands" project will have a scoping "Determination of Significance [DS] and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement" Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30 PM at the Bellingham Municipal Court building, 2014 C Street. In addition, written comments will be accepted up until Jan 23rd 4:30 PM, by the Planning Department.

This proposal has been controversial, so this is an important opportunity to have the public's wishes officially recorded regarding this project; neighbors are encouraged to take some time to think about and study the implications of this development for the future of the south side and to write and speak out. Responsible Development (RD) has a website www.rdnw.org that you can visit for more information on this issue, as well as the www.cob.org, official city website with official documents.

The Coalition of Southside Neighborhoods (CSN) will hold an informational meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008 in the Fairhaven Library's Fireplace Room, 6:30 to 9:00 PM, to discuss a unified position and CSN comment regarding the EIS Scoping for Chuckanut Ridge/Fairhaven Highlands.