

Minutes of Bellingham City Club Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Bellingham City Club was held at Northwood Hall on May 10, 2006. Approximately 35 members were present. President Cat McIntyre opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

I. Financial Report. Treasurer Bill Freudenberger presented the report:

BELLINGHAM CITY CLUB STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS for the YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005		
RECEIPTS:		
Dues	5,818.51	
Non-member Fees	592.50	
Interest	12.29	
Other	100.00	
Total Receipts		\$ 6,523.30
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Program	1,336.28	
Annual Meeting	1,270.16	
Administrative Expenses	745.82	
Cruise (net of revenue, \$1812.46)	719.50	
Advertising	629.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ 4,700.76
Receipts less Disbursements		\$ 1,822.54
Beginning Cash on Hand	\$ 3,769.92	
Ending Cash on Hand	\$ 5,592.46	

II. Review accomplishments May 2005 – April 2006. Cat’s review included her description of getting down in writing what each of the board officers and committees do in the interest of being more efficient and helping future boards to “hit the ground running.” She introduced chairs of program (Andy Anderson), membership (Alan Kemble) and public relations (Julie Fleetwood) committees, who likewise introduced their members. Cat mentioned the list of programs for the past year (copy attached), the fact that City Club increased its membership by nearly 30% since May 2005, and pointed out the new City Club brochure.

III. Changes to By-Laws. Cat introduced a proposed revision to bylaws that would change the heading of the bylaws, and the wording of the Mission Statement in Section 1.1 from City Club of Bellingham to Bellingham City Club. The intent of this change was to make the bylaws consistent with our certificate of incorporation. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Election of New Board Members. Members were directed to the ballots at each table, and invited to make any further nominations from the floor. Cat noted that two current board members, Geri Walker and Greg Winter, have finished their second two-year terms and are willing to commit to a third two-year term. A motion to elect Geri and Greg was made and seconded. Invitation for discussion or further nominations heard no response. The motion was approved unanimously.

Four other board members have each finished their first two-year term and were willing to commit to a second two-year term: Julie Fleetwood, Steve Kerkelie, Gordon Pierson and Andy Wickstrand. A motion to elect all four was made and seconded. Invitation for discussion or further nominations heard no response. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Follow-up to 2005 Strategic Planning. Cat reviewed the strategic planning process that began in 2004 with a member survey followed by a day-long strategic planning session. The planning session concluded that priorities were membership diversity, reaching out to segments of the Bellingham community that have not been previously represented in our organization and strengthening our programs through a change in format and perhaps reaching beyond our county borders to bring even more topical programs to our community.

Andy Anderson, Program Chair then described changes to the programs over the past year. He outlined new types of programs such as the programs on growth management in Oregon, the fluoridization initiative and the Mayor’s Q&A that

attracted both large audiences and new members. These program increased our visibility in the community and our effectiveness in meeting our mission, but also cost more and imposed a greater burden on our all-volunteer board.

Andy pointed out that we would need to raise more money in order to continue inviting top level speakers and panelists, better advertise our programs, and possibly add up to ten programs a year (luncheon or cocktail hour programs with limited number of participants and close interaction with speakers. We likely will need to hire part time staff to facilitate these improvements. maximize benefits and accommodate higher costs, we must raise more money and our visibility in the community. increase current annual dues for individuals and families, and to offer new annual memberships. These new types of memberships, paid at a rate above individual and household memberships would provide businesses with one basic membership and guest member passes. Guest passes can be handed out to employees who might be interested in attending a luncheon meeting; they would pay the member discounted luncheon price. Other benefits will be spelled out in a new brochure.

Cat then outlined how, in December 2005, we submitted to the Internal Revenue Service our application to designate Bellingham City Club tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. She expects to receive approval in June. She thanked Orphalee Smith and Bill Freudenberger for their invaluable assistance in making the application. She also pointed out that many board members have already made tax-deductible contributions to City Club to increase resources to fund future improvements.

She described responses to the brief survey, sent out with annual meeting invitations, to get feedback from the membership at large about increasing individual membership fees and adding other membership categories. We got responses back from 71 City Club members. Nearly 85% of them said they would be willing to pay more for individual and family memberships. Over 70% of respondent said they would support adding additional membership levels. Some respondents noted that they need more information about either of these options.

She then introduced Andy Wickstrand, to describe how we have been addressing the issue of adding new membership levels. Andy mentioned Julie Fleetwood's important leadership in this effort, as well as other board members. He then described the kinds of new membership we had looked at, ones which enlist organizations and businesses to pay higher dues to allow them to have multiple members, though one vote. He described a process of approaching folks with a packet of information that would attract participation. He emphasized that, while we are nearing the implementation, we still have more to do to finalize.

Cat then introduced Greg Winter to describe our planned update to the City Club web site, cityclubonline.com Greg described our work with Jack Delay and with a local contractor who has provided, at a reduced price, a draft template for the home page. This is again, a work in progress.

VI. Member Feedback. Cat opened the floor to questions or comments on members had heard tonight or on other matters. Members asked for more detail on expenditures for annual meeting. Member comments included thanks for board and board president for service over the past year. Cat thanks both the board for their energy and dedication, and to the membership for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cat McIntyre
President