



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum/Meeting

January 5, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Debby Sims, Roxie Nichols, Doug Schafer. (Absent: Claudia Riedener, Valentine Smith, Tony Powell.)

Room Count: 29

At 7:00 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He described the function of the City's neighborhood councils.

7:05--7:22pm. Pierce County Councilwoman Connie Ladenburg spoke about the issue of county funding of mental health (including behavioral health & substance abuse) treatment. Most other counties, and large cities including the City of Tacoma, impose a 1% sales tax to fund this, but our county council has declined to do so for the remainder of the county. A needs study is on the county's website. Subjects now are served chiefly by our hospital emergency rooms and jails.

7:22--7:48pm. Lauren Flemister of the City of Tacoma spoke about a Residential Infill Pilot Program -- permitting a detached supplemental dwelling on a residential lot, such as a cottage for relatives of the owner-occupants of the existing house on the lot. The program will also allow "cottage housing" of up to 24 cottages on a large lot, with the cottages sharing a common area. Information is at www.cityoftacoma.org/infill Following Ms. Flemister's remarks and Q&A, a resident described his frustrations with a 3-story, 6-unit structure erected on the 25-foot lot between him and his neighbor, with its wall being seven inches from his property line. This resident's issue was distinct from the infill pilot program, but it illustrates that the City's code and staff allows what most citizens would consider outrageously inappropriate development.

7:48--8:05 Liaison reports were given by (1) Rebecca Boydston of the City Manager's Office, (2) Don Stodola of the Tacoma Police Dept. (introducing a new Sector 2 Community Liaison Officer Imtiaz Norling), and (3) Steve Murakami for the Tacoma Public Schools.

8:05--8:17 The Chair invited all in attendance to speak about any issues of interest or concern. Kit Burns spoke briefly about Click vs. Comcast. A resident asked what folks might do to help address the homelessness issue, noting that he is seeing more tents. Several others also discussed the issue. Ms. Boydston (City Manager's liaison) described some of the City's actions to address homelessness, including the services that are offered to homeless persons (but often are declined). A representative of the Port of Tacoma thanked the Chair for including in the meeting's calendar handout the Port's free bus tours (75 minutes) to be offered on January 26.

The Chair displayed on-screen and briefly discussed some city topics. See the PowerPoint file that will be posted on the website with these minutes. Doug Schafer described the Pierce Conservation District's bare-root tree and plant sale. Richard Sims described events at the Tacoma Historical Society.

8:30 pm: Most attendees departed, and the board members discussed plans for 2017. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Schafer, board secretary.