



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

September 7, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Mann, Sims, Riedener, Alonzo, Johnsen, Schafer, Nichols.
Room Count: 35 (and 5 persons logged on GoToMeeting)

At 7:00 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He explained that we are streaming tonight's forum so persons can participate virtually. He displayed slides that describe the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited persons to become members of our board. He invited attendees to a 25th Anniversary event for Tacoma's neighborhood councils to be held Sept. 28 and called attendees' attention to the events calendar on the back of the agenda.

7:09 pm. Councilmember Keith Blocker updated us about the City's initiative to address the significant homelessness problem, including the City-sponsored "big tent" homeless camp at temporary "transition sites" that relocate every few weeks. City staff and agencies try to help homeless persons at the camp access services that may help them escape homelessness. Many homeless persons have mental health or chronic physical health issues. There is security at the sites. The City budgeted \$3.6 million to address homelessness in the City. Mr. Blocker fielded questions from the audience.

7:22 pm. Lisa Wojtanowicz, from the City's Code Enforcement office introduced Linda Stewart, interim director of the City's Neighborhood and Community Services Department, who contrasted "supportable" versus "affordable" housing. She urged citizens to call 3-1-1 when they notice homeless encampments so the City can assist the campers to relocate promptly and obtain services that might help them. At 7:30 pm, Ms. Wojtanowicz gave a presentation about Code Enforcement operations. Complaints, questions and compliments can be filed telephonically via 3-1-1, by internet at www.cityoftacoma.org (top of screen shows "TacomaFIRST311"), using an available smartphone app or by visiting the Municipal Building's TacomaFIRST311 Support Center.

7:51 pm. City Manager liaison, Rebecca Boydston, updated us on upcoming public hearings and events.

7:56 pm. Metro Parks Joe Brady described a project for updating Metro Park's strategic plan, a task undertaken every six years. He invited attendees to participate in a survey that is open through September -- <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/strategic-plan-update/>.

8:00 pm. Tacoma Fire Department liaison addressed emergency preparedness and the upcoming free CPR Sunday (www.CPRsunday.net) on October 8 at Foss High School to learn cardio pulmonary resuscitation and using an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED).

8:05 pm. Tacoma Police liaison, Don Stodola, described reported criminal activity within the Central Neighborhood district and invited participants to consider or refer individuals to join the police department.

8:10 pm. In the absence of the Tacoma Public Schools liaison, the chair displayed and explained several TPS-provided items. And Parks Commissioner Andrea Smith described the "Whole Child Access" program that is co-sponsored with Metro Parks, permitting Jason Lee Middle School students to learn and enjoy swimming and martial arts at Peoples Center after school.

8:14 pm. The Chair invited attendees to express any concerns they may have. Jennifer Schaal announced that the Hilltop Action Coalition is finalizing the next issue of its newspaper, so submissions are invited. Anaid Yerena and another attendee expressed their satisfaction with the City's 3-1-1 system. A representative of the Port of Tacoma gave background to the City's proposed Tideflats Interim Regulations and several other upcoming Port events. Tiffany Bond spoke briefly about a Pierce County TCNC Minutes, page 1

early childhood education project called Project Child Success (projectchildsuccess.org), run by First 5 FUNdamentals, a non-profit formed to provide leadership, staffing, and data support for the early learning movement in Pierce County.

8:24 pm. The Chair displayed information about, and explained, the City's free tree planting program, described at www.cityoftacoma.org/gritcitytrees (website will soon be updated for 2017). Applications may be submitted from Sept. 15 to October 15.

8:27 pm. The Chair discussed a recent problem of large crowds of unwelcome people in the S. 14th St. corridor (Cushman to Eye St.). There have been community meetings in August at which neighbors have discussed their concerns and possible remedies.

8:31 pm. The chair invited attendees to participate in our cleanup of a third segment of the Scott Pierson Trail on Saturday, Sept. 30. See <https://sptc3.eventbrite.com/>

8:32 pm. Richard Sims, a volunteer in the Tacoma Historical Society, described its museum and events (www.tacomahistory.org).

8:34 pm. The Chair urged residents to upload photos of our neighborhood at tinyurl.com/cncresidentuploads.

8:35 pm. The Chair invited attendees to depart or to stay for Board discussions, which began after most attendees had departed.

- (a) The board members approved the July forum minutes.
- (b) The treasurer reported our present bank account balance, \$10,438.
- (c) The Chair described our efforts to live-broadcast our forums.
- (d) The Chair displayed several graphics for our proposed shopping bags, and we decided on a graphic.
- (e) The Chair reported that TCNC will not be managing the tree-planting project, but we'll encourage our neighbors to participate in the City's program.
- (f) The Chair noted that he's scheduled a meeting with the UW Tacoma Urban Studies department administration to explore TCNC collaboration with UWT students. We brainstormed ideas of projects that might involve students.
- (g) The Hilltop Street Fair was a success with about 15,000 attendees, 50 more vendors. Some board members suggested that our booth should have some gimmick to draw fairgoers to our booth.
- (h) Luis observed that the Tacoma Children's Museum had invited grant proposals but the deadline had passed. He suggested that we watch for it next year and consider applying for a grant to involve children in our council, perhaps something like a mock neighborhood council or a neighborhood project.
- (i) A representative of Safe Streets spoke briefly about his organization.
- (j) We need to register for a community cleanup next year. We agreed to affiliate with the same organizations which participated this year.
- (k) A resident, Dan Villa, has qualified for our board by attending three consecutive meetings and has applied to join it. So, per our bylaws, we welcomed him as a new member of our board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary.