



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

November 2, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center

1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Claudia Riedener, Doug Schafer, Luis Alonzo and Roxie Nichols. Absent: Dan Villa and Aaron Johnsen. Debbie Sims has resigned to move to Kentucky. Room Count: 19 and 2 virtual attendees.

At 7:00 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He explained the access process and features of the GoToMeeting virtual meeting service, inviting participants via phones, laptops, tablets and computers. The audio portion of the process has not been tested, but virtual attendees can use the bridge phone or chat window to submit comments and questions throughout the forum. Charles displayed slides that described the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited persons to become members of our board. He called attendees' attention to the events calendar on the back of the agenda.

7:10 pm. Councilman Keith Blocker who usually attends every other month did not participate. State Legislative Representative Laurie Jinkins (27th District) spoke to us. She chairs the Justice Committee, and described the scope of that committee. She also serves on the Health Care and Appropriations Committees. She discussed the last legislative session, the longest on record due to budget disputes. School funding was the major issue. She said the legislature allocated \$7.3 billion to schools to resolve the Supreme Court's McCleary debate. Another major issue is funding for mental health services. The legislature created a new agency that solely addresses the welfare of children, previously one of many responsibilities of the Dept. of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Another accomplishment is the adoption of paid family leave legislation. Rep. Jinkins took questions from attendees about (1) voting rights for felons, (2) bail bonds, (3) homelessness, (4) mental health issues, including a shortage of mental health professionals, and (5) school district levies.

7:47 pm. Liaison Rebecca Boydston of the City Manager's office spoke about upcoming events, including a Sound Transit light rail community meeting and sick leave ordinance meetings on Nov. 30.

7:49 pm. Liaison Jim Biles of Metro Parks promoted an electric vehicle Ride and Drive event on Nov. 4 at the Point Defiance Zoo entrance. He also promoted the Thanksgiving Day Norpoint Turkey Trot in Northeast Tacoma.

7:52 pm. Concerning the Tacoma Fire Department, our Chair displayed some statistics about fire department responses. He also displayed on the screen some of the departments consumer handouts about fire preparedness. The Department's liaison, Steve Collins, made some additional comments.

7:55 pm. Tacoma Police liaison and Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Imtiaz Norling described reported criminal activity within the Central Neighborhood district. There were a robbery and a shots-fired incident in the vicinity of S. 14th & Sheridan, and a gun involved robbery at S.19th and Earnest Brazil Street.

8:01 pm. Tacoma schools liaison Alicia Lawver (alawver@tacoma.k12.wa.us) described levies to be voted on next February:(1) replacing educational programs and operations, and (2) a levy to replace technology. The Science And Math Institute (SAMI) is bringing preschool kids to its Point Defiance location (Environmental Learning Center) to expose them to the zoo and Point Defiance Park. She discussed, and took questions and comments about, the middle and high schools' choose-your-school program.

8:12 pm. The Chair invited attendees to express concerns or issues. Kit Burns spoke in opposition to proposed LED streetlights. He also spoke in opposition to TPU's initiative to install smart electrical

service meters. Doug Schafer made a presentation about the City's failure to enforce its 1997 and 2011 billboard control ordinances and its pending proposal to accept global advertising company Lamar's proposal to install up to 42 huge (14ft x 48ft) billboards along business district arterial streets after it takes down 111 smaller ones (many 6ft x 12 ft). City leaders appear eager to accept Lamar's proposal, requiring City Council amend its ordinance to legitimize existing and proposed billboards. Lamar reportedly owns 294 billboards in the City. Doug urged citizens to attend and testify, or submit comments for the City Council's November 14th public hearing to be held November 14 on Lamar's billboards proposal.

8:27 pm. The Chair made a number of announcements about upcoming events, including our next Scott Pierson Trail cleanup on December 2, 2017. He announced a new phone number for the Chair: 253-242-3579.

8:35 pm. The Chair invited attendees to either depart or stay for Board discussions, which then began at about 8:43 pm after most attendees departed. Charles, Doug, Roxy, and Luis (and Anaid) remained.

- (a) Board members approved the October forum minutes, with one correction.
- (b) The treasurer reported that our present bank account balance is \$10,672.49.
- (c) The Chair reported we had only two online viewers of our forum this evening.
- (d) Luis agreed to take over the shopping bags project (Debbie has resigned).
- (e) We discussed various initiatives that we might undertake to increase participation. We agreed to identify and try to enlist participation by recognized groups within our boundaries. Luis will explore obtaining a business account on Nextdoor.com that may allow our posts to reach all users within our boundaries.
- (f) We discussed creating calendars promoting the council for public distribution. Roxie will look into that.
- (g) We discussed reducing the forum time allocated to liaison reports, scheduling some liaisons presentations for alternating forums. We observed that interesting speakers and publicizing their presentations might attract more attendees.
- (h) Towards increasing forum attendance, we agreed to promote that December forum attendees will receive a gift such as a coffee shop gift card or a box of candies. That may pack the room with some folks becoming more frequent and regular attendees. Charles will look into coffee card and candy gifts. Anaid will draft an invitation to those on our mailing list.
- (i) The meeting was adjourned at about 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary