



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

June 1, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Debby Sims, Roxie Nichols, Doug Schafer, Claudia Riedener, Luis Alonzo. Absent: Tony Powell.

Room Count: 25

At 7:04 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He explained 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. In support of TV Tacoma's *Neighborhood Moment* program, he urged attendees to upload photos and videos (landscape format) of the neighborhood to an established data repository at <https://tinyurl.com/cnresidentuploads>.

7:12 pm. Anne McBride and Richard Petrich, from CHI Franciscan Health System, spoke about the new Behavioral Health Hospital under construction at the SE corner of S. 19th and Union Streets. The project is an alliance of CHI and MultiCare Health Systems, supported by a coalition of private foundations, governments, and others. It has been designed to provide "crisis stabilization" emergency treatment as well as a 120-bed in-patient treatment capacity. The target opening is January 2019, expecting to treat about 5,000 patients annually. Our community desperately needs such a facility.

7:36 pm. Liaison Rebecca Boydston, City Manager's Office, announced the new City Manager, Elizabeth Pauli (former City Attorney) and reiterated the new shopping bag ordinance's effective date. Rebecca described the City's new popup homeless services program, describing the first such "temporary transitional center" located at Portland Ave. & E. 18th St. The City will provide health and safety services and assist homeless persons' access to housing at these centers.

7:44 pm. Jim Biles, Metro Parks, updated Point Defiance Park improvements scheduled to be completed by October 2018. He demonstrated Metro Parks's website and calendar of events (accessible in the lower left at www.metroparkstacoma.org, where users will find "View All Events.") Filtered results can be displayed for event categories and/or specific parks/facilities.

7:50 pm. Liaison Doug Kimball, Tacoma Fire Department, reminded us that fireworks are prohibited in Tacoma. Violations may be reported at 253-798-4722. Fireworks cause many fires and emergency aid requests.

7:53 pm. Liaison Imtiaz Norling, Tacoma Police Department, described local criminal activity. An April 28 "take-over robbery" by three armed assailants occurred at the Walgreens at 6th & Stevens. A summary of monthly incidents was available on the rear table.

8:00 pm. Leslie Barstow, Port of Tacoma, announced an update of the Port's website, public bus and boat tours, and the resumption of a project that requires pile-driving. The Port's commissioners are assessing the first year of its alliance with the Port of Seattle.

8:03 pm. The Chair invited attendees to express any concerns—nobody spoke up. The Chair presented information about the City's Customer Support Center (call 311) and displayed several City of Tacoma website (www.cityoftacoma.org) resources, highlighting navigation.

The Chair expressed concerns about neighborhood blight—the volume of boarded homes; broken sidewalks; abandoned furniture, shopping carts and automobiles; overloaded and spilled trash containers; and neglected yards.

The Chair showed photos of our representative, Karen Sudderth, at this year's Neighborhoods USA conference in Omaha. She'll make a presentation in July.

The Chair promoted the City's Urban Forestation project for tree plantings this fall.

Attendees announced various local events, including

- Eye of the Totem movie showing June 9 at the Rialto
- Centro Latino arts event on June 17
- June 24 Scott Pierson Trail Cleanup (register at <https://sptc2-cnc.eventbrite.com>), and
- July 9th Art on the Ave

8:30 pm. The Chair invited attendees to depart or stay for Board discussions, which began after most attendees departed.

- (a) May 4 minutes were unanimously ratified.
- (b) Treasurer Luis Alonzo updated CNC's bank balance.
- (c) Pat Babbitt, Healthy Homes and Healthy Neighborhoods, proposed a neighborhood outreach collaboration with CNC.
- (d) Welcomed Aaron Johnsen to the Board.
- (e) The Chair expressed concerns about CUP LU17-0050, pending land use application expansion of the Slavic Christian Center at S 15th & Sprague Sts. The church has purchased adjacent homes to expand their parking area, but neither the existing parking lot nor the application indicate the use of permeable materials, which seems inconsistent with storm water management issues raised at the November 2016 forum when Mike Slevin, Environmental Services director, presented. Additionally, horizontal-rather-than-vertical expansion seems inconsistent with City zoning updates, density experiments and vision statements. Charles offered a draft comment letter from CNC concerning that application. Board members requested time to review the draft before submitting the letter.
- (f) The Chair offered a draft letter to the Tacoma Public Schools superintendent requesting authorization to capture photos of children mimicking CNC logo's hand-formed heart-shape for our *Neighborhood Moments* video. Board members recommended informal contact with one or more school principals rather than sending the draft letter.
- (g) The Chair presented the Chico bag website (www.chicobag.com), which provides shopping bag alternatives to consider as Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) implementation approaches. Chico bags offer smaller, more portable bags. Deb Sims is pursuing project research obtaining volume pricing comparisons to other products.
- (h) The Chair solicited assistance preparing the script and imagery for the upcoming *Neighborhood Moments* project. TV Tacoma studio familiarization is 10:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00 Friday, June 23. Video filming is scheduled 8:00-10:00 Friday, July 14th. No volunteers.
- (i) Chair observed that several major parks have restrooms, but a significant number of smaller "pocket" parks are not equipped. He proposes encouraging the installation of park potties as a collaboration with Metro Parks and the City.

- (j) The Chair solicited volunteer booth support for the July 9 Art on the Ave 2017. The event begins at 11:00 and ends at 7:00. 1.5 hr tours are recommended. No volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary.