

Hilltop Action Coalition Community Meeting
February 26, 2018

Notes/Minutes

Brendan Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Board members present: Brendan Nelson, William Towey, Jo Davies, Jennifer Schaal

Brendan Nelson: HACtion Announcements

- Jo Davies announced that individuals and organizations interested in a booth at the Hilltop Street Fair August 25th can see Jo and email her at hilltopstreetfair.vendors@gmail.com
- Jo also announced that the next Neighborhood Leaders Meeting will be held Saturday, March 10th

Andy Micklow, Links To Opportunity: Links To Opportunity Streetscape Project and Upcoming Events

- This project is one of the highest funded Federal Transit Administration (FTA) projects in the nation
- Still very much in the design phase, wrapping up the Preliminary Design phase and moving into the Final Design phase
- Design focus is: walkable, pedestrian-oriented, mixed use, and centered around public transit
- Links To Opportunity (LTO) Hilltop Engagement Committee (HEC) has representatives from across the city design team; civic organizations like HAC; Tacoma Housing Authority; faith-based organizations; and more
- Project is guided by overarching documents such as the Hilltop Subarea Plan and city Transportation Master Plan
- The project team is in its second round of outreach now, presenting at organizations such as HAC, Hilltop Business Association, and Centro Latino
- Storefront office at 1120 S 11th (old Key Bank building) has a demonstration colorful sidewalk light for all to see
- Streetscapes has been the recent focus of the design team
- Possible Bike Boulevard on S J St.
- For more information see handout (available at HAC office); sign up for LTO email notifications (no spam, just important announcements); or drop by the storefront at 1120 S 11th

Obinna Amobi & Joanne LaTuchie, Mercy Housing: Senior Affordable Housing Development Site at 824 MLK

- Project Developer: oamobi@mercyhousing.org (206) 602-3494
6930 MLK Jr Way S, Seattle WA 98118
- Mercy Housing operates over 2,000 units in WA, mostly along the I-5 corridor

- Mercy Housing has four complexes in Tacoma: Catalina Apts; Eliza McCabe Townhomes; Hilltop Gardens; and New Tacoma Senior Housing
- Housing services focus is under-resourced families, seniors, and those with special needs
- Construction of the 824 project is expected to begin September 2019 and complete by October 2020; expected to be fully leased by December 2020
- All are invited to stop by the offices of any of their Tacoma complexes and welcomed to tour the facilities

Cathy Reines & Joshua Scott, KOZ Development: Transit Oriented Development Site at 824 MLK

- KOZ develops projects that focus on “living small” or “micro housing” that keeps rents under market rate
- 824 MLK project include 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, studio apartments, and live/work spaces, with 7000 sq ft of retail space on the ground floor and rooftop garden space for residents
- 31 parking spaces are planned, and a large bike room; developers discourage automobile owners from renting these units
- Focus of rentals is workforce renters not yet ready for home ownership; younger people who Uber everywhere
- This site was chosen for development because it has a very high walkability score of 91

Lt Gretchen Aguirre: Tacoma Police Department Update

- Lt Aguirre reviewed statistics for increases and decreases in robberies, aggravated assaults, vehicle thefts, and homeless contacts from January 2017 to January 2018
- TPD is doubling its recruitment testing this year and will hold four tests; one just occurred and the next one will be in April
- The February recruitment test started with 250 applicants; 53 of whom passed the physical test; 39 of whom passed the written tests...then they move on to the psychological testing and are lucky if they get one candidate out of the original pool of 250
- The next TPD Youth Academy starts in March at the Boys & Girls Club
- TPD is working with Pierce Transit on ways to reduce the loitering at the bus stop on 15th
- Stop Mart on 15th still a priority

Community Announcements

- Brendan announced that Henry Lee Walls teaches crochet classes at Red Elm Cafe, and the next class is February 28th 3:30-4:30pm
- Brendan announced that the March Community Meeting will be back on the regular schedule of the third Monday of the month, and will be held Monday, March 19th; this meeting will be all about education

- William Towey announced that HAC is soon going to press with the next edition of the Hilltop Action Journal and encourages anyone who wants to write an article to contact him

Brendan adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.

Submitted by Jennifer Schaal, February 26, 2018.