

Hilltop Action Coalition
Area-Wide Meeting – May 15, 2017

Notes/Minutes

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

Board members present: Jo Davies, Ameenah Hasan, Teresa Jackson, Brendan Nelson, William Towey, & Fletcher Jenkins (emeritus).

William Towey - presented on behalf of Marcus Stone (Tacoma First 311)

- Handout: “One Call, One Click, One Visit – Tacoma First 311”
- Program goal is to make it easy for citizens to connect to a variety of City of Tacoma services, departments and resources; report ordinance violations, file complaints, make requests, or to just simply find an answer.
- There is an App for mobile phones. All submittals are automatically tracked and responses are prompt. Photos taken within the app are easy and very helpful to the people working on each case.
- You can call 311 from any phone in the city, regardless of your phone’s area code.

Pastor Norm Arnold (Living Stones Prison Ministries)

- Pastor Norm has an office at the Correction Center in Shelton, WA where he works with men. He also runs a Saturday night service and a Wednesday night Bible Study.
- Interested in Hilltop as a place to do more with the recently released. Will be spending a lot of time up here talking with people and listening to the needs of our community.
- Looking into doing a service around a meal (Agape Meal) and talking with Peace Community Center about using their space on Saturday nights. Felons don’t often feel comfortable in standard church environment; want more connection.
- Looking into possibly creating a work space for felons and others recently released from incarceration; Living Stones Bakery/Pizza or maybe a place that makes Tiny Homes for the homeless. Want to create a place for jobs that help people.
- Also interested in doing something for at risk youth on Hilltop possibly; alternative to prison/incarceration.

Brittani Flowers (Tacoma Housing Authority)

- Have 2 staff that are attending and taking notes at Public Meetings on COT calendar. Usually these meetings are NOT attended by anyone from the “public”.
- Two items of note from these note takers. 1) There are NOT a lot of people of color on these Boards and Commissions. 2) The meetings are seemingly inefficient and have changed in function since they are now being “witnessed”.
- Some of these positions are appointed – no public vote is taken to fill the position.
- Meetings are not convenient, not accessible, not efficient and not representative of our community.
- Notes from meetings will be gathered and put on-line by Brittani and her team in some form or fashion. Info to follow.

CLO Brandon Showalter (Tacoma Police Department - Sector 1)

- Detective Chittick and CLO McQuade have both been pulled from Sector 1.
 - Detective Chittick went back to Homicide on the CID team
 - CLO McQuade has joined the “Hot Team”
 - Other Sectors lost other CLO’s, as well. Not just Sector 1.
 - There is no plan to fill either position, at this time.
- The formation of the “Hot Team” that Officer McQuade moved to has 4 members. They will be working with Positive Interactions to work on the Homeless issue in response to the recent Public Health Emergency Declaration by the City of Tacoma.
- CLO Pam Rush will be taking over the efforts at 15th and MLK.
- Gang unit is smaller, but still there.

Sean Rabell, Housing Specialist (Department of Corrections)

- City of Tacoma has higher standard for housing than the statewide Decent Living Standards requirements for Adult Family Homes.
- Sometimes too strict for new interested parties to provide a space, but get about a call of interest a month.
- Some older spaces have had their ability to be in the DOC program pulled due to poor compliance.
- Felons are given a voucher for housing; can be up to 3 months and up to \$500/month.

Brendan Nelsonst (HAC)

- HAC’s Inaugural Luncheon will happen at Peace Community Center May 19th; tickets cost \$18 and are available now through the HAC website and Eventbrite.
- The next edition of the Hilltop Journal will be out in a few days and available at the Luncheon.
- Next Area-Wide Meeting is Monday, June 19th.

Brendan adjourned the meeting at approx 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Jennifer Stolle, Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017.