

New Tacoma Neighborhood Council
May 9, 2018
Meeting Minutes
People's Community Center, 1602 MLK Jr., Way

Call to order and Member attendance: 5:30

Board Members Attending: Mae Harris, Tom Ebenhoh, Valerie Floyd, Rick Jones, Meredith Shores, Jori Adkins, Jo Davies, Hally Bert, Traci Kelly, Jordan Burman

Guest Attendance: Amber Monson, Wendy Hobson (COT), Penny Grellier (PT), Rania Elbasiony, Tammy Liddle Lobban, Debbiann Thompson (Metro Parks), CM Justin Camarata, Rep. Jake Fey, Rep. Laurie Jinkins, Pam Rush (TPD), Synclair Myers, Johanna Hopper, Kristin Bell (TPS), David Nash-Mendez (COT), and others that may not have signed in.

Approvals – April Minutes, May Agenda, and Treasurers report

Treasurers Report – \$1,298.41 as of 1 Apr; \$5,295.41 end of April (deposit from City received for \$4K).

Public Forum: Amber Monson is interested in being a member of the NTNC. Tom asked for a nomination from the floor and vote taken, unanimous. Welcome, Amber.

Staff Reports – Minimal staff reports with Rep Jinkins, Rep Fey, and CM Camarata guests
TPD: Officer Rush from Sector 1 – TPD is looking to promote the use of 911 for misuse of Social Media - with flyers and posters for “See It Say It” coming soon.

TFD: No report.

City Mgr's Office: No report.

Tacoma Schools: No report.

Metro Parks: No report.

Port of Tacoma: No report.

Pierce Transit: Penny – Reminding people about the “Trolley” going from Dome (parking garages) to Point Defiance (with stops downtown, Old Town and Pt. Ruston ending at the Zoo) starting Memorial Day.

New Business:

Conversation with Rep Jake Fey – with Laurie Jinkins, representatives for the 27th District. Jake has been on for 6 years, is Vice Chair of *Transportation*, spoke of the many transportation projects on-going & coming up, as well as answered questions about others - Hwy 99 Bridge over Puyallup River, one section to start this month, HOV/reconfiguration of interchanges on I-5 continues, Quiet Zone for trains thru Dome District, Bus Rapid Transit on Hwy 7 into downtown, possibility of Tacoma to Seattle Ferry needs more study, the Schuster Parkway is another project worthy of more study.

Jake is also on a *Special Homeless Task Force* for House Dems – working with staff on upping \$ for affordable housing which is still not equal to past amounts, housing is a huge diverse problem, ST3 has items in it for housing – Any land left over will be designated for non-profits development of low-income housing near transit. Jake is working with youth homelessness starting with a Bill to extend Foster Care to 21 years of age. Tracy asks, County Jail releases @ 5am but services are not open at that time, how can this be fixed? Is this a local or state issue?

Amber observed Pierce County releases homeless near a 7-11 at 80th and Hosmer. Jake - Every County in WA *except Pierce* has at least a 10th of 1% tax for homelessness options. Pierce Co. needs to be part of the equation.

Conversation with Councilmember Justin Camarata – Justin is filling in for Robert Thoms, has been in place for 7 mos. *Housing is the BIG focus*, especially after the Tiki Apts evictions, Bills to strengthen Tenants rights, enhance incentives to developers for adding low income units (10% of units to be 50% of area-wide median income) to their projects. It is a pilot program as part of the Mall Subarea Plan called Inclusionary Zoning and may include: 50 year tax abatement instead of the usual 20, gaining an additional floor, etc. Another pilot program is to pay a homeowner or healthcare provider to take in others as an Adult Family Home using Medicare \$ for short term commitments. Justin is very committed to densifying the downtown too.

Conversation with Rep Laurie Jenkins - This is her 8th year and she loves her job! She is on the *Judiciary Committee*. The main issues are: Landlord/tenant issues, Guns/fire arms regulations, Business issues.

Health Care Committee

- Mental health/behavior health are being seen as of the same body, more holistically.
- Western Sate Hospital is seen as the old model, now looking toward more community-based living situations.
- Funding will be toward groups within a community to start or expand Family Homes with 15-20 beds for 150 – 190 days, 14 day short commitments and assessments for permanent supervised living or release with supervision. Metropolitan Development Council is one of these types of organizations.
- There is a shortage of Mental Health workers nationally that needs to be addressed, especially psychiatric nurses. Working with UW to develop and recruit.

Also serves on the *Appropriations Committee*

Old Business:

Tom – reminder about NUSA in May and Cleanup at T-Dome; encouraged volunteers.

Reports from Neighborhoods: None.

Adjourn - 7:30 pm