



## Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

June 7, 2018 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center

1919 S. Tyler St.

Tacoma, WA 98405

Board Attendees:, Doug Schafer, Roxie Nichols, Luis Alonzo, Toby Nitzsche. Absent: Charles Mann (but he participated via the internet)

Room Count: 24

At 7:04 pm, the Board member Tobias Nitzsche convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He described the ways by which the meeting is being broadcast (GoToMeeting, and Facebook). He displayed on the screen the Council's website and its Facebook page. He summarized the recent community clean-up at Franklin School and the recent Scott Pierson Trail clean-up..

7:08 pm. Mr. Nitzsche introduced City Councilmember Keith Blocker. Mr. Blocker described the City Council's adoption of the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan. He discussed the issue that arose when the tenants in Tiki Apartments were evicted on short notice by its new owner-developer. The City Council passed an ordinance that requires longer notice when there is a mass eviction. The City is studying other possible ordinances that will provide greater protection for tenants.

Mr. Blocker described the City's choices for a new Tacoma Public Utilities director and a new Economic Development Department director.

Mr. Blocker took questions about affordable housing, the update to the Comprehensive Plan, affordable housing, homelessness, and trash being dumped in neighbors' trash bins in the 6th Ave. area.

7:34. Mr. Nitzsche introduced Michael Mirra, Executive Director of the Tacoma Housing Authority. He described the THA mission -- facilitating low-income housing. It owns about 1,500 residential units. It provides rental assistance for about 4,000 households. THA's other mission is to facilitate developers creating housing. THA pays \$34 million per year to assist low-income renters. THA particularly tries to improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency skills of the renters that it supports.

Mr. Mira discussed THA's Education Project (<https://www.tacomahousing.net/thas-education-project>). The agency gives over 10,000 books per year to kids. THA enrolls all housing-assisted 8th graders in the Washington Promise program that provides higher education tuition for kids. He described the McCarver Elementary School Stabilization Program--rental assistance coupled with mandated parental involvement in children's education and working on employment and self-sufficiency. The program is supported by the Tacoma Public Schools (for example, TPS programmed an International Baccalaureate curriculum at McCarver School).

Mr. Mirra described the Arlington Drive Youth Campus project (<https://www.tacomahousing.net/arlington-drive-youth-campus>), that provides supportive housing, social services, and job training for unaccompanied youth and young adults

Mr. Mirra indicated that THA's operation costs (about \$50 million/year) are provided by US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department. The THA finances its property acquisitions with investors and commercial financing. The THA was created in 1940 by the City of Tacoma as an independent agency, but the City appoints its board members. Mr. Mirra gave us quite an interesting and informative presentation.

8:20 pm. Mr. Nitzsche invited attendees to raise any concerns. Nobody spoke up. He displayed a bar chart of crime statistics from Tacoma Police Department, and a narrative of specific TPD incidents. He displayed information about several different ways to notify TPD and City Officials of problems, including

www.tacomasaferg (nonviolent crime reports) and www.cityoftacoma.org/ tacomafirst311. Mr. Nitzsche displayed information about several of the events that are listed on the back of the agenda.

8:30 pm. A representative of Tacoma Radio, a new low-power (3-5 miles) community radio station, announced its upcoming workshops on how to produce audio files of interviews that can be broadcast on the station.

8:32 pm. A representative of the 6th Ave Business District thanked the neighborhood council for funding the art on its new solar trash receptacles.

8:35 pm. Mr. Nitzsche adjourned the forum.

8:40 pm. The board members (including Charles Mann who had physically arrived) convened a board meeting, joined by Tiffany Y'vonne and Anaid Yerena. A City representative, Kristin Ely, described the City's "Adopt-a-Spot" program, as it relates to the traffic circles in our central N.C. district. She will provide us with more information about the traffic circles in our Central District.

We approved the May 2018 forum minutes and noted a treasury balance of \$13,171.54, but checks amounting to \$2,490 have been written but not cleared the bank. We received our annual \$4,000 City subsidy.

We received our 1,000 TCNC logo shopping bags, and we discussed how we might distribute them. The ideas that we discussed were distributing at the Hilltop Safeway store, and distributing them door-to-door. There was general agreement to both of those approaches.

We discussed the traffic circle beautification project. Charles indicated that he intends to get bids from landscaping companies. Tiffany Y'vonne summarized her proposal that we conduct a contest to motivate neighbors to beautify their neighborhood traffic circles and planting strips. She forwarded to the Chair her written proposal, titled "Fostering Community with Greenways," that is appended to these minutes. She also proposed collaborating with KBTC to encourage families with children to attend our monthly forums, a summary of which, titled "Fostering Community Collaboratively," is also appended.

9: 45 pm. Board meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary



# Fostering Community with Greenways

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Proposal Prepared By: Tiffany Y'vonne with Traffic Circle Research by Anaid Yerena

## Overview

Central Neighborhood Council is striving to foster connections with residents within its boundaries and encourage civic engagement and community stewardship of public spaces.

### Goal(s)

1. Increase resident participation in Central Neighborhood Council
2. Expand greening and encourage beautification of the district
3. Foster community connections such as neighborship and local economy.

### Idea:

The council will host a neighborhood-wide contest to recognize and award residents for their efforts. Residents would have the option to adopt a traffic circle or right-of-way strip in order to Green-it-up and Beautify it. Upon completion of their project they would enter a submission, which includes photo. Three submissions will be selected by vote at a future council meeting. In addition, there will be six random drawings open to all submissions. Voted awards would be tiered, and consist of gift cards and/or goods from local businesses

of the Central District. Initiative would build upon budding social media efforts to further build awareness and attract residents to the council.

- I. This initiative is about building connections. It provides an opportunity to tell a story of 'why the council is essential to community' and for marketing and press. A potential post-activity might be a tour of the voted three submissions. It would be advertised to residents and local officials/representatives as it highlights Central Neighborhood.
- II. To get this effort off the ground would incorporate door-to-door neighbor meet and greet.
- III. Potentially, a partnership with KBTC, a Central Neighborhood Asset, to share their educational resources with children attending the council meeting with their adult family members. This allows families to attend not have the barrier of childcare for children ages 4-10.

Build into each council meeting an opportunity for youth to share-out on KBTC session. This helps cultivate citizenship skills such as speaking in public spaces, and exposing children to public space for civic engagement. In addition, children build interest in STEAM opportunities and develop skills in literacy and numeracy while being prepared as future citizen leaders.

**What we are tracking to demonstrate resident reach- the beginning connection for relationship with the community forum in the form of a council**

# Council Meeting Attendees

# Submissions Resident Participation in "Green Up & Beautify"

Online Metrics: Likes/Comments, Photos, Page Visits

## -Families in Attendance



Publicize Submissions Voting Awarding

July - October ...?



# Fostering Community Collaboratively

05.16.2018

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Tiffany Y'vonne & Alyssa Torrez

## Overview

KBTC is striving to reach families with young children who frequent informal learning spaces in order to further their reach and promote equitable access to their early learning media materials

Central Neighborhood Council is striving to build connections with families who have children within the Central boundaries to foster civic engagement and reimagine public spaces as educational explorations for children to be exposed to civic engagement

Goal(s)

1. Develop mutually beneficial partnership(s) with Central Neighborhood assets to connect with families who have children, promote neighborhood resources, and foster civic engagement

## Idea:

- I. Focus is families with children ages 4-10 year old

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- II. Every month the Central Neighborhood Council hosts a community meeting (public space for civic engagement) at the Tacoma Nature Center.
  - III. Partner with KBTC, a Central Neighborhood Asset, to share their educational resources with children attending the council meeting with their adult family members.
  - IV. Potentially- build into each council meeting an opportunity for youth to share-out on KBTC session. This helps cultivate citizenship skills such as speaking in public spaces, and exposing children to public space for civic engagement. In addition, children build interest in STEAM opportunities and develop skills in literacy and numeracy.

## Primary Metric

### I. Family Attendance