



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

April 5, 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

Room Count: 15

At 7:02 pm, the Vice Chair, Roxie Nichols, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. She called attendees attention to the agenda and the calendar on its backside. She summarized the TPU notice about the permeable repaving project that is scheduled for the Oakland neighborhood and announced the forthcoming public information meeting.

Ms. Nichols noted that the Police Department reports that many vehicle break-ins/thefts were due to owners leaving unattended vehicles running. She announced that tickets for the Mayor's State of the City Address on April 11 are sold out.

7:10 pm. Councilman Keith Blocker took the podium. He reported that Justin Camarata has been appointed the interim council member for District 2. He spoke about homelessness issues. There are teams of police and social service staff who do respond to homeless folks and attempt to get them services and seek to relocate them into housing. Issues arise concerning background checks for admission to nonprofit-sponsored homeless shelters -- namely, what should be considered disqualifying records?

Affordable housing is another issue that the City Council is dealing with -- what strategies should be pursued? Persons with means to pay higher rents are causing the elimination of lower rent availability. But rent controls are not legal in Tacoma. The City Council is looking into requiring a longer period of notice for significant rent increases or of condo-conversion evictions.

Mr. Blocker took questions. There is nothing on the horizon for new occupancy of the former Frank Russell Building in downtown that is being vacated by State Farm Insurance.

He responded to a question about the tax breaks that are given to residential developers, and how that relates to conversions of apartments into condos.

Mr. Blocker responded to a question about using City bonding capacity to provide affordable housing. He basically said that it is politically unfeasible to levy taxes to support/subsidize affordable housing. He said that the City makes grants to the Metropolitan Development Council, an unaffiliated nonprofit organization that provides low-income housing.

Mr. Blocker reported that cities bordering Tacoma do not do their share of assisting with homelessness problems (Fircrest, University Place, Lakewood, Puyallup, etc.).

Regarding the RiteAid property on MLK and S.11th, Mr. Blocker said that the group proposing to acquire the site and create a youth shelter has abandoned that proposal.

Mr. Blocker said the City might assist the immigrant population. One idea is creating a legal defense fund seeded with modest funds contributed by the City. The kickoff event for that fund was this morning at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center. Anyone can donate to that fund and all are encouraged to do so.

7:45 pm. Ms. Nichols took the podium. She noted that Brandon Nelson of Hilltop Action Coalition was

scheduled to speak, but apparently due to a miscommunication he will not present. She announced the next Scott Pierson Trail cleanup work party is scheduled for May 12, a Saturday morning, from 8:30 am to 11:00 am.

Board member Doug Schafer explained our hope that some of the attendees would consider joining our board. There were some question about what is expected of board members, and a question about the long list of former board members named in our 2017 annual report.

8:00 pm Vice Chair Roxie Nichols adjourned the meeting.

8:13 pm. The board members, Roxy Nichols, Luis Alonzo, and Doug Schafer, convened a board meeting, joined by Toby Nitzsche, who we welcomed as a new board member. The board approved the March 2018 forum minutes and noted a treasury balance of \$9,341.20, unchanged from last month. Toby had questions about how the board members communicate with one another and with the public. We explained how we have been operating, and what objectives we are proposing. We discussed marketing strategies to elicit greater neighbor participation, and we discussed our role as an organization.

9: 00 pm. The board meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary