



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum/Meeting

March 2, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Debby Sims, Roxie Nichols Doug Schafer, Claudia Riedener, Luis Alonzo (Absent: Tony Powell)

Room Count: 24

At 7:00 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He described the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited persons to become members of our board. He encouraged attendees to visit next Saturday's Sustainability Expo.

7:09--7:21 pm. District 3 Councilmember Keith Blocker spoke. He described his upcoming Hilltop Community Forum scheduled for 6-8 pm Thursday, March 16, at Peoples Community Center. He responded to a question about the Federal Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center explaining that the mayor sent a Feb 24 letter threatening to revoke that facility's business license if not compliant with applicable local, state, and federal laws. Kit Burns asked about climate change as it applies to zoning and activities at the Port of Tacoma, including the LNG plant. Mr. Blocker fielded a question about the City's Click! network, responding that the City opted to go "all in" to provide cable TV and internet service.

7:21--7:39 pm. Patrick Babbitt, from the City's Sustainability Office, who now directs the City's Healthy Homes Healthy Neighborhoods Program, described that program as trying to connect residents to local resources through intensive outreach, including door-to-door canvassing and community events/meetings. From Fall 2015 through Summer 2016 their AmeriCorp workers canvassed 1,182 Hilltop area homes, having 266 conversations and leaving literature at each home. Many of the items the workers distributed were eco-type (e.g., light bulbs, showerheads, reusable bags). The workers informed residents about local services available to them.

7:39-- 8:16 pm. Liaison reports were given by (1) Rebecca Boydston of the City Manager's Office, fielding several questions regarding land use planning; (2) Jim Biles, of Metro Parks, was absent, so Charles urged attendees to access MP's website; (3) Lincoln Correa, of Tacoma Fire Dept., gave us safety tips of the month; (4) TPD Officer Imtiaz Norling, the new Sector 2 Community Liaison Officer, updated us on local crime reports (e.g. stabbing at 2500 block of S. Yakima, drive-by shooting at S 12th & M St; and purse snatch at 1500 block of Sprague), and an increase in car prowls; and (5) Steve Story, from the Tacoma Public Schools, updated us about the mumps outbreak, transgender students (status quo to continue), no records of immigration status, opening of new Stewart Middle School on March 13.

8:16--8:26 The Chair invited all in attendance to speak about any issues of interest or concern. A representative of Safe Streets reported that her organization has been funded to provide more City-wide services, including graffiti removal. The Chair presented information about the neighborhood council's upcoming plans. Mayoral candidate Jim Merritt introduced himself. Kit Burns reminded us that the Tall Ships Festival will be coming this summer.

8:30 pm: Most attendees departed and Board members met. We reviewed our 2016 Annual Report and 2017 Budget and unanimously approved their submission to the City. We unanimously approved a motion, consistent with the budget, to donate \$500 each for the Art on the Ave and the Hilltop Street Fair events.

We discussed approaches to increase community involvement and partnering with UW Tacoma's Urban Studies program. We authorized the chair to send a letter to that institution with such a proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary.