

Hilltop Action Coalition Community Meeting  
January 22, 2018

Notes/Minutes

Brendan Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Board members present: Brendan Nelson, William Towey, Jo Davies, Jennifer Schaal

Brendan Nelson: HAAction Announcements

- Jo Davies announced that HAC would have a table at the Healthy Kids and Families Carnival, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Peoples Community Center, and would love to have some volunteers.

Anaid Yerena, UW: Community Land Trusts & Affordability; The Role of Advocacy Organizations

- A community land trust is an institution deeply involved in the affairs of the community, especially the use of land. It gives power to the people.
- Ms. Yerena wrote an article about this as a call to action for the Hilltop, and specifically called out HAC to fill this role as a community steward.
- Areas of Opportunity for the Hilltop:
  - a long-term approach to increasing home ownership; for example, the community owns the land and the homeowner owns the structure
  - affordability subsidies
  - long-term relationships with homeowners
  - new homeowners supported by the community
- The community land trust can be set up like a corporation, with the board setting goals for increasing inclusiveness in homeownership. The board would include representative homeowners, representatives from the community, and public sector representatives.
- The community land trust model is a 70-year old proven model for improving homeownership.
- Community land trusts have the lowest percentage of foreclosures and bankruptcies, and they have an average 91% home ownership in their communities vs, the national average of 50%.
- The article Anaid Yerena wrote for the News Tribune is titled, *Land Trust Could Aide Tacoma Affordability*. <http://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article175895916.html>

Dr. Gilda Sheppard, Evergreen State College: Hilltop Film Project

- Dr. Sheppard is a sociologist and filmmaker, and has been working with prison populations for many years, interviewing and hearing their stories.
- A substantial number of prisoners are from Tacoma, and many are from the Hilltop.
- Dr. Sheppard views incarceration as an outcome, and her research centers on understanding root causes.
- The stories begin with men and women who lived in the Hilltop during the 80s and 90s, and tracks their journey through incarceration to the present day. Dr. Sheppard is looking for members of the Hilltop who formed HAC, to tell their stories about how the community responded to the gangs and crime during the 80s and 90s.
- The Black Prisoners Caucus organization is doing amazing work to educate prisoners and raise their lot in life.
- The film project is titled "Since I've Been Down".
- [gildasheppard@gmail.com](mailto:gildasheppard@gmail.com)

### Julie LaRocque, Tacoma Housing Authority: Rental Assistance Program

- THA services 1500 citizens and manages 4100 households, 1460 of which are THA-owned properties.
- THA has a rental assistance voucher system and a managed wait list that occasionally opens, and then closes again when full. In 2015, 10,000 applications were received for 1200 slots.
- THA aims to increase housing for low income community members. Currently 83% of the housing market is not available to low income residents. The baseline income is \$24 per hour to maintain housing and keep the lights on.
- THA helps people with resumes and self improvement, and works with organizations like Sound Outreach and Goodwill. A points system for job training and education rewards people with cash they can put toward housing.
- See Julie's flyer, available at the HAC office, for more information.

### Lt Gretchen Aguirre: Tacoma Police Department Update

- Lt Aguirre reviewed statistics for increases and decreases from 2016 to 2017 for violent crime, burglaries, car thefts and assaults.
- The Hilltop has two assigned full-time CLOs: Brandon Showalter and Imtiaz Norling. TPD is hoping to have four CLOs eventually.

### Community Announcements

- William Towey announced that HAC now has communications with the community via the HAC website, Facebook, Twitter, and the Hilltop Journal. HAC Links projects with the City include 311 Engagement, and Links To Opportunity. The next HAC Links meeting is Tuesday, January 30th, 6pm in the HAC office.
- Heather Wood, an Olympia resident, is interested in working with residents to improve the Hilltop's natural environment & gardens, with bee hive and compost bin building competitions.
- Toby Joseph announced that Consultants for Indian Progress, an organization that steps up for urban native Americans, holds potlatch-style dinners at Centro Latino the first and third Sundays of each month, from noon to 5pm.
- Brendan announced that the February Community Meeting is delayed by the Presidents Day holiday and will be held Monday, February 26.

Brendan adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Submitted by Jennifer Schaal, January 24, 2018.

Results of Anaid Yerena’s Survey done during her presentation. “Organizations that have a vested interest in Hilltop.” These groups can be used later to possibly attract participation in building a Land Trust for Hilltop.

Organization	Number of times
Hilltop Action Coalition	10
Tacoma Community House	8
Tacoma Housing Authority	8
Community Health Care	7
Hilltop Business association	5
Hilltop Urban Gardens	5
Associated Ministries	4
Goodwill	3
Tacoma Police Department	3
Allen AME Church Tacoma	2
Catholic Community Services	2
Evergreen State College	2
Gillucci Learning Garden	2
People's Community Center	2
Tacoma Rescue Mission	2
Young Women's Christian Association	1
2nd Cycle	1
Hilltop Collective	1
Mercy House Senior Housing	1
Metropolitan Development Council	1
Multicare	1
Neighbor's Park	1
Peace Lutheran Church	1
Roomshare program	1
Saint Leo's	1
Shiloh Baptist Church	1
Sound Outreach	1
Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council	1
Tacoma Urban League	1
Tacoma Urban Performance Art Center	1
University of Washington Tacoma	1