



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

October 5, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Debby Sims, Doug Schafer, Luis Alonzo, Dan Villa, and Roxie Nichols. Absent: Claudia Riedener, Aaron Johnsen.

Room Count: 26 (and one person logged-in to our virtual meeting)

At 7:00 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He explained that we are streaming tonight's forum so persons who log-in can view it from home. He displayed slides that described the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited persons to become members of our board. He called attendees' attention to the events calendar on the back of the agenda.

7:08 pm. Keith Armstrong (karmstrong@cityoftacoma.org; 253-594-7933) of the Office of Small Business Enterprise, Tacoma Community & Economic Development Dept. gave a presentation. One initiative motivates contractors to hire local apprentices and workers for projects totaling \$1 billion coming to the area. There are local construction worker shortages, thus many opportunities for persons looking for good-paying jobs. His office also supports small businesses in Tacoma. He discussed the concept of "Community Workforce Agreements" and HUD housing construction projects that must employ low-income local residents (Section 3 hiring.)

7:30 pm. Rebecca Boydston of the City Manager's Office spoke about the Innovative Grant program. The city council will receive a status report on billboards at its Oct. 10 meeting. Oct. 17 will be a public hearing on the Tideflats Subarea Plan to be held at the Pantages Theater. She responded to a question about the City's temporary homeless camp.

7:36 pm. Jim Biles of Metro Parks said his agency investigated news reports about dogs dying after visiting Garfield Park, but lab tests showed no park-related causes. The Metro Parks website (<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org>) has a comprehensive events calendar; Jim highlighted several upcoming events.

7:40 pm. Liaison Steve Collins from Tacoma Fire Department addressed citizen emergency preparedness and the October 8th free CPR Sunday (www.CPRSunday.net) at Foss High School to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs). October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week, in which the emphasis is teaching everybody always identifying two available exits from occupied buildings. The Fire Dept. is restoring personnel and equipment to pre-recession levels.

7:51 pm. Tacoma Police liaison Don Stodola described the reported criminal activity within the Central Neighborhood district. Violent crime is actually lower; but property crimes are higher. The police department is hiring; TPD officers handle more calls per officer than other cities in WA.

8:10 pm. Alicia Lawver (alawver@tacoma.k12.wa.us), liaison from Tacoma Public Schools, reported that TPS seeks public input about the land adjacent to Blueberry Park that it desires to sell. It is holding public hearings to receive input. Other surplus property to be sold are a 20-acre parcel (former Camp Joshua Taylor) near Joemma Beach State Park in Longbranch and a 1.24 acre parcel near Giandrone School.

8:04 pm. The Chair invited attendees to express any concerns they may have. Kit Burns spoke in opposition to proposed LED streetlights, asserting those lights are too harsh. He also spoke in opposition to TPU's initiative to install smart electric service meters. Pennie Smith spoke highly of the responsiveness of the City's 311 system, but Charles Mann expressed 311 feedback fail to provide sufficient details to understand response structure, departmental integration nor cost metrics.

8:11 pm. Wanda Rochelle of Safe Streets described Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), landscaping & other tools to reduce crime opportunities, eliminating hiding places & blind spots. Safe Streets staff will perform free home and yard assessments to suggest crime prevention measures. Her colleague, Roxanne, led us through a neighborhood assets inventory exercise that Safe Streets uses when forming neighborhood crime-prevention groups. A November 4 Neighborhoods Conference at Stewart Middle School was announced. See www.safest.org for information.

8:27 pm. The Chair called attention to the City's free tree planting fall program, described at www.cityoftacoma.org/gritcitytrees. Applications may be submitted through October 13. He described the successful Sept 30 Scott Pierson Trail clean-up held. The Chair urged residents to upload neighborhood photos at tinyurl.com/cncresidentuploads. An attendee announced an upcoming homelessness documentary movie at the Grand Cinema. Richard Sims announced some upcoming Tacoma Historical Society events.

8:35 pm. The Chair invited attendees to share some pumpkin pie and then to either depart or stay for Board discussions, which then began at about 8:50 pm after most attendees had departed.

- (a) Board members approved the September forum minutes.
- (b) The treasurer reported that our present bank account balance is \$10,422.49.
- (c) The Chair reported we had only one online viewer of our forum this evening.
- (d) Debby updated progress on the shopping bags project.
- (e) Doug described the next day's taping of a local candidates' forum being co-hosted by Tacoma's neighborhood councils and the League of Women Voters for TV-Tacoma's local broadcasts.
- (f) The Chair distributed, and we discussed, a draft notice to solicit a graduate student from UW Tacoma Urban Studies Department to be a "strategic coordinator" and member of our board. We discussed the term and whether a stipend should be offered.
- (g) The Chair displayed a list of projects he'd like Board members or participants to volunteer to spearhead. He hopes each Board member would choose one or more projects.
- (h) We selected a CNC telephone number, 253-242-3579. It will forward calls to the designated chair and ensure personal data privacy.
- (i) The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary