

Hilltop Action Coalition
Area-Wide Meeting – June 19, 2017

Notes/Minutes

Brendan Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Board members present: Brendan Nelson, Teresa Jackson, William Towey, Aameedah Hasan, Jo Davies, Christina Blocker, Jennifer Schaal

William Towey: Hilltop Action Journal

- The July-August issue is the next one to come out
- We are emphasizing youth engagement and have printed every article submitted so far by youth rather than selecting certain submissions to print; this has had a tremendous impact, and one of the youth submissions has inspired community clean-up action
- Thanks to a grant from the New Tacoma Neighborhood Council, we are starting a distribution program through the neighborhood youth
- We are printing buttons, stickers, decals and posters to attract youth to distribute the Journal in their neighborhoods
- This distribution program is specifically for neighborhoods within the Hilltop footprint

Dan Stoehr: Reach Ministries

- 20 year history of working with youth and families affected by AIDS
- Works throughout the Pacific NW, mainly in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho
- Teens are especially impacted by the deep rejection they face when peers know they or their parents have AIDS
- Working with Pierce County AIDS foundation to figure out how to better engage youth
- Four-day Labor Day summer camp needs volunteers who want to engage with kids; these are full days, from 8:00am to 8:00 or 9:00 at night

Keith Blocker: City Homelessness Project Update

- The City has declared an emergency due to the large numbers of homeless people in Tacoma, and created a three-phase program
- Phase 1 is happening now, distributing food and water, collecting data, assessing the situation
- Phase 2 will entail creating a tent city around 25th and Portland Ave, distributing clothing and storage containers as well and food and water. This will be a three-month process and then a re-assessment will be made
- Phase 3 will attempt to move people into permanent housing, possibly using refurbished old hotels or other properties
- Jo Davies suggested that folks put pressure on Pierce County, and not just the City of Tacoma, to come up with solutions for this problem. Citizens are encouraged to

contact Pierce County Councilmembers: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/99/County-Council>

Dan Roach, District 1 (253) 798-3635

Pam Roach, District 2 (253) 798-2222

Jim McCune, District 3 (253) 798-6626

Connie Ladenburg, District 4 [includes Hilltop area] (253) 798-7590

Rick Talbert, District 5 (253) 798-6653

Douglas Richardson, District (253) 798-3308

Derek Young, District 7 (253) 798-6654

Brendan Nelson: Hilltop Engagement Committee (HEC)

- Meets monthly to discuss issues surrounding development of the link light rail and provide Hilltop community input
- Meets 5:00pm the first Wednesday of each month at Bates Technical College Clyde Hupp Conference Center (conference room can be hard to find: go to the 11th and Yakima entrance and follow the signs)
- The next meeting is July 19th, moved due to the July 4th holiday
- Eric Alozie will give an update at the July HAC Area-Wide Community Meeting
- AHBL, the designers, will open a storefront in the old Key Bank Bldg (1120 S 11th), Wednesdays 9:00am-1:00pm and Thursdays 4:00-7:00pm
- A suggestion was made to write an article for the Journal about the HEC

Officer Brandon Showalter: Tacoma Police Dept (TPD) Update

- Reviewed addresses of interest in recent events
- Two recent shootings, one around St John's Church and one at S 25th & G
- Incident at Sheridan Park with a large party a couple weekends ago, reckless driving, noise, slow police response due to every officer out on other calls
- Staffing levels still low at TPD, hard to get new recruits
- City code for public nuisances such as the Stop Mart is being changed, council will adopt new code in March

Karen Blatman: Dept of Corrections (DOC) Update

- Karen is supervisor of the sex offender program: (253) 680-2684
- If the state does not have a budget by June 30, most state workers are laid off and the DOC will go to a skeleton crew
- Steven Powell is being released and will need to be monitored

Brendan Nelson: HAC Calendar

- Brendan drew attention to the Community Calendar printed on the reverse of the Area-Wide agenda
- The Hilltop Neighborhood Clean-Up Day is July 15th from 10:00am to 1:45pm at the Evergreen Tacoma Campus; a document shredder will be available
- Jennifer Stolle asked folks to sign up if they are conducting a National Night Out event (August 1st) and/or if they want to help with the Hilltop Street Fair (August 26th)

- Jennifer Stolle and Laura Miller have organized community walks to clean up litter on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, 2:00-4:00pm; meet at the HAC Office (1116 Earnest S Brazill St)
- Next HAC Area-Wide Community Meeting is Monday, July 17th

Brendan adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by Jennifer Schaal, June 19, 2017.