



Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

February 1, 2018 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center

1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Charles Mann, Doug Schafer, Luis Alonzo and Roxie Nichols.

Absent: Claudia Riedener (Dan Villa and Aaron Johnsen resigned recently)

Room Count: 23 plus 2 attending via GoToMeeting

At 7:04 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He displayed the virtual meeting logon URL, <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/518861133>, explaining anyone can participate with any internet-connected device. Virtual participants can hear the audio portion of the forum, view the PowerPoint presentation and submit comments and questions via a chat window on the GoToMeeting control panel. He displayed slides that described the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited attendees to join the board. He called attention to CNC's new phone number--253-242-3579--which reaches the Chair. At his invitation, attendees introduced themselves.

7:16 pm. The Chair introduced City Councilmember Keith Blocker, who commented that when he took office as a new councilmember, he had a lot to learn. He said the City Council's two basic rules about initiatives are "Can we afford it?" and "Is it legal?" Concerning job growth, he said most growth has occurred in the government sector. He referred to the Eastside Community Center; to the renovation of Valhalla Hall; to Peoples Park improvements; and a low-income housing project at 824 MLK Way. He said many curb ramps have been completed. When queried whether he aggressively advocates for his constituents, Mr. Blocker replied the City tries to equitably distribute resources/services among the different areas of the city.

Mr. Blocker noted that his area of responsibility, Council District #3, overlaps four neighborhood council boundaries, so he does not attend each of their meetings. He said City Council had concerns about monthly "citizen/speaker forums" as sometimes too rowdy, disrespectful and time-consuming. He said City staffers are frequently necessary to address questions and comments presented at citizen forums.

Mr. Blocker discussed homelessness and low-income housing, lauding the capabilities of Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) as an extremely valuable resource developing affordable housing. He commented "affordable housing" is a distinctly unique issue.

Mr. Blocker took questions from attendees about (1) City project priorities and "equitable" City resources allocations, (2) street repair status, referring us to website <http://tacomastreetinitiative.org>, (3) tracking Hilltop Subarea Plan progress, (5) opioid crisis, (6) Click! Network status, and (7) police response times and recruitment efforts to out-pacing retirements.

8:03 pm. Chair Mann discussed the City's homelessness initiative, displaying "Stability Site Data." Stability site is the first intervention step for homeless individuals served under the Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan. He displayed and explained Metro Parks events listings, Tacoma Fire Department 2017 incident statistics, January 2018 Tacoma Police Department crimes data and encouraged attendees to support Tacoma Public School levies (election February 8). He announced the March 10 Scott Pierson Trail cleanup (<https://sptc2018.eventbrite.com>) and described the latest CNC Neighborhood Moment video (<https://youtu.be/9pBGNBdCpbU>). He referred attendees to TPU's survey concerning the hiring of a replacement director.

8:19 pm. Chair Mann distributed a four-page survey and asked participants to indicate interests and neighborhood council expectations.

8:30 pm. The Chair adjourned the meeting and invited attendees to remain for the board meeting.

8:44 pm. The board (Charles, Doug, Luis, & Roxy) approved the January forum minutes. Our treasury balance is \$8,841.20. We reviewed, line-by-line, and edited our proposed 2017 Annual Report and our proposed 2018 Budget. We approved the resulting final report and budget for delivery to the City.

9:59 pm. Board meeting adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary