



## Minutes of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council Forum

July 7, 2017 • 7:00 pm

Tacoma Nature Center  
1919 South Tyler Street

Board Attendees: Mann, Sims, Johnsen; Schafer, Nichols

Absent: Riedener, Alonzo

Room Count: 20

At 7:02 pm, the Chair, Charles Mann, convened the forum and welcomed attendees. He stated that he had intended to conduct a virtual forum, but unanticipated, catastrophic technical difficulties thwarted that effort (virtual forum process continues as an experiment). He explained and displayed slides that described the function of the City's neighborhood councils and invited persons to become members of the Board. He called attendees' attention to the events calendar on the back of the agenda.

7:09 pm. Councilmember Keith Blocker spoke to us about the City's initiative to address the significant homelessness problem, particularly the City-sponsored, temporary "big tent" homeless camp at Portland Ave E & Puyallup Ave. At the camp, City staff and others will help homeless persons access available services that may help them to escape homelessness. In addition to 75 tents within the big tent and 20 tents adjacent to it, round-the-clock security is provided. The City budgeted \$3.6 million to address homelessness. Mr. Blocker fielded questions from participants.

7:29 pm. Karen Sudderth shared her experience as CNC representative to the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference that was held in Omaha, Nebraska in late May. Next year's conference will be in Birmingham, Alabama. She highlighted a presentation about "place-making," a gathering place for neighborhoods, citing one example of an ice cream social. She mentioned a National Neighborhoods Association (MyNNA.com) affiliated with Nextdoor.com, providing free website pages for neighborhood groups. She described an "art-in-the-neighborhood" program, attended a human rights program focused on Omaha's many Sudanese refugees and was quite impressed by "Omaha 360," a collaboration of police, churches and others who meet weekly to discuss and address crime issues.

7:50 pm. City Manager liaison, Rebecca Boydston, updated the "Bring Your Own Bag" (BYOB) ordinance that becomes effective July 12. The City is donating 40,000 bags through its programs serving low-income residents. She addressed some personnel changes. She reported that the City Council will be addressing the process of enacting emergency ordinances at its meeting on July 26.

7:54 pm. Metro Parks liaison, Jim Biles, announced the Tacoma Food Truck festival (22 food trucks) on July 23 at Wright Park. The annual Ethnic Fest will be at Wright Park on July 29-30. Responding to a question asked last month, if the Parks' Board intends to sell its properties on Portland Ave, such as the Eastside Community Pool site, no decision has been made. Community meetings about the proposed Eastside Community Center are planned for late July and August.

8:00 pm. Tacoma Fire Department liaison, Doug Kimball, reminded us that trash fires are not permitted in Tacoma, but small recreational "campfires" are permitted with certain limitations and requirements. Online information is accessed by Googling "Tacoma" and "burn ban."

8:08 pm. Tacoma Police Department liaison, Imtiaz Norling, described accrued, reported criminal activity within the Central Neighborhood district.

8:24 pm. The Chair invited attendees to express any concerns they may have. Joe Peer expressed his concerns about a noisy visitor regularly driving in his neighborhood. He has complained to the City. Another attendee expressed concerns about restaurant patrons parking their vehicles on the planting strip that she maintains in front of her home. She was urged to call 311 with a code violation complaint

because the City Code forbids parking in yards and in planting strips. As a deterrent, she was encouraged to place large rocks on her planting strip.

8:35 pm. The Chair and others described their mixed results from their calls to the City's 311 customer service line. The Chair announced various events, including an upcoming planning meeting about the Urban Forestation project this fall and noted the recent Scott Pierson Trail clean-up. He encouraged attendees to use the People's Community Center pool. He noted a "Welcome to Hilltop" sign and suggested CNC consider funding similar "branding" signs. He illustrated several planning department street design graphics and promoted the Tuesday, August 1, National Night Out event, coordinated by Safe Streets. He displayed Metro Parks' response to his inquiry about portable toilets in neighborhood parks; the response listed several reasons why portable toilets are not generally placed in neighborhood parks.

The Chair called our attention to WADOT's YouTube video illustrating configuration changes on Interstate 5 between Fife and S 56th St.

8:48 pm. The Chair invited attendees to depart or to stay for Board discussions, which began after most attendees departed.

- On behalf of the treasurer, the Chair reported our HomeStreet Bank account balance is \$10,953.
- The Chair asked for volunteers for our Art-on-the-Ave booth Sunday, July 9. Aaron Johnsen & Deb Sims expressed interest in representing the Council.
- The Chair expressed concern that no Board members are volunteering to participate in the Neighborhood Moments studio recording, scheduled for the morning of Friday, July 14. Accordingly, unless some Board members volunteer to help, CNC will forego the opportunity.
- The Chair showed some shopping bags that we might consider providing.
- At the Chair's suggestion, we approved purchasing a spare/backup projector bulb (estimate\$100) for the Nature Center's projector that we use.
- Urban Forestation planning meeting will be at the Chair's home on Wed., July 12 at 6:00 pm.
- The Chair announced that Tony Powell resigned from our Board due to other commitments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schafer, Board Secretary.