

Hilltop Action Coalition Community Meeting - March 19th, 2018

Notes/Minutes

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

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

Brendan Nelson: HACtion Announcements

- Tacoma Community House announced that they will be hosting a 14th street corridor neighborhood meeting soon, day/time TBA. Contact Bianca Reynaga in the TCH office for more info.
- HAC Cleanup with Keith Blocker on 3/17/18 at noon at the properties on MLK and 11th was very successful. We collected 15 bags of trash with 11 volunteers in 1 hour.
- Councilman Blocker shared that the Rite Aid site will *not* be the future site of a youth shelter. The City already has a temporary youth shelter at the Beacon Center, and they are looking into making it permanent.
- Councilman Blocker also shared that there will be a Public Hearing to discuss a Methadone Clinic being considered for placement at 37th and Tacoma Ave. It will be held on March 30th at 6pm at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 S Tacoma Way.
- Councilman Blocker shared that there will be a fundraiser breakfast to kick off the Deportation Defense Fund. The fund was created to help cover legal fees for Tacoma residents facing deportation. The fundraiser kickoff event will be held on April 5th 7-8:30am at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, 4851 S Tacoma Way.

Kathryn McCarthy: Tacoma Public Schools

- TPS has a variety of school options for preschool, elementary, middle school and high school. TPS partners with a multitude of local businesses to bring a myriad of options to Tacoma residents; Montessori, STEAM, STEM, Tech, Industrial Design and Engineering, Environmental Science & Math, art focused, free pre-schooling programs, etc.
- Thrive is a new program at Jason Lee Middle School. The program ran as a summer program in a test phase for the last 4 summers at Peace Community Center. It is now in its 2nd year at Jason Lee MS. Active body – Active Mind. Physical movement is integrated into much of the school day and helps the students focus more.
- Stadium High School has a new “Health Care Careers” program starting this year for Freshman, the Class of 2022. They have about 75 students right now. They work towards Healthcare Certification in a variety of options; dental, medical, nursing, etc. TPS is partnering with University of Puget Sound, Bates Tech and the UW of Tacoma on this program to allow interaction between professionals and students.

Marcella Tomlin: SOAR Academy

- SOAR stands for Success, Outcomes, Art and Rigor
- This charter school is in their 3rd year and is building their size with each new year; only through 3rd grade right now. They are growing slowly and purposefully, with goal to cover K through 8th grade.
- The school emphasizes differentiation – teachers can teach at every level to help each student with their individual needs.
- They offer Direct Services for issues that their students might face; homelessness, divorce, low income, trauma, domestic violence, etc. Staff undergo trauma training.
- This school offers Unconditional Education – no one is expelled or suspended. Issues are dealt with on site with less punitive measures, with health of child as main concern.
- Majority of students come from Hilltop and Tacoma’s Eastside.

Amy Klippert: Destiny Charter Middle School

- Destiny hosts monthly community events to engage with the students, their families & new students.
- Destiny is part of Green Dot Public Schools. They have 15+ years of experience & 20+ schools.
- Destiny is in its 3rd year, in the old Rogers Elementary Building at the end of 34th St behind the Dome.
- Currently have 250 students, with room for 290.
- No tuition, all WA state students are accepted.
- Offer free/reduced lunch program, and bus transport in the Tacoma area.
- Small community, all teachers know all students. Class day starts with Advisory, and the class group rotate from room to room together throughout the day.
- Teacher student ratio is about 23 to 1+ (teacher's aide).

Dave Chappell: Bates Technical College High School Program

- Serving students 16-21 years old from any district in WA state, just have to get there on their own.
- Pathway to a HS diploma, plus certification, and up to 3,500 apprentice-able hours towards a variety of journeyman programs.
- 3 campuses; Central Muller, South Campus and Yakima campus.
- Offer a huge variety of focus; auto body, barber, fireman, electrical, civil engineering, architectural engineering, cabinetry, mechanical engineering, etc.
- New student transfers need a minimum of 5 credits, but they would prefer 10. If 5 is all they have, likely have to take some night classes to catch up to 10.
- Graduates have a 90% hire rate, and 5 years post grad rates of employment are higher than other WA state college grads, state wide.
- Bates is a college. Not as rigid as a HS. Students who are self-motivated will be successful.

Lt Gretchen Aguirre: Tacoma Police Department Update

- 1501 MLK Market has been closed down. Business and Liquor Licenses were both suspended.
- 1500 S M St had a drive-by and cops were there in less than 1 minute.
- 1200 S 14th St had an eviction served; may help alleviate some of the gang issues.
- 477 contacts with Homeless have been made YTD, 132 unlicensed camping notices served YTD, 553 trespass notices issued YTD.
- 131 contacts made on 14th St corridor since Jan 1st, 9 felony arrests and 2 misdemeanors.
- Youth Outreach programs are up and running; Safe Street Youth Academy (6-week program), and Al Davies program (8-week program).
- TPD also offers an Explorers Program for youth 16 years and older to learn about becoming a police officer.
- Showed us a video about how to prevent vehicle theft.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=IvNGiVuM6tY

Community Announcements

- Michael Bradley of Metro Parks announced that People's Community Center will be hosting a Community Outreach event this Friday 3/23 at People's Community Center from 6-8pm.
- Brendan announced that Henry Lee Walls teaches crochet classes at Red Elm Cafe, and the next class is 3/21 2:30-3:30, 3/23 3:30-4:30pm, and 3/30 3:30-4:30
- Tacoma Community House announced that they will be screening the award winning animated movie Coco on Friday March 30th at 6pm with popcorn, treats and crafts for kids.

Brendan adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.

Next meeting April 16th, 2018.

Submitted by Jennifer Stolle, March 21st, 2018.