



South End Neighborhood Council

4911 S. Alaska Street, Fire Station #8, Suite B
Tacoma, WA 98408

South End Neighborhood Council Minutes
Monday July 18, 2016

Present: Earl Brydson, Cary Nilson, William King, Kristin King, Tony Caldwell,
Antonio Rendina, John Pellessier, Janis Clark

Absent: Brandon Jones

Call to order: 7:00pm

Approval of June minutes: wait til after the meeting to give some board members
a chance to review

Tacoma Fire Dept

- recent fires related to outdoor grilling, especially under carports and awnings
 - make sure to turn off after finished cooking and wait til coals are cool before disposing
- do not burn home debris like siding, carpet, roofing etc
- recreational fires are allowed as long as no burn ban, but if smoke disturbs others, will be asked to put it out
- 67 fire-related calls, 465 ems, 46 misc
- Tony C: has weather influenced call number? Any calls for drownings?
 - It has been a little slow, most fires have been exterior fires, some brush fires. No major fires in last couple weeks.
 - Not that he's aware of.

Metro Parks

- Pools are open for business - Stewart Heights and Kandle
- PBS Kids Wapato exploration camp
 - starts Aug 1
 - free tshirts, free lunch and snacks
 - ages 6-12, weekly capacity of 40 children
 - \$125, 8am-6pm for the week
- Food Truck Festival at Wright Park on July 24
- Kandle Park Sunset Cinema July 29

- Minions playing at dusk
- July 30-31 Ethnic Fest at Wright Park
 - starts with Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- Metro Parks looking at all play courts (basketball, tennis, etc) and asking:
 - Do they need to be upgraded?
 - Are they being used?
 - Do they need to be updated to do different things like bike polo?
- Tareenaj@tacomaparks.com or comment on the website

Public Utilities – Sarah with Tacoma Power, Conservation Dept

- working with Healthy Homes Healthy Neighborhoods
- came with goody bags with
 - CFL equivalent of 100 W, only uses 23W, good for porch lights
 - LED equivalent of 60W
 - cards for 1 showerhead per household
 - program info
- for electrically heated homes older than 1988 might need more insulation, ductless heat pump
 - have rebates and 0% interest loan, as well as grants for low income
 - single pane windows
- Duct sealing program
 - seals any air leaks in your ductwork to make it more efficient
 - rebates
- programs for gas-heated homes as well
- look for Tacoma Power logo on bulbs in stores
- Comment from John: uses a 100W incandescent bulb to heat kitchen since he has good insulation
- Question from Tony C: participate in National Night Out?
 - Yes! Had goody bags, and will be attending larger event in Hilltop
- Question from Tony C: how do you get rid of them?
 - CFLs need to be recycled because they will bio-accumulate. Take the to the hazardous waste section of the recycling area
 - LEDs go in trash
- Question from Janis: is info for low income grants in the bags?
 - Yes, have general handout with a little bit of everything and have business card with phone number to call for more info. Website also has income limit information.

City Manager's Office:

- Update from planning dept on the S 48th and Tac Mall Blvd project
 - started today, hoping to finish by the August 12th
 - contact Darius Thompson for questions
- Comprehensive Plan Review

- public hearing tomorrow after the 5pm City Council Meeting (which are held at TPU auditorium), so hopefully starting around 5:30pm
- multifamily design standards, wireless, short term rentals of housing, zoning reclassification
- Neighborhood Cleanups on July 30
 - Dumpster point at Bates Tech College south parking lot
- Question from Tony C: vacant house at 51st and J St, grass is high, city closed it down, so who is responsible for lawn?
 - Will ask and let know. Code compliance is responsive, and we might get a representative to present.
- Question from Tony C: if houses are along your property and you need to mow, who is responsible if the mower kicks up rocks or something and hits the car?
 - Good question, since mowing the right-away. Will find out and if the board wants can get a representative to talk to the board.
- Question from Tony C: are farm animals allowed in the city? Rabbits, chickens, goats?
 - There is a policy on size and weight, what is allowed and what isn't. May be difference on what is kept for a pet and what is kept for meat.
 - Earl: can have geese and chicken, but not a rooster. If someone complains about noise, then may eliminate them.
 - Audience member: conservation of certain species
- Question from Audience: if you call the city and they miss your call, when they call you back, the number they use is undialable. You have to call 311. An unlicensed inoperable car has been parked across the street from him and has not been moved by the city. Notes on the case say it's being towed, but it has been there for a month.
 - Sometimes it does take a month, as it takes 2 or 3 separate departments and try to give notice to the owner, up to 21 days. But a month is on the longer side. But if it is unlicensed on the public way, then it should be moving.

Alicia Lawver on Tacoma School Construction

- record number of school construction projects in the ground right now
- 2 new projects just begun:
 - Arlington Elementary, digging up the site, starting deconstruction of the school
 - SAMI started mobilizing on the site, partnership with the Zoo
- 4 existing projects wrapping up in the next year
 - McCarver, Wilson, Wainwright,
 - Stewart Middle School - ahead of schedule, no delay expected,
 - modernized the historic building.
 - Auditorium has been leveled and to be used for common space like lunches and assemblies, can bring in stadium seats, have 'Da Vinci' rooms for messy projects that are easy to clean up. Library overlooking common space. New gym. More glass room divisions for

Chris Cleason & John Hoffman

- New invoice format starting in August.
- Currently using Adobe Pro purchased originally in 2003
- did surveys and focus groups to see what customers wanted to see on a new bill
 - tried to retain the parts people liked and add/modify what they wanted
- Front designed to be simple, breakdown with graphics by type of service
- Added avg cost per day, how many days in the billing cycle
- Easier way to see how to pay the bill
- Question from Audience:
 - own a duplex. Will transferring and billing change? – No.
 - how do you calculate storage drain charges?
 - Wastewater and sewer is what goes down toilets and house drains and based on a winter quarter average, can stretch from Jan – April, when you're not watering lawn or washing cars.
 - Surface water is taken by lot size and zoning, not by what you use unless you purchase more land.
- Question from Audience: I get my bill online, so will that one be in new format?
 - New version online
- Question from Audience: so if using rainwater for watering garden in the winter, that doesn't save on surface water?
 - Not on surface water, but saving from the hose.
- Question from William: can get usages for different areas of the city, so can tell if in the median or high or low end?
 - Seattle is using a 'for my neighborhood' comparison for power, but we don't want to be on the bleeding edge, maybe learn from others.
 - Do have leak adjustment processes to get a credit back for the water.
- **Easy way to check for leaks:** go to the meter on the street, make sure all water is off in the house and look at the meter. The only time it should be spinning is if water is coming from the main. Call the TPU if that happens, and they will help you locate that leak. If your toilet is running long after flushing, then probably have a leak.
 - Suggestion from William: maybe add that to the info section of the bill.
- Question from John: are solid waste and recycling going to get fair? He recycles all the time, and sometimes takes 5-6 weeks to fill up the garbage can. Don't want the small one because it's awkward to manage in the wheelchair. Why not pay by the weight?
 - Let's see what options we have that would be easier to maneuver.
- Comment from John: LeMay has an incredible program and sorting ability.
 - You might have someone from solid waste come to talk about sorting.
- Question from Tony C: I'm going out of town for 40 days, how do I save money when not using services?
 - Call in a Vacation Stop
- Question from Audience: you're not considering fining for recycling material that goes into solid waste like Seattle does right?

- They do check to make sure recycling is not in solid waste, but not fining to that extent. Do have replacement stickers for top of recycling bin so know what goes in.
- Question from Kristin: are street cans taking styrofoam? The recycling center does, but would like to take care at the street.
 - Will check.

Community Concerns:

- Patrick Fischer on Puget Sound Hospital
 - they finally put aside \$2 million for demolition. Currently called “Human Services Cold Shutter”
 - Wed night July 20 at 6:30pm at the Health Dept auditorium on S D St., the Lincoln District Safe St group will discuss as part of their agenda:
 - How do we get a lot of interested people to write to Pierce County for the budget process that starts in September and gets approved in November. Commitments to write weekly emails for 2 months.
 - Looking for targets of the email campaign, people who would have influence on the Pierce County decision makers, like the Tacoma mayor, police chief, etc.
 - send messages weekly to make it known that the public is paying attention to this problem.
 - Last weekend there were kids playing up on the roof, and if anyone falls off that roof, the lawsuit will make the \$2 million to demolish look cheap.
 - Police aren't allowed to enter due to asbestos risk. A dozen or so homeless sleep there at night and leave before dawn (and are exposed to hazardous materials.)
 - Rick Talbert to attend the meeting.
 - Question from Janis: have you considered contacting the Health Dept's board of health?
 - Yes. Also including the governor, state legislatures, prospective county executives. Finding out who is the right arm of the decision makers and getting information in their hands as well.
 - Question from Janis: have you thought about a ballot initiative?
 - Something along those lines was brought up, but the timing is the issue. Since the funds are available now, don't want to push off to 2017 or 2018.

General Business

- Chair:
 - We are having elections in November. Need volunteers to be on the election committee.
 - Earl is up for reelection as well as 2 others.
 - William recommends that those not being elected are automatically on the committee.

- Send notice of termination to Brandon Jones for missing meetings.
 - Will leave 3 openings
- Vice Chair:
 - Pacific Ave Business District meeting at 56th and S Pacific library, 6pm on July 19 (3rd odd month Tuesday)
- Corresponding Secretary:
 - a lot of new Facebook likes
 - Earl: talk to the Fire Dept about hosting bbq here
 - William: Gas Station park bbq, or partner with Metro Parks
 - Earl: a couple a year would be great, design fliers
- Treasurer
 - Balances as of June 30, 2016
 - \$6,124.12 in savings
 - \$4,539.29 in checking
 - Expenses:
 - \$512 insurance paid by the Chairman
 - \$12.58 to Kristin King for snacks
 - \$45.58 for TPU water
- Membership Committee
 - BBQ possibilities
- Old Business
 - Janis NUSA report from Memphis TN
 - had meeting with Tacoma reps before leaving the conference regarding Tacoma hosting in 2019 or 2020
 - meeting for lunch to discuss the possibility, find out what it would take to put in the bid to the NUSA board
 - Portland OR said they would assist
 - 2017 in Nebraska, 2018 Alabama
 - Tony
 - back in January, we came up with ideas for neighbors to come to the meeting
 - poster board with date and time maybe five days before the meeting
 - fire dept sign
 - reach out to high school and college students
 - 1800 number to call in and ask questions
 - keep an spreadsheet of how many audience members and how many speakers attend each meeting
 - Seattle is talking about disbanding their 13 neighborhood council meetings, so we want to be more proactive.
 - Comment from David (city manager rep): the city of Tacoma is looking at how they engage with the residents and improve the way we communicate.
- New Business
 - William and Kristin out of town next month on business conference. Need

- a volunteer to take minutes. Antonio Rendina was volunteered.
- Approval of June minutes.

Adjourned at 9:12pm