



# South End Neighborhood Council

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

South End Neighborhood Council Monthly Meeting  
Jan 23, 2017

Present: Earl Brydson, Cary Nilson, William King, Janis Clark, Kristin King, Tony Caldwell, Eric Paulsen, George Trachier, John Shaffer

Absent: John Pellessier

Called to order at 7:02pm

Chairman:

Welcome to Eric, John, and George

November 2016 minutes approved. To be posted on website.

Fire Dept

- Dave of Battalion 3
- Action Plan handout for Earthquakes, Tsunamis
  - keep clean water and food in storage, enough to take care of self and family
  - if earthquake
    - shut down gas/water to the house
    - put sign in front window of house if OK or if need help
    - roughly 70 fire fighters for the 200k Tacoma residents, so can't help everyone
- January is National Blood Donor month
  - American Heart Association – one person in US needs blood every 2sec
  - Most common type needed is Type 0
  - Cascade Regional Blood Centers in Tacoma, Puyallup, Federal Way
- Question from audience: how does the Fire Dept communicate info to disadvantaged and disabled communities?
  - If they are living with someone that can relay info, but will look into a more focused approach.
  - Audience member will provide contacts for organizations for the blind to the Fire Dept so they can decide how to allocate their resources.
- Question from Eric: ever talk about the CERT Program?
  - Yes
- Stats for 2016
  - Total Calls 101,340

## Metro Parks

- Janet (Tareena at board meeting)
- Wapato Lake contract has started
  - will talk about it next month
  - same company that does work for Green Lake in Seattle
- Seymoor Conservatory
  - first phase has begun, renovating public bathrooms
  - other phases in planning
  - Wine and Chocolate – Feb 10, 5:30-7:30pm, \$40/person
    - for sell at Star Center, or can call Seymoor, or [www.metroparks.org](http://www.metroparks.org)
- Point Defiance
  - requests out to the community:
    - [www.destinationptdefiance.org](http://www.destinationptdefiance.org) has 2 surveys open
      - Traffic Flow in the park
      - Owen Beach improvements or changes
- One Run a Month – Feb 1, 9am, on Waterfront
- Eastside Community Center coming along

## Tacoma Public Schools

- Purston Anderson Connelly
- Preschool, Kindergarten enrollment has opened
  - all 35 elementary will host open house
  - Mar 1 is deadline for priority open enrollment
  - [www.tacomakidshaveit.org](http://www.tacomakidshaveit.org)
- Middle School and High School choice enrollment
  - every 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader family received a mailer with the process
- Satanic Temple Seattle rented space at Pt Defiance Elementary school for after-school program
  - asked for space monthly from 3:30pm – 5:30pm
  - Pt Defiance also hosts a Christian organizations
  - Question from Tony: is the City supporting them in any way?
    - It is from Seattle. It is private. Just providing the space as we are required to do.
  - Question from the audience: are we supporting any other religious entities?
    - Just providing the requested space. Following the same procedures for religious, non-religious.
- School handout list of priorities for the legislative session
  - Question from Tony: have you noticed any shortcomings? Hurting for money or programs in any particular Tacoma schools?
    - I would have to get back to you. We are being creative, being careful with FTE towards buildings, looking at enrollment numbers.
- Electronic newsletter for Building and Construction
  - [www.buildingforachievement.com](http://www.buildingforachievement.com)
  - [planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
  - Stewart – final construction details, heating and air, furniture, etc
    - opening scheduled for Fall 2017 (could happen before)
  - Birney – construction start Summer 2018 and opening Fall 2019

- Comment from Audience: Latino Member of Commerce. Tacoma has about a billion dollars of construction jobs and have a lot of needs for apprenticeships. Call the Dept of Labor and Industries to get people employed. Lakewood has some money coming to it as well, so direct people that direction as well.

### Safe Streets

- Darren Penn, Team Mobilization Specialist
- Report for 2016
  - 23 active neighborhood watch groups
  - major projects
    - Jan 29 annual Chinese New Year on 38t St, 10am-4pm
    - April 30 neighborhood makeover near Lincoln South area
    - Lincoln Revitalization project, will impact parking
    - Park pick up and clean up
    - Blueberry park clean up
    - Disaster Presentation, worked with Fire Dept
  - Tacoma Clean Up
    - 106 involved in
    - 222 tons cleaned up
  - 18 locations for March Against Crime
    - 200+ involved
  - National Night Out had 13 locations
    - 755 residents involved
  - 22 active Safe St neighborhood watch groups in South End
    - distribute fliers, drive around, Adopt a Spot
  - Monthly meetings – 1,827 citizens in South End involved
    - 2,740 hours
    - \$38,980 worth of volunteer time
- City Budget for Safe St
  - priorities are Lincoln (I5 to 40<sup>th</sup>, I5 to McKinley) and South End (72<sup>nd</sup> to 96<sup>th</sup>, I5 to McKinley)
- 20yrs ago, South End had least engagement. Now have most engaged residents.
  - Question from John: So police Sector 4 is the most covered by Safe St?
    - Sector 3 and Sector 4, but mostly Sector 4, now a little in Sector 2.
- Question from Audience: do we have a link to the Safe St website on our website?
  - Possibly, but we certainly can.

### Guest Speaker: Erika Tucci, Tacoma Public Utilities

- new monthly liaison from TPU, let Earl know if we have specific requests for presentations
- Biennial Rate Setting Process
- Help bill for Garbage/Recycling, Sewer, Surface Water, etc, but only provide Power, Tacoma Water, Click, and Rail
- Rate info at [www.mytpu.org/17-18Rates](http://www.mytpu.org/17-18Rates)
- Gravity-based water system, national resource teams on power and water sides.
- TPU does long term planning to avoid peak adjustments to handle changes in capital.

- Went for the sand water filtration system, been running well for about a year, does have a mortgage of sorts
- Bill for cost of service, based on customer class, stable and predictable bills
- Proposal
  - +\$5.75 per month on power
  - +\$1.49 per month on water
  - attempt lowest impact for lowest income customers
- Rebates available, and low income payment assistance programs
- Question from George: are the commercial rates going up proportionally?
  - Ray: depends on the class. Larger industrial are getting increases 7-8%, beyond system average of 5-6%
- Question from Tony: do you have any programs talking about using solar panels and sending energy back to TPU?
  - Ray: Recently constructed a community solar project, putting panels on top of building that houses the trucks. Residents can invest for shares. “Evergreen Options” potentially to make grants and investments in renewable projects in the community.
  - Tony: who would be the point of contact for additional info?
  - Erika: I will give you my card.
- Question from Tony: there was a big scare about lead in the water, then we had a minor problem down here in Tacoma schools. Update?
  - Erika: issue was with one piece of piping used in the 1950s. Some houses have that lead goose-neck, less than 1800. Not a system-wide problem.
  - Purston: Schools have been taken care of too.
  - Earl: they had a system where you could call and have your house tested.
  - Erika: that still exists. They can come out and test and do a walk-through audit.
- Question from Eric: so the rate has increased over the last few years. Any assistance for people with fixed incomes?
  - Ray: Previous bill assistance was one-time benefit, now upping the amount to offset the increase, and adding monthly assistance. Current benefit is \$180/customer/year and is increasing.
  - Earl: also have senior discounts, helpful once I retired.
  - Erika: Eligibility is advertised on the website.
- Question from audience: how do you backdate if income drops drastically after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter when you start out not able to qualify, but at the end, at poverty wages. That is the next frontier for the assistance program.
  - Audience member: Cities should post all the resources available in all the places that people can see it. Post it on Facebook, Community Center boards.

Guest Speaker: Chris Beale, Wapato Park Voluntary

- working with Metro Parks
- doing monthly work parties on 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of the Month 9am – noon, clean up the natural areas
  - next one is January 28th
  - Chip In Program
  - (Ryan’s Park is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month, smaller but needs more work than Wapato)
- Friends-Of organization, trying to create an umbrella for different stewarding groups and draw up interest for other volunteer opportunities
  - Habitat restoration group

- Dog park group
- Safe St park watch
- Engage staff at Nature Center for summer time science events, identifying birds, reptiles, etc at Wapato
- Feb 8 at Boathouse, 6-7:30pm, overview of the park history and master plan
- Feb 2 at Edison Ale House at 6pm at 56<sup>th</sup> pre-event: Tacoma Green Drinks, monthly event at a bar. (“Tacoma Needs Trees” was at Wingman Brewery.)
- Chris is running for City Council for District 5 this year. Joe Lonergan termed out.

#### Guest Speaker: Esther Day

- Puget Sound Latino Chamber and Tacoma City Club
- Tacoma City is going to come out and talk about exemption and rezoning
- of say 2500 parcels, 50 aren’t paying taxes (are exempt) but council still needs to collect the tax that is exempted, so it’s added to others tax bill.
- When have a single family home in a residential zone, taxes will go up if that area is rezoned to commercial. If you have a sign outside home saying ‘offering x service,’ beware, because the rate will go to the higher commercial rate.
- If we need housing, we don’t need to provide incentives in the form of tax exemptions nor unnecessarily rezone.
- Question from John: so it sounds like you’re against exemptions/subsidizations and let the market determine?
  - Exactly
- Issue with infill: change size of front of lot from 50ft wide to 25ft wide, created issues with blight.
- Neighborhood curb appeal makes a difference for residents being able to sell their homes.
- Comment from Earl: We have pamphlets in the office about the zoning, but are downplaying the role of taxes.
- Keep Tacoma responsible for putting in parking for new buildings.
- Comment from Audience: In the past, SENCO has written letters to authorities. Please consider writing a letter to our taxing authorities saying we don’t want to subsidize businesses, not just small businesses but also large businesses in the state.
  - Earl: we can have you present a proposal at the Feb meeting.

#### Community Concerns

- Friends of the Library: meeting at the board room at Main, this Sat Jan 28 10am
- Lincoln Area Community Garden near Lincoln High School is firming up. Looking for more participation. Contact Patrick Babbitt or McKala Gooly.
- Darren Penn: Neighborhood Clean Up is coming. Any funding for supplies for graffiti paint-over?
  - Lowes employees are paid for 2 days volunteer time.
  - Home Depot and Lowes corporate also have ‘corporate giving.’
  - MOTION
    - Janis proposes a motion to donate \$300 towards the Neighborhood Cleanup for graffiti paint-over. Seconded by William. Approved.

#### General Business

- Chair:

- Gave the board a copy of the budget, need to turn it in next month (February).
  - Observation: Update the Budgeted Total Expenses from \$4,020 to \$3,620 (\$1,620 + \$2,000)
  - Question from John: What is the \$2000 towards NUSA? That is half our budget.
    - Earl: we attend classes, bring back plans and information for what has worked for other communities.
    - John: We should talk about keeping money in the city rather than to airlines, look at the way other Tacoma neighborhood councils are operating rather than those in, say, Omaha.
    - Janis: merits of collaborating nationally, mayor to mayor
    - Esther (Audience): consider doing your own mini conference here for different cities in WA – Fife, Puyallup, Lakewood, based on NUSA's agenda
  - Question from Kristin: since we don't have the phone bill, can the "Phone Bill / Water Bill" be relabeled and lowered?
    - Earl: I can update that and subtract that amount.
  - Board members send Earl email with corrections, suggestions, so can be updated before next meeting.
- CCOT – 737 Market St, Room 16, the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 6pm, next one is Thurs Jan 26
- Vice Chairman
  - Pacific Avenue Business District is planning new banners to replace the wind-torn ones, also mural project.
- Corresponding Secretary
  - nothing to report
- Treasurer
  - as of Dec 31, 2016
    - Savings: \$6,127.20
    - Checking: \$3,819.41
  - have written the check of \$300 for graffiti removal
  - water bill of \$40.76

#### Committee Reports

- Looking for new committees!

#### Old Business

- Tony
  - Youth Club that we were trying to get together. Got with contact in school district and should have something positive for the next meeting.
  - Does Fire Dept have schedule for free CPR?
    - Should have one by next meeting.

#### New Business

none

Adjourned at 9:19pm