



# South End Neighborhood Council

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

South End Neighborhood Council Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2017

Call to Order at 7:01pm

Present: Earl Brydson, Cary Nilson, Kristin King, Athena Brewer, Eric Paulsen, Tony Campbell  
Excused Absent: John Pellessier (health), George Trachier (health), Janis Clark (health),  
William King (work)

## Liaison Reports

- Fire Dept - Dave McRoberts
  - Flyers for
    - Finding fire escapes for homes and businesses
    - Disaster kit for self and family for three days – earthquake preparedness
  - CPR Sunday: Oct 8, Free, Foss High School
    - <http://cprsunday.net> to make a reservation
    - 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPR Sunday
  - Incident report
    - Aug: 53 fires, 572 Emergency medical, 46 Other (hazmats, odor investigation, emergency lockout, etc)
      - Question from Audience: is that high?
        - Average. Range from 602 to low of 469.
  - Reader board status
    - Looks like last legs, currently says “Galaxy”
    - Will follow up on Wednesday
- Metro Park - Tareena Joubert
  - Updating Metro Parks strategic plan, an every 6yr occurrence. Website available for input via the survey.
  - Sept-Dec Go Guide available. Paper copies at community centers and headquarters, as well as online.
  - Event Calendars available. Harvest fests, etc.
  - Sat Sept 23, Eastside Community Center Construction Celebration, 1801 E 56<sup>th</sup> St, 2pm-4pm. [Imagineeastside.org](http://Imagineeastside.org)
    - games, food, school kids involved. Parking is limited.
  - [EnvisionOurWaterfront.org](http://EnvisionOurWaterfront.org) improvements along Ruston Way, looking for feedback from all communities. What should be done? What shouldn't be done?
  - Wapato Park finally working on the docks. All old structure has been removed, on track to be completed by the beginning of 2018 with new docks.

- Public Utilities – Absent
- City Manager Representative - Chris Bell
  - Grapevine update – was a contract that the city had with a vendor in WA DC. The monthly subscription ended in 2011, no prospect of that coming back at this time.
  - Did bring monthly newsletter with information of events throughout the city, committee schedule, agendas for committee meetings.
  - Leaving 311 contact cards on the information desk for non-emergency matters.
  - Each year, the Mayor recognizes a Tacoma Reads book. Roxanne Gay (NY Times bestseller) is coming to City on Oct 25, 7pm-8:30pm, at the Lincoln High School Auditorium to read and discuss her book Hunger, her personal memoir.
  - Comment from Earl: Neighborhood Council anniversary, Sept 28, 5pm, at the STAR Center.
  - Question from Tony: We haven't seen TPD here for a bit.
    - Earl: He's shared with the Eastside which starts at 6:30pm to come afterward if he can.
    - Tony to Chris: Is it possible to get the notes/report from the Police liaison if he can't come to the meeting and have Chris present that?
    - Earl: Trying to get another officer out.
    - Chris: will work with TPD to get and present report.
    - Darren: Your area also cover sectors 3 and 4.
- Tacoma Public Schools - Lisa Nolan
  - Legislature passed down a funding formula to all school districts this summer to fully fund education, but it seems to be having an opposite effect. We are receiving less money per student.
    - Are being creative to work within current restraints to not interrupt the service delivery model.
    - Decreased flexibility with categorical funding, adding another layer of complexity.
  - President Trump announced to end the deferred action, removing the threat for young people. Tacoma Schools is committed to providing every student the best we have to offer.
  - Joined with Metro Parks to provide a Whole Child Access Pass, opportunity for all of our youth to participate in programming on a sliding or free scale, taking into consideration what the family can or cannot afford. Had great success with sports partnership with YMCA and parks, and continuing that this year.
  - Construction update
    - Mary Lion students are attending the old McKinley, which is where Arlington was housed last year. Arlington opened Fall 2017, and busting at seams so adding three more classrooms.
    - Mary Lion construction is underway.
      - 54,000 sq ft, \$25.5 million.
    - Birney is in final phase of design.
  - Question from Tony about funding: What do you suggest we as citizens can do?
    - There have been articles in the Tacoma News Tribune, opportunity for discussion. Writing to our legislatures can be effective. Take into account programs for CTE, Special Ed, and Highly Capable categories. Also, writing to our school board.

- Question from the Audience: Dealing with capacities when building schools, once it is built, more rooms need to be added. Why not build in the extra capacity?
  - Each year, as we anticipate the following year, we get info from the demographer who says how many students estimated based on previous trends. So we do look at the forecast demographer data, based on births, which is built into the formula.
- Safe St - Darren Pen
  - Sept 30, Operation Graffiti Clean-up, 7-8:30am breakfast in Stewart Middle School parking lot. Then go to individual neighborhood areas for clean up.
  - Clean-up 2018 is coming! Collect 20-30 tons of trash each year.
  - Sept 28, Neighborhood Watch Appreciation night 6pm-8pm at Lincoln High School Cafeteria. Partner with TPD. Will recognize the public officials whose terms are ending in South End and Eastside, as well as the School District. Safe St use the schools a lot to coordinate events and meetings.
  - Sat Sept 23, Education and Awareness Training (used to be called Neighborhood Patrol). 10am-2pm at Safe St office.
    - Encourage residents to take different routes through neighborhood.
  - Youth Leading Change has a core group here.
  - Misses the newsletter Grapevine which distribute information to those without internet.
  - Safe St has about 50 meeting each month.
- Port of Tacoma - Absent

#### Guest Speakers

- Representative Laurie Jenkins, 27<sup>th</sup> Leg District (part of South End and the rest of Tacoma) WA State Legislature
  - Tries to stop by 1-2 times a year
  - Was elected in 2007, went through heart of the recession, this year was the longest session
  - Current Committees:
    - Healthcare and wellness committee
    - Chair the Judiciary Committee – related to court system, anti-discrimination laws, anything that ends up in court system that isn't a crime.
    - Appropriations Committee – which writes the budget for the house
  - This Session
    - Education
      - Invested \$7.3 billion in education to be invested over the next 4 years. After passing, did hear from Tacoma Schools that they were concerned the money would not be flowing the same. Trying to find out if there is less money coming in or if it coming on different pots. Working on teacher salary, class size, highly capable education. 294 school districts in the state. Much of it came through property tax solution pushed by Senate republicans, which we in the 27<sup>th</sup> liked, since we are paying more in property taxes than others in the state because of low property values, will end up decreasing our property taxes come 2018, 2020.
    - Mental Health

- Invested. Trying to turn around Western State Health, a long process, about the services not provided in the community and the hospital. Our state hospital has almost 1000 patients, largest state hospital. Hospitals used primarily for those mentally ill who have committed crimes, so trying to have beds in the community.
- Pierce Co will be getting an additional crisis walk-in center, so TPD can take someone there rather than to jail. Have one in Fife. Will probably have about 16 beds, very short term, for people to stay maybe 48hrs, then referred to community.
- New Dept of Children and Families
  - Dept of Social and Health Services was including Child Protective Services. Pierce has as many kids removed from homes as King Co has. Looking to see what kind of prevention work we can do to get families assistance much earlier.
- Didn't pass a capital budget.
  - Did pass a biennial budget. Operating passed. Transportation passed
    - Speed up bus service on Pacific Ave and land acquisition for highway 167.
  - But for building things, once a school district passes a levy to build a school, then the states comes in to contribute as well. So UWT, Bates, Eastside, seismic improvements to Pantages, Tacoma Community House all are in the capital budget. Passed in the House, but the Senate republicans refused to put it on the floor for a vote because of a completely unrelated fight regarding wells and water in the state, even though they acknowledge they agree with what's in it.
  - The water issue is very complex, and their solution would have affected people who have long-standing water rights.
- Start the next session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of January 2018.
- Now starting to think about bills for next session, probably not a big budget year, just supplemental as needed.
- Questions
  - Eric: How do the buses along Pacific go? To 96<sup>th</sup>?
    - Will check and email.
  - Eric: Meeting for child services coming up. Is that an open meeting?
    - Right now just a small group, but if you're interested..
  - Tony: Heard Amazon.com building a second headquarters but that we don't have the infrastructure to handle that?
    - I have heard every argument for and against it, but haven't heard Amazon say anything. Any tax exemptions are going to be based on local exemptions and what others are doing competitively, but that could pull money from things like education.
  - Tony: When kids got out of high school, they could go straight to a job without experience. Are there still apprenticeship programs?
    - Anything past high school is not required to fund. Have done a fair amount of work (don't sit on higher ed).
  - Athena: Is there a chance that the capital budget will pass before January?

- Governor can call a special session any time. If they senate republicans agree to, he could call a special session and they could pass it. There is a race in a district with a seat that could, at end of Nov, swing the senate to controlled by democrats. But tricky.
  - Don't hesitate to email: [laurie.jinkins@leg.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.jinkins@leg.wa.gov)
- Jessica Knickerbocker: Environmental Services Strategic Planning Efforts
  - Questions FOR the audience:
    - What is your vision for Tacoma's environment in 30 years?
      - Need to start planning in the next 10.
    - How can we better serve our customers?
      - Have sent out surveys, and are reaching out to neighborhood councils
  - Jessica on Surface Water
    - Back in 1960s, separated sewer system to surface water and waste water, so not combined like other cities. So our Rainwater goes out to the Sound untreated.
  - Norman Cook, supervisor at Central Treatment Plant
    - Reaching out to employees and community. Recently replaced a \$20 million control system at the treatment plans. Answer to the State and Federal on many levels. Both plants are platinum award winners. Have two more projects out, trying to get additional revenue.
  - Joe Breer, Solid Waste
    - service 54,000 residential households and 5,500 commercial businesses
    - In process for getting a contract for on-board collection system. Trying to make it easy for drivers to report issues in the city, since they drive it every day. Looking for new technology where at the push of a button, GPS would record location and alert appropriate people.
    - Know that 311 is working, as they receive notifications and do best to react in a timely manner.
  - Jessica: goals
    - Want to be open and transparent, with a full spectrum voice, setting smart streamlined priorities, set an agenda and guide decisions, "think big"
    - examine the "why" of what we do, moving to "what" services we provide and what we are going to do.
      - Support healthy neighborhoods and thriving Puget Sound, leaving behind a better Tacoma for all
      - focus on Customers, Employees (over 500), Operations
  - Send thoughts or questions to [ThinkBig@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ThinkBig@cityoftacoma.org)
  - What is your vision for next 30 years?
    - Tony: get all the cans on the same side so the truck can go through an alley one time instead of two to save time and gas. But that would take coordination from each side.
      - That would help be more sustainable. Do have trucks with arms on both sides, but Tacoma's alleys are so tight, it didn't work too well.
    - Question from Eric: did reducing to every other week show reduction in waste.
      - Did see an influx of recycling.
    - Question from Athena: Is there separate program for food waste?

- Have for commercial customers. Not as popular since it is messy. Do accept compostable in yard waste.
  - Question from Tony regarding water waste: Envision some kind of filter/drainage to run it through a tank system or before it goes into the sound, to have a filter or reuse tanked water for fire dept.
    - 20,000 catch basins. Have built a facility at Pt Defiance that treats more storm water than anywhere in the world, 750 acres. China is doing it now too.
  - <http://cityoftacoma.org/thinkbig>
  - Audience Question: Looking for more operational feedback? How does it relate to Tacoma's environmental action plan? Pervious paving and streets initiative work. Construction debris diversion program. Is that part of what you're thinking?
    - Have reviewed those larger lofty goals and put them into real practice.
    - Different scales for debris. Do now take some roll-up boxes to third parties who can separate material a little better than we can.
    - Repairing and replacing a lot of infrastructure. Storms get the plants busy, infiltration inflow. Working to get things done completely so not constantly needing repair.
  - Audience Question: Sometimes 311 tells people there's nothing they can do when residents leave cans on the street. What about illegal dumping?
    - City ordinance say to remove cans the same day as pickup. Address on complaint-driven basis.
- Erin Guinup, choir music, update on the grant
  - Thank you for the Grant money. Tacoma Refugee Choir became a 501c3.
  - Meeting at Asia Pacific Cultural Center, recruiting members for the choir.
  - Nov 4 "Everyone Has a Song" event with national names coming to host and as guests, becoming bigger than anticipated.
    - Free tickets will be available at Pacific and 90<sup>th</sup>
  - Part of what was sponsored was a song that is recorded and being made available, making the sheet music freely available, creating a lesson plan about what it means when we work and sing together.
  - Question from Kristin: How many are in the choir now? And still holding auditions?
    - Not auditions, open enrollment. Have eliminated sheet music in rehearsals to make it more accessible to people. Hoping for a choir of 60 people.
  - Question from Tony: What would it take to go down to legislatures to sing to them and reduce some of their anger?
    - Focusing on short term.
  - Question from Athena: Where will see big announcement made?
    - If I said where, then you would know. Will shoot an email when it's official.
  - <http://refugeechoir.org>
  - [tacomarefugeechoir@gmail.com](mailto:tacomarefugeechoir@gmail.com) Rehearsals beginning Sept 12, Tuesdays.

#### Liaison Report

- Police Dept
  - Corey Darlington
  - TPD working on homeless outreach team. Homeless Outreach Team was out on South Tacoma Way this morning contacting people.

- Situational awareness. Sept 10, 56<sup>th</sup> and S Lawrence gunman fired at 3 officers. None of the officers killed or injured, though suspect was killed. 58 yr old mail showed up knocking on doors with 2 loaded handguns. Some houses had rounds go through, but no residents hurt. 80 rounds between the 4 people involved. Detectives trying to figure out what drew him to that area.
- TPD hiring. Currently have 20 unfilled positions, will be 40 by end of year. Anyone interested in law enforcement career, now is the time to get in that line of work. <http://tacomapolice.org>, application period is ongoing. Standard written test, physical fitness element. Entry level and lateral available. No age limit.
- Question from Tony: wasn't sure if you were going to come tonight, so made a suggestion that if you can't make it, pass notes down to Earl or Chris. We prefer you live.
  - Giving cards to Earl and Chris
- Question from Eric: Community policing program?
  - Yes, have been for 20 years.
- Comment from Audience: TPD does have an Explorer program for youth.

### Community Concerns

- none voiced

### General Business

- Chair – Earl Brydson
  - August Minutes approved – Motion by Cary, unanimously approved
  - Need at least two people on a nomination committee to announce in October those up for reelection, and those on reelection can't be on the committee.
    - Responsibilities
      - Contact renewing board members to confirm.
      - Prepare Ballots – one for board positions, one for the board officers
    - Cary Nilson (board and vice chair), John Pellessier, Janis Clark (board and treasurer)
    - Invite applicant for open position to the October meeting.
    - Athena and Tony volunteer to me the committee.
- Treasurer – Earl for Janis Clark
  - Sending in \$10 to State Gov't before Sept 30 for non-profit status
  - Water bill \$46.87 for Gas Station Park to be paid
  - Gas Station Park filter/water system needs yearly check-up to make sure it works. Last year was \$40-50ish. Earl with get estimates from 2-3 to find out what it will cost, hopefully done certified by next meeting.
  - Balances
    - Checking: \$3,963.79
    - Savings: \$6,123.27
  - NUSA is taking applications now.
- Vice Chair – Cary Nilson
  - nothing to report
- Corresponding Secretary
  - East G St park communications are underway.

- Recommend not do the October 21 get together, as permitting communications show more logistical planning needed.

#### Committee Reports

- none

#### Old Business

- Tony
  - Had talked about designing signs to make our meeting known. Contacted sign companies. \$199 at Fast Sign, and Signorama \$130 with graphics.
    - Athena: A-frame signs for cheaper on Amazon. Interested in looking online?
    - Tony: Advantage to having good contacts with local business, and take 501c3 for tax deductive.
    - Kristin: send copy of logo to Tony
  - Have hard-copy background check forms.
- Earl
  - Have 25yr Tacoma Neighborhood Council anniversary pins to give out

#### New Business

- none

Adjourned at 9:16pm

Kristin King  
Secretary