



# South End Neighborhood Council

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

Monthly Board Meeting  
March 19, 2018

Called to order at 7:05pm

Present: Earl Brydson, Cary Nilson, Janis Clark, Kristin King, Tony Caldwell, Athena Brewer, Eric Paulsen, Susanne Skaar

Excused Absent: Daniel Thomasson

February minutes unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Janis Clark:

- Balances
  - Savings: \$6126.06
  - Checking: \$755.35
- Tacoma Public Utilities bill \$117.10 due March 27

Marketing and Outreach Report – Suzanne Skaar:

- Discussion for website hosting – private server vs public
- Looking for volunteers – email [info@sencotacoma.org](mailto:info@sencotacoma.org)

List of Standing Committees:

- Executive – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary
- Finance
- Bylaws
- Membership
- Student

Additional Committees:

- Marketing and Outreach

Finance Committee – Janis Clark

- Proposed Budget from 2018 and 2017 expenses outlined for discussion during the Annual Report review
- Looking for volunteers

Liaison Reports

- Fire Dept
  - Poison prevention week
  - Had first brush fire of the year
- Metro Parks – Tareena Joubert
  - Wapato Lake will be stocked for fishing – not for eating, but for fishing – with docks ready and available June 16
  - Point Defiance Park roundabout construction well underway. Can still get in the back of the park via other entrance.
  - March 24, Parent Map's South Sound summer camp fair at the STAR Center, 10am – 1pm.
- Public Utilities – absent

- City Manager Rep – Chris Bell
  - T-Town is this Sat, March 24, 10am – 3pm, which is the service expo where different depts within the city showcase how and what they do, and get insight into the budget
  - Tomorrow, Tues March 20,
    - 12pm noon, Room 16, will have a presentation on alternatives for Click, update for the director of utilities, presentation on underground utilities
    - 5pm has temporary shelters on the schedule, Citizen’s Forum, and Robert Tom’s seat.
  - Today is Chris’s last day as the SENCo Rep. David Nash-Mendez will be back for the April meeting.
  - Question from Suzanne: what were the alternatives for Click?
    - Does not know
  - Question from Tony: what is the City’s position on the student walkout/protest in Florida?
    - Doesn’t have an answer, but school board might.
- Tacoma Schools
  - Thanks to the Tacoma voters for funding the two propositions, both over 60% support.
  - Key dates in March
    - April 2-6: spring break
    - Dr Enrique Leon will fill board vacancy, was sworn in March 8.
  - Safety and security
    - Have 5 police officers, plus unarmed campus safety officers
    - Practice lockdowns
    - Experts will review each school and provide safety enhancement recommendations
    - Easy way to make safety suggestions: [safety@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:safety@tacoma.k12.wa.us)
      - not a place to report threats, but a place for thoughts and ideas for general or specific schools
  - Blueberry Park sale
    - Final public hearing was March 8. Decision was some for development, with enhanced wetlands.
  - Question from audience: Who is going to maintain the enhanced wetland?
    - Will get back to you
- Safe St – Darren Pen
  - Thanks to City Councilwoman (in audience) for coming
  - Would like to see each of the South End Neighborhood Council board attend their local Safe St meeting, as South End is the most active Safe St area.
  - Safe St tell residents about neighborhood councils, T-Town, preventing vehicle prowl, community events
  - Tomorrow – Blueberry Park Neighborhood Watch Group is going to the City Council meeting regarding safety concerns. 747 Market St, Tacoma. 5pm. March 20.
    - City-Staff cross dept work group bringing to attention issues like the Morgan Motel and other incidents to find out how the law can be changed or what small things need addressing. Reach out to councilmembers directly – Ushka, Beale, and Hunter.
    - Audience member, Linda: the yellow house on S 72<sup>nd</sup> is scheduled for demolition.
  - Special Meeting Wed, March 21, 6:30 – 8:00pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 6511 South C St.
  - Cleanups
    - April 28, 10am - 2pm – Jennie Reed and Lincoln High School
- Port of Tacoma – absent

#### Grants

- Have \$5,456 to give
- Mural Circle, Suzanne Marten - \$1,650.00
  - Question from Tony: have you selected an artist? Credentials?
    - Yes, listed a number of recognized institutions in the Seattle area they’ve worked with
  - Unanimously Passes
- Harmony Benches, Rena Kelly - \$3,450.00
  - Question from Suzanne: the one neighbor next to the park wasn’t quite in favor of it, has that been resolved?

- Did get together as a group and decided not to do the tetherball but to focus on benches of harmony. Doing a picnic table instead with area for hopscotch. Putting up a sign that the park closes at dusk.
- Question from Suzanne: doing a trash can?
  - Not doing the concrete one due to the NC's budget, but doing one roped in.
- Question from Athena: the folks in favor. I see volunteer labor. Has there been community fundraising?
  - No, I didn't know about it.
  - Athena: I feel a lot can be gleaned from putting the work in and team building.
  - We have a community who have done a lot with Habitat for Humanity and know our neighbors which is why we knew we wanted this. Did take Cary Nilson's comment about paint that is hard to graffiti over.
- Question from Eric: Think the project is great, but keep hearing you say it's for just your pocket of a community where no one else is going to go.
  - Talking over 50 people to frequent this park, where the NC approved money for a park on 8<sup>th</sup> and I St.
  - Question from audience for Eric: What's wrong with a park to serve a small area? You can't serve the whole South End?
    - Eric: keep hearing that it's only available to kids and their friends, and phrases like "keep out the riff-raff."
    - Audience: Why not ask the same question of the other project?
      - That one involves students from all over the South End. Concerned that this one would only benefit a private area.
- Comment from Suzanne: A reason for a difference in the amounts is because they're working within our budget and putting in the effort.
- Comment from Janis: Each project stands on its own.
- Question from Audience: is it on private HOA property? As long as anyone can drive over and use it.
  - It is for the public, but it will be used mostly by the residents around it. Rules will be posted.
- Comment from Tony: maybe put up a sign saying Welcome and post contact info.
- Question from Audience: how is the parking for folk coming in?
  - There's no parking. Park on the main street. 86<sup>th</sup> and Ainsworth.
- Comment from Audience: are you willing to fundraise part of it? Seems a reasonable ask.
- Question from Athena: The park/playground behind that, is it open to the public?
  - There's no parking. We have insurance for that area.
- Question from Suzanne for the board: I like the idea for micro parks. We don't always have the funds or space for large parks. If the board did vote against it, what would happen to the funds?
  - Earl: it goes back to the City for the general budget.
- Discussion
  - Have \$3,806 left over. Grant request is for \$3,450. Plan to include the extra \$346 to go towards paint and trash can.
- Vote to grant \$3,806:
  - 6 For. 2 Against (Eric, Athena). Passes.

#### NUSA

- Suzanne would like to go. We could do podcast from the event, take pictures.
  - Earl: get with Janis to talk about where/how to register. Let him know for sure, and the board will a lot the money. Can only send two people, Janis and Suzanne. Carol will reimburse for \$1,000 for first-time people. We have pins that you can take and trade. When you return, report on the classes you went to.

#### Penny Grellier

- Originally requested to be added to the liaison report for Pierce Transit but has put in application as well.
- Question from Eric: Says 20yrs in Human services?
  - 15yrs in Catholic Community Services in Tacoma and ran a program in Western WA for transportation for low income and elderly.

- Question from Suzanne: Biggest reason for wanting to join the board? What would you like to accomplish?
  - Recently moved to the area, getting to know what goes on. Have lived in different parts of Tacoma. Has found it useful to join boards and councils so can be part of decision making but also can represent and help actually make changes. Be involved in the neighborhood in which I live.
- Question from Janis: What area of Safe St is she in?
  - Park Ave area
- Question from Athena: What is the Surf Rider?
  - A group that advocates for ocean health. For surfers but also volunteers who do beach cleanups. Environmental group.
- Question from Tony: Proudest accomplishments?
  - Americore, youth volunteer corp, lead a crew of pre-teens and teens in trail building project. We were sponsored by Taco Bell, had kids from all over the place working together. Built a lot of trails. Organized the project and saw it through.
- Question from Tony: what area of public safety are you most concerned for?
  - Feeling safe in your neighborhood. Public transit has a lot of walking to get to your bus at different times of the day and night, so you are aware of what is happening in your neighborhood. Being able to feel good walking day or night in the area.
- Question from Tony: how do you feel about teachers carrying guns in schools?
  - On a personal note, not the biggest fan of guns. Probably wouldn't carry one if I were a teacher.
- Comment from Tareena: have worked with Penny on a number of projects. She has helped get bus passes for kids to get to parks. She has been a roll-sleeves-up, get-stuff-done kind of person.
- Vote:
  - Unanimously Approved.
- First meeting will be next month. Earl will get the bylaws and placecard for Penny by next meeting.

#### Liaison Report

- Police Dept
  - Has fliers with Community Liaison Officers contact info
  - Positive Interactions handout. City resource for mental health, people in transient camps
  - T-Town City Services Expo, March 24, Free.
  - Now Hiring! Anyone interested in law enforcement career. Need to be at least 21. Have about 20 unfilled positions.
    - Tacoma Fire also accepting applications toward end of June.
  - Incident earlier today at Pacific Lodge / Calico Cat. Open for business as of Jan 1, which has been problematic in the past. Today had at least one shot fired from a rifle, 3+ hour stand-off. That area of Pacific Ave was closed off. Suspect came out of his room, no one was injured, no imminent danger. Suspect was intoxicated and likely under influence of drugs.
  - At ENAC, concern of transient camps at E 65<sup>th</sup> and K. Have notified of services available. Will be cleaned up on Friday. Going to check vegetation to get the area cleared and fenced off. City property and wetlands. Similar situation to the area near 84<sup>th</sup> and Pacific. The new development there was only possible after the transient issue was addressed.
  - Question from Kristin: not too long ago we had budget concerns in the Police and Fire departments, so the concern is that we have the funding to keep these positions once they're filled?
    - The positions are budgeted and family wage jobs.
  - Question from Tony: how are you keeping up if you are 20 under staff? Do you use overtime?
    - Strategic shifts. We do have some overtime. We coordinate with other agencies to address incidents. Crunch time is the summer months when vacations are scheduled.
    - Entry level: 1-2mo orientation, 6mo academy, 1yr field training, so about 1.5yrs before they're able to help on the street as a full-fledge officer.
  - Question from Athena: First, thank you for coming. We appreciate you being here. Do other counties have that kind of vacancies? What percentage of the positions are open? Is it nationwide problem?
    - Any agency in the Puget Sound area is experiencing the same problem. Just not seeing the same number of people wanting to go into law enforcement as in times past. Larger dept typically have openings all the time. WA state patrol is the largest agency in the state with 1200+ and 300 openings. We have budgeted for 300 officers at any given time.

- Question from Athena, her mother asks: if we see an incident happening, a few blocks closed off with police activity, rather than just walk up, how else can we find out what's going on?
  - The officer's on the perimeter can answer basic questions, not getting into full on discussion. If you don't want to leave your house, call non-emergency. Dispatch can give a quick synopsis if they have a moment. Facebook often has police activity posted.
  - Darren: you can email your CLO.
- Question from Audience: Have lived here for 34 years, first SENCo meeting. A few years ago we voted to have no pan-handling, and they went away. Why do we not arrest them anymore?
  - The 9<sup>th</sup> circuit court of appeals has ruled it unconstitutional under freedom of speech. If they harass or show aggression, then can take option.
    - And when you see them with a safeway cart that they didn't buy, you can't arrest them for theft? Or for littering?
    - Difficult questions. Would have to stand before the court and prove that it was stolen with a report. Need to do what we can given the circumstances and parameters. Anyone can report anything at any time.
- Question from Audience: still have Citizen's Academy?
  - Yes, have applications on the website. Course available in the fall.

#### Community Concerns

- Catherine Ushka
  - Sworn in in January. Introduction.
- Audience member
  - Reiterate Safe St Wed meeting to keep Morgan Motel closed. Residents, Safe Streets groups, police, businesses for keeping it closed. But city manager not against it. Code enforcement overwhelmed in East Side and South End. North End had 21 open cases where South End had over 100. Need a show of force. Fred Meyers is stepping with more security. It has more money on security than any other Fred Meyer in the US.
  - Comment from Ushka: From conversations with the City Manager, don't have legal cause to keep it closed. Trying to look outside the box to find a solution. No one wants to see that kind of consistent blight continued.
  - Additional comment: The city has issued a letter to the attorney of the property owner giving very clear conditions that must be met for the property to reopen. They must agree to a number of conditions to reinstate the business license, and if they don't, then we want to have the business stay closed. The property owner has the right to a hearing, and a public hearing has been scheduled for May 31. This doesn't mean that the city management have turned their back on the issues. But keeping business closed til May 31. Conditions are private between the City and the property owner, but could be available through a public disclosure request directly to legal.
- Audience member
  - Concern about the LNG plant being illegally built. There is some testimony from Tarika Powell about her investigation of the facility from the past few years.
  - Athena: since we are an advisory board to the City Council, we can provide our concerns and those of our community to the city.
  - Suzanne: I presented concerns over the methanol plant a couple years ago. The board approved a letter to the council.
  - Tony: and neighbors that agree with you, put support in the letter.
  - Audience: We turned in 51k signatures to the governor.
- Janis:
  - Doing a taping on April 13, 2pm – 4:30pm, for the South End's "Neighborhood Moment" on TV Tacoma. If you want to be on the show and have a topic of interest in the South End or an activity taking place in the next 30, 60, 90 days that you want audience to know about. Reach out to Janis to set up a time to meet. Can only have 2 people. Darren has been a guest.
  - Earl: on the 1<sup>st</sup> Fri of April, come down to channel 12 to observe the communication.

#### General Business, Old Business, New Business

- Chair
  - Have 2 openings on the board, have asked Tony to be the recording secretary, with the position up for vote at the November elections. Tony has agreed. Now up for the board to ratify.

- Tony clarification: wants to do Corresponding Secretary, not Recording Secretary, which writes the letters that the board approves to be written.
- Janis makes a motion to suspend the rules that require a board member to be on the board for 2 years prior to joining the executive committee, particularly in the case of Penny Grellier becoming Recording Secretary. - Unanimously Approved
- Kristin will provide for the transfer of website and social media, and will provide printed info for the office.
- Declares that Cary and Suzanne will manage website presence
- Athena: Special thank you to Suzanne for taking on the Marketing and Outreach Committee and to Kristin for her work and service on the board.
- Annual Report – please review and respond so Earl can send it in by the end of the month.
  - Janis will be adding new figures in now that she has the checkbook and will email it out.
  - Kristin recommends the board put the \$25 per location for Safe St clean-ups.

Adjourned at 9:40pm