



South End Neighborhood Council (SENC) regular meeting

May 21, 2018

Members present: Earl Brydson, Tony Caldwell, Janis Clark, Athena Brewer, Penny Grellier, Suzanne Skaar, Daniel Thomasson, Cary Nilson, Eric Paulsen

Call to Order 7:02pm

Announcement: Janis Clark is running for House of Representatives, 29th District, position 1; Suzanne Skaar, running for Pierce County Council District 5

Quorum present

Approval of April Minutes: Athena motions to accept, Cary seconds, approved

Treasurer's report: checking account is \$4146.03, bills were paid last month, two checks made out to Lincoln and Jennie Reed clean-ups (two checks for \$25 each), public utilities bill for \$117.10 to be paid. Cary moves to approve, Daniel seconds, approved.

Committee reports: media report to be discussed under old business

Liaison Reports:

Tacoma Public Schools: Forrest Griek from HR at TPS, following up to our 3 questions from last month: "see something, say something" calls are traceable back to phone used to make 911 call; students go to Administration first, then 911 call if needed due to lack of attention; during Grant Elementary construction student will attend old Hunt Middle School.

Tacoma Public Utilities: Linda McCrae, Interim Director, saying hello, in her role until new director is hired. Thanked public for their input in the hiring process. On Wednesday the Board announces finalist. Invites questions: who can we contact regarding fish hatchery management at dams, specifically Cowlitz? Lots of disgruntled folks there. Keith Underwood is Natural Resource Manger for Tacoma Power is the contact.

Fire Dept. (no report)

Metro Parks Tacoma: Joey Furesto, water treatment for Wapato Lake which was successful. Fishing event (not derby) to be held June 16 from 9am to 2pm, kids can learn how to tie knots, use fishing poles, etc. Blueberry Park update: contractor is getting notice to proceed tomorrow, construction timeline to be set. They have 45 days to set up Nature Play Area and community gardens (grant funded). Local kids are being polled by Trust for Public Lands to give input on what kinds of play area they would like. Question: at People's Center, Michael Bradley retiring, is there a retirement celebration? Yes, but does not have details.

Safe Streets: Darren Pen, thanks us for the two clean-up checks. Thanks also to Daniel who brought sandwiches, and to Athena who attended a Safe Streets meeting, everyone encouraged to share information from SENC with their neighborhood groups. Three more clean-ups in June; South End has more local activity than any other district in Tacoma. May 31 is neighborhood partnership appreciation event. June 14 is neighborhood forum on safety at church on corner of S. 67th & C. On June 29 is the March Against Crime at corner of S. 64th & Pacific

(make a sign supporting neighborhood). Question: cloud benches installed as part of Lincoln Neighborhood revitalization are all white, worried about graffiti, Athena will check at project office.

City Manager/City staff (no report)

Tacoma Police Dept. Lt. Darlington, reports on Jennifer Bastain investigation concluded through DNA technology; worked with PC Sheriff's Office special investigations and DEA to serve search warrants on grow operations in area (4600 E. F St. was one). Code enforcement was part of this and resulted in board-up. Every Thursday is "Coffee with a Cop" at McDonalds at 72nd and Pacific, at noon, to discuss hot button items. Questions: at grow-op, who was responsible? It's an elaborate criminal syndicate that ships to Brooklyn, NY where prices are four times as high. A good article on this was in the TNT and Seattle Times recently. When you book criminals into jail, do you take DNA samples? No, that is a separate process involving a search warrant and court order. How is recruitment going? Not great; they now have 26 vacant positions up from 20 (and it's now a nationwide search). Do we have de-escalation training for officers? Yes, online and periodic in-service.

Guest speakers

Tacoma Public Library: Kate Larsen, "Libraries Transforming Communities" (American Library Association), what does the community want and what role can the library play? Libraries are a traditional civic space and can be used as a convener of activities, resources and community engagement. Conversations with the community are planned throughout our neighborhoods and responses will guide the library's strategic planning. Questions: at Moore library, a media lab is being constructed; how can community be involved in its design and how it is used? Contact Melissa Fitzgerald, Moore branch manager. What is timeline for community conversations? Probably during Fall/Winter since locations must be chosen and scheduled. Who else are you partnering with? Bates, TCC, MetroParks were early supporters, possibly Tacoma Community House; recommend UWT school of social work. How do the cities she previously worked in compare to Tacoma? New York has 92 branches and we have 8, so there were lots of opportunities there, diversity. Washoe County was suburban, spread out. In Everett, probably the most similar, there were only 2 branches. How are you dealing with homeless at libraries? It is a challenge, buildings being used for things they are not designed to handle, staff has to deal with issues beyond library tasks, working to partner with other agencies.

Port of Tacoma: Port Commissioner John McCarthy and Leslie Barstow, a presentation on history of the Port of Tacoma, which is really the Port for the County. 2018 is the Port's Centennial, "Our Ties Run Deep". In 1891 a master plan was drawn up for the Port to deal with population explosion related to agriculture and industries running supplies and freight through the Port. Todd-Pacific Shipyards ramped up production for war effort in early 1940s. About 30,000 people worked there. Hylebos Waterway set stage for future growth. Container ship revolution began in 1970s. Puyallup Land Claim Settlement had a huge impact on the Port. In last two decades: mitigation sites created as terminals are built (environmental stewardship), and Northwest Seaport Alliance formed to attract shipping lines to our area versus Canada and Southern California. Washington State cherries sold for \$1.00 per cherry in Japan last year! Focusing on reducing truck-related emissions and the LNG plant to fuel ships. Free Port boat tours on July 29th to celebrate centennial.

Following the presentation, Suzann questioned LNG plant safety, and made a statement about its impact on the global community, not just our local area.

Tyler Whitemarsh, Board membership interview: Tyler is active in his neighborhood group and has lived in the area for a number of years. Wants to make a difference and counteract criminal activity; his neighborhood group has made an impact over the past few years with about 160 members. What is your leadership style and do you have conflict resolution skills? Tyler has experience in both and gave examples from his career. How will this fit with neighborhood group? It's a Facebook group with self-sufficient members so it doesn't take too much of his time. He wants to share his neighborhood experience with SENCo so it can be replicated. Darren Pen gives his recommendation. Tyler has already volunteered to help with media and bylaws committee.

Chair calls for a vote of approval; approved by Board.

Community Concerns: Paul Cromey, regarding City Council's first reading of transportation plan, South End is getting nothing but Chris Beale is working on it. We need sidewalks especially around schools and at Wapato on Sheridan. Safety improvements should be prioritized. Paul has a meeting with Chris shortly. He attended "Coffee with a Cop" last week; was very beneficial. He is impressed with Morgan Motel improvements, and McDonalds manager is doing a great job keeping it clean and safe. Suzann offers helping with ADA wording for sidewalk efforts, and we need better sidewalks around bus stops.

Janis Clark(as a citizen): concerned about the TOTE delay for retrofitting ships, relates her experience with National Guard serving at the Port, breathing diesel fumes over the years (affected veteran health). In a natural disaster, the Port will need to be able to assist evacuations. Appreciates work they are doing at the Port.

Darren Pen (as a citizen): when you visit neighborhood groups, check out the roadways and sidewalks and report your concerns. On A Street and 84th, kids walk in middle of the street to avoid puddles and this not safe.

General Business

Website status: Cary has acquired files from the previous record keepers. Cary found that these were kept under a secure certificate that we need to purchase. We can set up a separate site and can transfer files. Cost is \$160.87 plus any applicable tax. The site will then be accessible for Board members. Suzann: noted that the new site is on a Board member's personal server. She and previous Secretary tried to transfer to an independent website for the SENCo non-profit but it was not supported. Wants to make sure that agenda is put out beforehand and is managed efficiently.

Chair asks if this website will work for everyone. Discussion follows. Those who want access can get together with Suzann and Cary to arrange that. Motion made by Penny to give funds to Cary to purchase secure certificate and set up site, seconded by Janis and Athena simultaneously, approved.

New Business

Mor Furniture will be moving in on lot across from Giadrone school.

Those members going to NUSA need to take pins to trade with others at the conference.

Earl motions we send letters of recommendation that we support Suzann and Janis in their respective runs for public office. Penny seconds. Athena asks if there are any conflicts of interest in doing this? No, it's OK for SENCo to do that. We can support more than one candidate. One no vote (Daniel Thomasson), others vote yes.

Adjourned 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary