



South End Neighborhood Council (SENC) regular meeting

June 18, 2018

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

Call to Order 7:02pm

Quorum present

Announcements: Thank-you letter received from Port of Tacoma thanking us for hosting their Port Commissioner last month.

Approval of May Minutes: Daniel moves to approve, Tyler seconds, approved by all.

Treasurer's report: Janis reports Harborstone savings balance as of May 31, 2018 is \$4126.64; checking has \$3926.31. Athena seeks clarification on when we got the recent deposit of \$4000 and Earl reported it last month. We will get another \$1000 from the City once Suzanne turns her NUSA report in. All vote to accept Treasurer's Report.

Committee reports:

Athena, Bylaws committee: we have 10 members and we should have 11 (odd number). Athena moves that we vote on any applicants so we can comply with Bylaws. Daniel seconds; during discussion Janis asks if we have any applications and Penny confirms one was sent by email (Christina Rupp). Janis expresses hope that our Board reflects diversity of our neighborhood. Janis asks that the new applicant give a short presentation to the Board tonight. Discussion of current members' residence locations in the South End follows. All approve motion.

Liaison Reports:

**Fire Dept.:** Dale Vaughn, Fourth of July concerns with fireworks. They are illegal in town but are often ignited. Please watch your landscaping as fire dept is overloaded; 253-798-4721 to report non-compliance with fireworks law. TPD enforces the law. Also watch your pets as they are often alarmed by the noise. Please go to public displays instead of setting off your own fireworks. Watch for dehydration during this hot weather, especially when doing yard work in the sun. Tony asks how the FD will handle the Fourth since its short staffed; extra firefighters are brought in for the holiday as well as an extra truck. Tony asks about long dry grass at freeway interchanges; WSDOT maintains those.

**Metro Parks Tacoma:** Tareena Joubert, Eastside Community Center will have a job fair June 19 from 3 to 7pm at Portland Ave Community Center; June 18 is official summer season kick-off for Parks, meaning summer camps begin as well as playground program which gives kids at 6 park sites lunch and activities to do while on vacation; golf glow party at Meadowpark Golf Course every Friday in June from 10pm to midnight with LED golf balls; Charlotte's Blueberry Park update flyer presented

**Tacoma Public Utilities:** Erica Tucci thanks us for our input on new Director, who begins August 1<sup>st</sup>, introduces John Gaines who will be new neighborhood council liaison. John can also attend some Safe Streets meetings; Tony asks if they can bring some energy-efficient light bulbs and they will see what they have on hand.

**City Manager/City staff** Linda Stewart reports on behalf of City, recognizes Chris Beale (Council member) is here as well tonight, provided a flyer on how to get involved with City activities; cleanups at Larchmont on June 23 at 10am, and St. Ann Church on June 30 at 10am, see their booth at Tacoma Pride.

Go to [www.cityoftacoma.org/communitycleanup](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/communitycleanup) to search your address and find your closest cleanup.

How did meeting at Calvary Church go last week? It was well-attended, conversations about homeless issues, opioid abuse, transportation, infrastructure, etc. A panel of experts addressed many of the concerns (time ran out). Safe Streets will post Q & As on their website.

Do cleanups have shredding available? Need to clarify; call Linda at 253-591-5225.

What is status of homeless population right now? 1,680 according to visual point-in-time count; up by about 300 from the count in 2017. City is funding programs to house people and maintain those with housing; and offer wrap-around services.

**Tacoma Public Schools:** none

**Port of Tacoma:** none

**City Council liaison report:** Chris Beale, Council member for District #5 (South End south of 56<sup>th</sup>), code enforcement pilot program for Districts #4 and #5 will do proactive work with borderline nuisance properties, as well as work on backlog of nuisance properties; Lillian Hunter and Katherine Ushka worked on this, too. Work is being done on code regarding business licenses and violations of chronic nuisance code (such as the Morgan Motel). There are around 100 capital projects in the City's pipeline and only 3 of them are South End with none supporting Safe Routes to Schools; Chris is proposing 9 more for South End. Streetlights are a priority and may be funded by the grant that is part of the Tacoma Streets initiative; also adding more CLOs back into the community, property crime prioritization, fire impact fee study. Neighborhood branding and signage, beautification/walkability projects and business district funding are projects Chris is working on. South End needs a community center out towards 84<sup>th</sup>/96<sup>th</sup>.

Community member asks if the business corridor along Pacific could be cleaned up so the businesses are appealing to customers. Chris says there are efforts underway along that stretch. Tyler thinks there's a new property owner for the development around 74<sup>th</sup> who will be overhauling it.

**Christina Rupp, Board membership interview:** Christina gives an introduction, she works for Habitat for Humanity and has held several different human services positions in the South Sound. She has lived in the South End for 8 years and is an avid runner. She has a masters degree in adult education and several undergraduate degrees.

Penny asks: one challenge and one positive feature of the South End

- aging in place and issues for a safe, affordable home environment; she's lived around Tacoma and other cities and this neighborhood is the best due to accessibility and most diversity of people and physical environment.

Athena asks: why would you like to join our council?

- passion to make a difference locally, does it in part through her job.

Janis asks: regarding proactive code enforcement and aging in place, some elders cannot maintain their home and could face being removed from home. Janis welcomes Christina's expertise on this subject. How would you see our group helping the City with homeless youth policies, aging in place with regards code enforcement, and marijuana grow operations in vacant houses?

- Christina says that grow houses/nuisance homes present potential for a variety of affordable housing options. Rebuilding Together and similar programs can help with aging in place

especially making repairs. Homeless youth is something all neighborhoods councils should be concerned with and support safe areas and drop-in centers for resources.

All 9 members present raised hands to approve Christina joining the Board.

### **Guest speakers**

Suzanne Skaar reports on NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference held in Birmingham Alabama, May 23-26, 2018; links to conference information will be on our webpage. City gave a grant to allow Suzanne to attend; the remainder of the unspent budget (about \$400) will be returned to Board/City later this week. During the conference, attendees met local, state and international dignitaries. Suzanne would like to invite Japanese founder to our meeting later this year. Highlights included sessions on making presentations to city councils, how to engage communities in comprehensive planning, using arts to build creative communities and a trip to the Birmingham art museum's interactive exhibit on the City's history. Municipal courts presentation on diversion program and incentives that actually work was valuable. Civil Rights history tours were impactful.

Birmingham's art museum is free of charge. Tacoma Public Library offers free passes to local museums to individuals/families that can be checked out. Remember third Thursday evening art walks in Tacoma when museums are free.

Janis Clark reports on Initiative 1644: equality in jobs, schools, businesses; affirmative action, fair and equitable contracting procedures; all honorably discharged veterans should be considered for benefits. A signature sheet is available to attendees.

Darryl Roberts, potholes: not present, will be invited to present next meeting

### **Community Concerns:**

Nicky Walters from Change.org: she feels the LNG plant is detrimental to our area; handouts were given to attendees, Steve Storms from NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council, retired chemical engineer, has grave concerns about this plant being built in our community as the 3-mile blast zone (should an explosion occur) and water contamination potential will make multiple impacts to our area. More CO2 and VOCs across Tacoma, natural gas prices will increase to residents. The required Notice of Construction permit is not in place; costs are rapidly rising for this project and the return on investment is not significant. Environmental impacts are many and Environmental Impact Study shows safety concerns with storage and shipping of LNG. Recent explosions in pipelines around the US illustrate the dangers. Nanette from NE Tacoma Neighborhood Council shares information on all those groups and elected who have opposed the plant and how other Neighborhood Councils can write letters of opposition. Claudia Riedener explains how the SEPA public review process works and how this project did not meet community input process requirements. Brian Russell asks for clarification of funding sources: UTC committed PSE ratepayer funds; has anyone reached out to FutureWise for litigation? No, individual attorneys have been contacted. New fire station to be built in that area should be relocated for safety.

Last month's presentation by Port was not focused on LNG but did touch on the issue as relates to shipping. Athena motions to support anti-LNG effort by signing a letter/resolution, Suzanne seconds, during discussion Janis points out we didn't specifically hear LNG support and feels we should give more time to the pro-LNG side to be fair. Tony agrees with that, give fair time to pros and cons. Change.org representatives state that PSE website presents pro side if we would like to consider that, but consider the work done through citizen science in opposition. There are other clean energy options that would have less environmental impact and these should be explored before we go ahead with LNG. Tony suggests we delay one month to give us time to review both sides.

Based on Athena's motion, the group votes on signing a letter in opposition to the LNG plant:

Yes votes: Athena, Christina, Suzanne, Daniel, Tyler, Penny

No votes: Tony, Janis, Cary

Abstaining: Earl

Majority for the motion, Tony will formulate letter and Earl will need to sign

Teresa Evans brings forward the topic of the Little Free Libraries that received an innovative grant in Eastside area along with some United Way money to network and share knowledge; she encourages replication in South End. Artists will be involved in decorating little free libraries. Several steps are involved: June 23 priming and prep for wood, July 7 box assembly, July 14 finish up, July 22 basic painting and sealing, Farmers' Market in McKinley to display and do artwork, McKinley Street Fair displays, install in public area during Autumn. South End members are invited to expand the program.

David reported on a successful Springhill cleanup and thanked us for our donation. Janis added that South End council has a good history with cleanups and would like more acknowledgement from Safe Streets.

Note: Athena had to leave at 9:09pm.

### **General Business**

Chair would like to set up an executive meeting so let's discuss a date/time for that after this meeting.

Vice Chair Cary reports on setting up our website and setting up a security service for \$85 per year.

Suzanne asked to give NUSA conference report at CCOT next week.

Corresponding Secretary Tony reports that we voted to give letters of recommendation for Janis and Suzanne as they run for public office. Those drafts are ready.

Recording secretary Penny communicates that new pastor of Church of the Nazarene would like to introduce himself and work to support our Council and the neighborhood in general. His schedule precludes him from attending SenCo meetings over the next few months; how about he send a representative to do a Q & A session? Earl will communicate with him.

### **Old Business**

Tony recalled we had thought of having an outdoor party this summer; this would require a food handlers permit but we have a lead on catering. Gas Station Park or Wapato could be considered; the Marketing and Outreach Committee shall review.

### **New Business**

none

Adjourned 9:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary