



South End Neighborhood Council (SENC) regular meeting

October 15, 2018

Members present: Earl Brydson, Daniel Thomasson, Athena Brewer, Suzanne Skaar , Penny Grellier, Cary Nilson, Tyler Whitmarsh, Tony Caldwell, Christina Rupp, Erik Paulsen

Absent: Janis Clark

Call to Order 7:02pm, quorum present

Announcements: special meeting after the general meeting tonight; all SENC members invited to CCOT next Thursday, Room 16 of Tacoma Municipal Bldg on St. Helens; Stewart library mural panels were presented last Saturday by students and artist (funded by our community grant); benches at Habitat community are partly installed (another grant from us). Suzanne asks if we can start the special meeting at 8pm.

Approval of September Minutes: Tyler moves, Daniel seconds, motion carries.

Treasurer's report: checking \$3389.95, various payments and deposits made, new balance \$3272.47, Tyler moves, Cary seconds, motion carries.

Committee reports: none

Liaison Reports:

Fire Dept.: Battalion Chief reports Halloween safety flyer provided for attendees, wear masks safely, costumes often flammable, stay away from open flames. Check smoke detectors and change batteries, Nov 4 daylight savings time ends. TacomaFireDept. Org website has reports. Fire at S. 45th & Yakima at 7am today, three people and pets displaced, started by dryer, check that your lint traps are clean! Large fire at Spanish Hills early Sunday morning, 12 units uninhabitable, appears to be arson. CPR Sunday was yesterday, over 1000 people turned out (biggest turnout ever).

Police Dept.: Community Relations Specialist Jason Plute is working on community relations plan for the Tacoma PD... what would we like to hear about? Ideas: can we get someone to regularly attend since Lt Darlington has to be at several meetings? Arrests and tickets per neighborhood related to policing standards. Please do more than one citizens' academy per year. Have officers walk or bicycle their beats to get to know neighbors.

Lt Darlington: handed out TPU contact numbers for non-emergencies, HOTeam is addressing transient camps around Tacoma, working on lock-down drills at all Tacoma Public Schools starting tomorrow.

Metro Parks Tacoma: Craig Standridge from Pt. Defiance, October 20 opening Eastside Community Center party from 10am onwards with evening movie; Ruston Way visioning workshop for waterfront area October 29 at 5pm courthouse square downtown; STAR and People's Center hosting harvest festivals 6-8pm on October 26; Sat Oct 27 at 7pm at Pt. Defiance Park, Fort Nisqually selling tickets for escape room on sale Nov. 1; new aquarium opened last week 200% increase in attendance; Oaktree Park construction permits issued; \$750,000 grant to do outreach/co-teaching with Arlington Elementary science curriculum with wildlife emphasis.

Tacoma Public Utilities: John Gaines introduces new TPU director Jackie Flowers

City Manager/City staff: Bucoda announces Affordable Housing Strategy adopted; Limebike and Bird scooters on 60-day trials, feedback to bikeshare@cityoftacoma.org; community cleanup applications due Nov. 15; last two budget town halls coming up Oct. 22 Wilson HS and Oct. 27 STAR Center; next city council at Rialto on tideflats topic; Dec. 4 is neighborhood council review; Nov. 13 joint meeting of city council and MetroParks to talk about pocket park MOUs (our Gas Station Park agreement will stand for now).

Allison from Neighborhood and Community Services, adopt-a-spot info available for attendees, 20 adopters within SENCo boundaries currently; litterbags, gloves and vests (and sharps containers); City can come and get it or will give a dump pass or dispose of in own trash can if small amount. Both Gas Station Park and 48th St motorcycle park are available to be adopted. Tyler notes that there are a bunch of traffic circles being adopted c/o our innovative grants that need signs; City sign shop is running behind due to staff shortage. You can adopt a spot by calling 311; it's a 2-year obligation.

Tacoma Public Schools: Tu Ament describes calendar changes; 7 days lost due to teachers' strike, so make up days take away from Thanksgiving holiday, end of winter break, snow days, beginning of Spring Break, and May 24. Images of Boze Elementary passed around, can find drawings, construction schedules and new building features/amenities for other school buildings on www.buildingforachievement.com

Suzann asks about class size concerns especially at Mann Elementary; many are at maximum allowed by union contract. What are standards for future and how are decisions made? State has cap for number of students; local school teacher can sign a waiver. Suggests speaking to principal with specific concerns. There is also a level director you can contact via Elementary Ed.

Safe Streets: Darren Pen reports that there are 16 Safe Street meetings this month, tomorrow is Park Ave at 6pm, and Blueberry Park at 6:30pm. These groups have been around for 26 years, working for safe, clean and healthy neighborhoods! Safe Streets Community Conference is Nov. 3 from 10am to 4pm at Pierce Co Skills Center.

Port of Tacoma: none

Guest speakers: John Gaines and others from TPU, handed out one-page info sheet on proposed utility rate increases coming over the next two years. Partnering with Environmental Services. Operating and capital expense increases result in costs passed along to customers. There are several programs available to customers to learn how to conserve. Water: seasonal rates apply throughout the year; sensitive to your usage during summer, for example. Tacoma Power rates are flat throughout the day, and throughout the year. Original infrastructure is aging and needs replacement; doing it gradually so as not to fall behind which results in safety concerns. Coordinate pipe and street replacements to be economical. Looking at continuing community solar incentives. Rain garden incentives are also available. Visit MyTPU.org for more information and to comment on rates.

Chris Beale, City Council, states that sensitivity to neighborhoods is being taken into consideration throughout this TPU/Env Srvcs rate increase process. Note that senior and low-income payment programs are available.

Community Concerns: question about Gas Station Park from Stewart Safe Streets, can they partner? SENCo will keep maintenance agreement, Safe Streets group can adopt the park. Park is not ADA compliant. Plants are fine with 811 permission to dig, structures must have permits. Asked group to bring a planting plan with help from Env Srvcs urban forester. Penny moves to have Suzann be the liaison, Athena seconds. Motion carries.

General Business

Old Business: none

New Business: Suzanne thanks Christina for her help with social media tasks. Photos of community benches project were passed around by project organizer Rena as well as a thank-you card.

Adjourned 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary