



South End Neighborhood Council

Fire Station #8, 4911 South Alaska St., Tacoma, WA 98408

South End Neighborhood Council (SEnCo) regular meeting

July 15, 2019

Members present: Athena Brewer, Eric Paulsen, Penny Grellier, Cary Nilson, Christina Rupp, Christopher Winters, Suzanne Skaar, Melissa Dunbar

Absent: Daniel Thomasson, Tyler Whitemarsh, Tony Caldwell

Called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome & Roll call

Approval of last meeting's minutes: motion made by Christopher, Cary seconds, passes

Agenda (amended) approval: motion by Christopher, Melissa seconds, passes

Thanks again to local Starbucks for donating hot beverages to meeting

Guest speakers

Let's hear from the City Council candidates!

At-large position candidate (#7) Courtney Love: supports Click, oppose LNG, house the homeless, preserve American Democracy, environmental priority, food/housing/health security, transit/green space/small business planning, grow precinct committees.

At-large position candidate (#8) Kristina Walker: runs Downtown on the Go, transportation and affordable housing advocate, committed to working with Tacoma Public Schools and access to school/after-school care, grow great family-wage jobs that don't degrade environment, walkerfortacoma.com.

At-large position candidate (#7) Brett Johnson: Air Force background, local businessman, homeless and security concerns especially for business, supports LNG plant, zoning needs to be addressed, soccer stadium location could be Lincoln Bowl vs Heidelberg, equitable common-sense approach.

At-large position candidate (#8) John O'Loughlin: worked in habitat restoration and clean-up in Commencement Bay for City, shared a story about data being withheld on an environmental project that caused an uproar and how that prompted him to turn the project partnerships around and become an advocate, bring living-wage jobs to our area so people don't need to commute.

Tacoma School Board position candidate (#2) Christopher Kerns: prompted to run for this position because of how teachers are trained to work with kids with data-driven models and our district is not where it should be in that regard. Need to improve the budget and how that budget is used at TPS so kids benefit.

Tacoma School Board position #2 incumbent Enrique Leon: prevention and healthy communities, education is most important pillar of successful society, kids must be mentally and physically healthy in order to learn, make sure all school staff are well-supported, school bell schedule changes

Tacoma School Board position candidate (#2) John Marsden: summertime school ground closures left kids without a place to play, he became involved in community activities, safe routes to Whitman, get families involved with school, look at free curriculum resources so burden is lifted from budget.

Civil Service position #3 Amy Heller (not present)

Q&A: how will we address heroin epidemic as it affects our neighborhoods and quality of life?

Love: house first to reduce desperation, build community for those affected, safe consumption site, services

Johnson: all concerns lumped into one homeless bucket, separate needs and give resources

Walker: shouldn't silo the needs but provide multi-level resources, non-profit services work with law enforcement

O'Loughlin: can't incarcerate our way out of the issue, with more jobs here we grow tax revenue which gives resources to support services

Leon: by getting more students into healthcare field, we can help prevent the issue

Kerns: educating kids about affects of drug use, services in schools for kids who face the issue with their families

Marsden: DARE program reboot could help prevent the problem

Q&A: Love, would precinct committees be a conflict since they are tied to political parties? Only committee chair is affiliated with party, whole committee is not

Leon, how is in-school partnership with MultiCare not taxpayer supported? MultiCare pays for medical staff and lab costs, preventive care means less costs later on

Q&A: city candidates, how define living wage jobs and how to encourage those

Love: only pay 1/3 income for housing, balance rents, welcoming space for business in Tacoma

Johnson: \$50,000; need appropriate buildings in downtown and utilize available space in Port

Walker: minimum wage is not a living wage, partners of City must also be part of the long range plan, 45% housing and transportation, make it easy to open businesses in Tacoma, local jobs for those who live here

O'Loughlin: the wage required to you can live in this community to pay for your essentials, support existing businesses by giving better customer service at permit office, low power and water rates, etc.

Community Concerns

Paul Cromey, working with City for Grand Pacific apartment complex, SEPA disputed, need further clarification from City engineers, need access for those with mobility issues to Pac Ave bus stops, why is public safety not the first concern of the City on new development? Nov. 18 Calvary Baptist Church, coffee with Mayor at 6:30pm.

Cheryl, how many fireworks citations issued (numbers not available yet)? Does FD issue them (no)?

Linda Stewart, City of Tacoma: Tacoma recovery and refuse center experiencing delay due to construction, Grit City Trees applications available on City website offers free trees to resident for right of way areas, next community cleanup at Mann Elementary on July 20 at 10am to 1:45pm. Recycling changes: recommendations presented to Council June 11 maintain comingled service curbside, no glass curbside, satellite glass centers, \$3.40 per month, final recommendation to City Council vote in July. See City website for more information.

All open code enforcement: 136 in South End, closed 31 in last 30 days. Homeless encampment: 15 ongoing currently, completed 315 investigations of homeless activities.

TFD: Dale Vaughn, we got through July 4, no house fires, one detached garage fire, all injury calls were in firecrackers alley. 30% less calls this year, may be due to public education and threat of citations. FD has no way to haul offenders off so does not give citations. Outdoor burning is July spotlight, recent hillside fire showcases dangers. No yard waste or garbage burning allowed, only recreational fires allowed with permit in sanctioned containers.

TPD: Lt. Darlington, Project Peace flyers promote youth and community outreach, homeless outreach team continues its work in conjunction with stability site, Blueberry Park area concerns in woods, MetroParks followed some recommendations for mitigation, 75th & McKinley wooded site was also cleared up and fenced. New CLO in South End (Officer Butts) has been helpful.

**Port commissioner candidate (#5) Kristin Ang: should be a good neighbor and listen to ALL voices in our community, wants Port to become a world-class port, modernize and focus on sustainability, work with other governments and educational institutions, equity: expand community access and opportunity for local employment, partner to Port of Seattle, connected master strategy will make us competitive.

MetroParks: none

TPU: none

TPS: Morris Aldridge, gives overview of Birney Elementary construction project, Greg Stidham is project manager, McGranahan Architects, Turner Construction. Play structure will be in place by the time school begins in Sept 2019, new building opens Sept. 2020. No swing site necessary since existing building can be used during construction. Birney is a regional deaf and hard-of-hearing school so it has special attributes that you won't see in other schools (more reader boards, safety barriers during construction, etc.). Thanks to taxpayers!

Safe Streets: Darren Pen, safety advice sent around, conference invitation, thank you for \$50 support of cleanups, cleanup in August has not received donation yet (Daniel shall provide)

Port of Tacoma: none

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Daniel not here

Outreach: Suzanne reports scheduled media committee meetings July 31, 6pm at Fern Hill library, August 28, 6pm at Moore library, more TV Tacoma spots are available, send ideas for features to Senco253@gmail.com. Requests that SENCo purchase digital recorder, around \$170, tripod \$14, SD card \$12.99 before tax. Need new ideas for kids corner activities!

Bylaws: two meetings held, one more in a couple of weeks, updating Bylaws, all welcome to join in the process.

New/Old Business

Old: Mann Elementary cleanup July 20.

New: no photos submitted for monthly contest. Send to senco253@gmail.com. We are holding a back-to-school drive at next month's meeting, so will assemble donations. Please bring items and help us stuff backpacks.

Logo contest winners: we voted last month on 24 designs submitted by Lincoln High School. Ervin Santiago, 1st Place; Empress Lee, 2nd Place; Vannile Vannarith, Sincere Jones, and Gabriel Wright, 3rd Place tie. Prize money will be sent to all the winners.

Are we still interested in changing our neighborhood council meeting to first Monday of the month? Penny motions, Christine seconds, 4 votes, 4 against. Tabled.

2019 budget vote for approval, need more information in our work plan. Actuals will be clarified; Suzanne motions we approve online, Christopher seconds, passes.

Adjourned 8:40pm (Christopher, Melissa seconds, passes)

Submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary