



South End Neighborhood Council

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

South End Neighborhood Council (SENC) regular meeting

November 18, 2019 *REVISED*

Members present: Athena Brewer, Penny Grellier, Cary Nilson, Christopher Winters, Daniel Thomasson, David Thompson, Tony Caldwell, Christina Rupp, Tyler Whitemarsh and Eric Paulsen

Absent: Melissa Dunbar

Called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome & Roll Call (and how long you've been on SENC)

Agenda and last meeting's Minutes approval: Cary asks for correction to note about signage re: Lyon school. Minutes as amended motion by Christopher, Tyler seconds, passes; Agenda request to move TFD to top of agenda in case they get a call for service, motion by Tyler, Daniel seconds, passes)

Thanks to local Starbucks for donating beverages to meeting

TFD: 41,000 calls for service so far this year. Spotlight safety tip: if you deep fry a turkey, please do so outside! Tony asks for information on I-5 accident this morning. Central Pierce Fire Dept responded.

Guest speakers (10 minutes):

Palmer Scholars: Alicia from Outreach & Recruitment Specialists team

Alicia is also a Palmer Scholar herself. The program assists young people of color prepare for and attend post-secondary education. Juniors in high school are matched with mentors to help guide them through the process. Scholarships are also offered. Data shows Palmer Scholars have a greater graduation rate than unassisted students, and often do not need incur high student loan debt. Eligibility and expectations were summarized. Applications close December 9. Mentor opportunities and information are available on their website.

Mayor's Youth Commission: Abigail from MetroParks Planning Dept. presents on Gas Station Park; youth commission organized an event at the Park to meet the neighbors and those who use the space. City of Tacoma and MetroParks are partnering to improve the Park; it is classified as a "neighborhood park" so parking spaces are not required and it is designed to serve those within a 10-minute walk. Improvements made to fencing, accessibility improved, new signage. Councilmember Ushka added that Park funding is in the budget and will be voted upon tomorrow. Information and surveys were made available. Questions can be directed to Abigail (phone and email on flyers).

Community Concerns (3 minutes):

1. Pac Ave business district is resurrecting itself, meeting monthly. May have summer festival again. Wapato neighborhood is a concern; criminal activity is increasing with the park at its nexus. Some

homes around park are drug sellers; homeless living in park are not abiding by laws. It seems odd with a police substation located there. Tyler noted it is not staffed; CLOs are out in the community. Darren notes that neighborhood volunteer groups are meeting there monthly. Can we organize an effort to deal with this problem? --Suzanne Martin [Linda Stewart, COT, can make a connection with TPD and have a report at the next meeting]

2. Thanks to Athena and Christina for help with Grand Pacific development; meeting weekly with developers and City to track progress. Crosswalk at intersection on 72nd to ensure safe passage of pedestrians. Pacific and 72nd Safe Street business group to reform. Working with Fred Meyer and TNT reporter to improve image of that area. Morgan Motel concern for re-opening, ownership is shifting, quick claim deed for \$1.00. Peewee Tavern will be taken down for new development. Another development going in along Pacific around 74th: make comments on need for sidewalks and safe exit/entry. Cary saw an error in the CEPA section of this project. Apartments going in where Welchers Gun Shop was located. Check City's permit map to see what development are coming--Paul Cromey
3. Councilmember Catherine Ushka notes a resolution has been put forth to create community outreach requirement for developers.

Bucoda Warren and Linda Stewart, City of Tacoma: pamphlets on snow and ice prep for homeowners and City snow response, Dec 3 study session at noon joint meeting with school board, neighborhood council ordinance that evening, Dec 10 joint utility board, second reading of neighborhood council ordinance, youth commission bestowing of powers.

Closed 280 nuisance cases in last 3 months, 17 derelict building cases, 21 graffiti cases. Thanks for using 311!

Opened 179 nuisance cases, 51 derelict building, 5 graffiti cases. Proactive code enforcement helps people to take care of the problem before they become a problem.

Linda 253-591-5225

City council study session tomorrow at noon and at evening session at 5pm will consider

1. amending temporary shelter regulations to lower minimum square footage required from 7500 square feet to 150 square feet per person. There can be no more than 150 individuals in temporarily shelter per police sector versus 2 shelters. Separation of one mile between temporary shelter sites can be removed only by Planning Commission review. If Planning Director determined there is no draw on resources, distance can be smaller.
2. extending emergency declaration on homelessness (twice extended already), this time using a metric.
3. contracting with Seattle-based agency to provide 22 emergency microshelters of 100 square feet with electricity at S. 8th and MLK for no more than 8 months to test the model with new provider (local providers are tapped out). Site will be redeveloped after that period of time.

MetroParks: Craig, next year is 50th anniversary of Earth Day, partnership to plant trees for every child in Pierce County (202,000), planning event on Nov 22 10am to noon; Arlington Elementary program with plant and animal projects; MDC and Associated Ministries hosting event at Asian Pacific Cultural Center for long term microshelter planning with community.

TPU: John, environmental action plan updates: all street lights upgraded to LED, low-income assistance program met targets

TPS: Derek, new Board member sworn in Nov 7, \$535 million construction bond coming on February ballot, upgrades to Mann and iDEA schools, sixth and ninth grade enrollment choices are now doing preview nights. Cary noted the signage he mentioned last month has still not been taken down. He will send Derek a photo of it.

Safe Streets: Darren, handouts on crime prevention, thanks to those who join neighborhood watch groups, encourages all to get involved and communicate

Pierce Transit: Penny Grellier, snow routes up on website, thanks to those who joined BRT community committee

TPD: Lt. Eric Scripps, vehicle prowls increase during the holidays, violent crime task force is active, gang unit is increasing presence in community, "shop with a cop" coming up shortly, Toys for Tots has collection bins at each substation

Port of Tacoma: none

TPCHD: none

Committee Reports

Treasurer: *beginning balance \$7,970.91 checking, ending balance \$7951.07 checking. Checking had a WordPress purchase for the website of \$19.84. Balance of savings is \$4121.28.*

Outreach: Christina asks for food donations for Nourish especially soup, bring items to box in our lobby

Bylaws: Tyler and team rewriting the Bylaws, almost complete

New/Old Business

Old: Grand Pacific (see Paul's comment above)

Need Board alternate for CCOT (6pm on 4th Thursday), motion to have Cary as alternate made by Tyler, Eric seconds, motion carries

SENCo meeting change: third Wednesday proposed but clashes with Safe Streets group; Bucoda proposes 2nd Monday but Cary's Safe Streets group meets here then through 2020. Will table, survey on our FB and webpage.

New: we appreciate this building and space for our meetings, so we want to thank fire station team. Motion to spend up to \$500 on an acceptable treat (such as breakfast), moved by Christina, second by Cary, carries.

Elections: ballots handed out to all present to vote in general election (re-elect existing members for terms). Elections for new members will occur in January since we got two applications later than allowable for November election.

Result: all members confirmed to the Board.

No one wins November Photo Contest, since no one submitted a photo. Prize will roll over to January.

Adjourned 8:54pm

Submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary