



South End Neighborhood Council

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

South End Neighborhood Council (SEnCo) regular meeting

February 24, 2020

Members present: Athena Brewer, Penny Grellier, Cary Nilson, Daniel Thomasson, David Thompson, Tyler Whitmarsh, Libby Armstrong, Tony Caldwell

Absent: Christina Rupp, Melissa Dunbar and Eric Paulsen

About 17 attendees

Called to order at 7:03pm

Welcome & Roll Call

Agenda and January meeting's Minutes approval: minutes moved Tyler, second Daniel; agenda with changes as noted moved Daniel, second Tyler

Thanks to Starbucks (Isaac, local mgr.) for donating beverages to meeting

Guest speakers (10 minutes):

Darian Lightfoot, Community & Economic Development Dept., 5-year Consolidated Plan: City receives several federal grants and sets the priorities for how those are spent. Darian distributed a survey to gather feedback on needs and priorities in the community and went over a timeline of the Plan process. Information on extremely low-income (less than 80% AMI) residents was highlighted.

Ryan Wheaton, Pierce Transit, BRT Update: updates will be given every few months as the project is moving along. Ryan gave a project overview; the locally preferred alternative has been fine-tuned, partners include WSDOT and City of Tacoma. The 26th St bridge has a load limit that may not allow BRT vehicles, meaning route may go onto Puyallup Avenue in order to turn around. Traffic analysis ongoing including migration onto adjacent streets. Fully-electric, 60-foot, three-door articulated buses preferred. Naming and station design underway. Soil testing next week along corridor. Operations start 2023.

Community Concerns (3 minutes):

Abigail, Diversity Outreach Specialist, from MetroParks re: Gas Station Park, project is going well. After further researching parks in South End, they are going to work on updating Ryan's Park as well. Helen Harlowe also spoke, Ryan was her son after whom the park is named. Improvements may include new signs, healing elements and art. 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the park and Helen would like to hold a celebration, asks for community help.

A member of the public read a statement against BRT and related transit projects. Ryan from PT clarified where to go for BRT information at RideBRT.com

Liaison Reports (3 minutes each)

TFD: Novak has nothing new to report. Athena explains how SENCo set aside \$500 to thank Station 8 for letting us use the meeting space, to be used to install a bike rack. However, City will install for free. Chief Boyer said station can use a smoker/grill; Novak thanks us for the gift and they will select a preferred model.

TPD: Lt. Scripps states most crimes are down over last year at this time. Violent crime has dedicated detectives focusing on recent shootings to reduce incidents. Property crime is down and Lt. Scripps thanks citizens for following through on prevention measures. February tip of the month: don't leave valuables in cars or lockers while at the gym. Using 311 helps TPD track crime details and progress. TPD officers will be reading Dr. Seuss books to kids at local schools next week.

City of Tacoma: Bucoda, active transportation program can install bike racks in areas of busy public use to encourage cycling. Email possible locations to Bucoda. Innovative Grants are now open, first come/first serve, reviewed monthly. \$18,000 allocated to each neighborhood council to help improve/celebrate neighborhood.

MetroParks: none

TPU: none

TPS: Angie, curriculum and instruction department, bringing information on reading and state test scores in response to last month's questions. Angie presented a comparison of ELA (English/Language Arts) test scores over past 3 years for 5th, 8th and 10th graders in our neighborhood and as compared to district and state.

Safe Streets: Darren, Lincoln Business District conducted a cleanup last week, several large development projects are scheduled for our neighborhood so attend the open houses and public hearings to learn more and get involved.

Pierce Transit: as presented

Port of Tacoma: none

TPCHD: none

Committee Reports

Treasurer: checking account \$7200.24 previous balance; 3rd place logo contest winner cashed check, new balance \$7100.24; savings account \$4121.97 previous balance, 35-cent interest, new balance \$4122.32

Outreach: no report

Bylaws: no updates

New/Old Business

Old: Paul, Grand Pacific update, welcome to join the meetings onsite Wednesday at 8am with City and developer, construction schedule has been presented, buildings are being framed, requested streets be cleaned of excess mud (clean-up occurred today), late-night construction is allowed until 9pm which Paul suggests be adjusted to an earlier cut-off time when projects are in neighborhoods (city council action?). Heavy machinery coming in on the wrong street, have requested correction.

Motion to have SENCO draft a letter to City on behalf of neighborhood regarding how Grand Pacific project has been handled. Tyler moves, Libby seconds, vote Board and general public, motion carries.

72nd Crosswalk: David reports a meeting with City staff discussing crosswalk at S. 72nd St & S. D St., it will be more complicated (HAWK signal), Chris Beale reports City is being more conservative on crosswalk designs due to liability. Another mtng next month (anyone can attend).

SETNA update: Chris Beale, District #5 City Council Rep, reported on progress of Southeast Tacoma Neighborhood Alliance, to serve as an action arm of SENCo. Would like to work around neighborhood engagement, community service projects. Drafting a resolution to bring to SENCo to authorize SETNA mission. Meeting 4th Saturdays at South Lakeshore Community Church (which has an annual festival on second Saturday in July).

New:

Adopt-A-Street, Tony would like us to adopt S. Alaska between 48th and 56th based on traditional clean-up work with school kids, Tony moves SENCo take it on twice a year, Daniel seconds, all vote, motion carries.

Tony would also like to help improve Alling Park using innovative grants (barbeques, teen activity equipment, trees, etc.). Mary from Alling Park Safe Streets is interested in working together. Bucoda suggests checking with MetroParks planners to see what long range plans are for that park.

South End celebration, Daniel suggests we hold a party that will also connect people with resources, invited attendees to join a workgroup. Probably July or August, outdoors.

Innovative grants (see above)

February photo contest winner announced

Adjourned 8:41pm

Submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary