



Meeting minutes for July 20, 2020

Virtual general meeting via Zoom

Call to order 7:06pm

Present: Athena, Penny, David, Melissa, Cary, Tony, Eric

Absent: Christina, Libby, Daniel

Guests: CM Chris Beale, 253-312-0550, please vote! Reminds that City is in budgeting process and there's an opportunity for public engagement, City website has budget tool for public to use. South Sheridan had funds dedicated two years ago and money is still there, work will continue with sidewalk additions 72nd to 84th, curb ramp replacements near Burney Elementary, complete street design 61st to 72nd to improve safety. East 64th improvements continuing.

Pacific & 72nd: Fred Meyer being remodeled, Pee Wee Tavern building torn down, Grand Pacific project still considering sidewalk alignment.

Non-profit called Next Chapter looking at Morgan Motel for at-risk pregnant women and mothers programming.

Council invites comments at Community Forum (via Zoom) every second Tuesday.

Tony: how to get non-English speakers access to SENCo? City needs to put better effort forth on this. Zoom has special feature that will give interpretation for viewers. Need to have native speakers translate publications.

David: would like City to continue supporting urban agriculture, including right-of-way plantings.

Pressing Announcements

None

Community Concerns

Gabe from Alling Park, there was a fatal accident on S. 56th & Cushman near old convenience store heading East. Another highlight of speeding through neighborhoods. Athena reminds we discussed ideas for slowing down traffic at last meeting.

Liaison Reports

TPD: Lt Scripps, working on getting our neighborhood stats from Crime Unit, property crime was only type of crime up in 4 sector, 3 sector is down 1% crime-wise through month of May. Through July, 4 sector handled 760 requests from 311. 3 sector handled 360. Check with your Safe Streets group for localized data. Can call Scripps at 253-594-7948 or email ericscripps@cityoftacoma.org.

Link: https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/police/news_releases

Chief will be retiring soon.

National Night Out has been postponed due to pandemic. Body cams roll out in January 2021. Follow up on last month's chokehold question; not to be used and will be put into policy.

David comments that fireworks reporting line did not seem to result in much action. Scripps will follow up.

Tony asks for definition of property crime; Scripps said it includes car theft, commercial or residential burglary and vandalism. Asks for tips to help avoid this type of crime. Community Liaison Officers can come out and assess individual situations.

TFD: none

City of Tacoma: Allyson, www.cityoftacoma.org/budgetdevelopment, Thursday July 23rd, 6-7:30pm digital town hall regarding budget development. E. 60th & Mc Kinley microshelter site is getting ready to move residents on Thursday from 8th & MLK. Also folks from unauthorized encampments will be moved in once shelters from MLK are cleaned up and moved to new site.

What number to call for food banks? It would be 211. City received \$6.3 million CARES Act funds, \$800K redirected to Emergency Food Network making more food available. Garden located downtown situated in Sound Transit right-of-way; City is checking on it with contractor.

Allyson is looking into other funding sources for all those who applied for Innovative Grants (since those funds are no longer available given City shortfall).

SETNA report: next mtng Saturday, July 25 at 9am, Gabe reports on recent meetings, no innovative grants to be given this year which means our Neighborhood Plan will need to be supported in other ways. Encourages neighbors to work together for localized safety and actions. Chris Beale can add anyone who wishes it to the SETNA email list.

Safe Streets: Darren, 253-272-6824, lots of neighborhood groups still functioning despite pandemic limitations. Blueberry Park continues holding trash pickups on Sundays. Alling Park working on traffic circles. Wednesday July 22, 6-7:30pm, City hosting a virtual neighborhood forum (link on SENCo website).

Port of Tacoma: Leslie, 253-428-8662, 57 blank sailings year to date (ships without cargo that were cancelled), this causes congestion at the Port, consumer purchasing is up. Focus is on getting local exports out on schedule. Port is doing their Strategic Plan with online open house. www.portoftacoma.com/openhouse

TPU: John, 253-441-4661 or 253-502-8600, reminder that COVID-19 Emergency Assistance program is still available. Flexible payment schedules are also available for up to 12 weeks. Reminder to inspect how for air leaks (keep heat out in summer). Save chores for once a week to save resources. Rebates available for home energy upgrades. Are there 5G small-cell nodes going in around Tacoma? Not a TPU project but can get more info to us.

Enviro Services: Preston, 253-593-7707, online map shows community clean-up zone for curbside pickups, check out webpage for guidance of what's being picked up and what requires advanced scheduling. When will glass recycling change from curbside to drop-off center? Permits have been submitted, probably mid-Fall if all goes well (some are conditional use permits). Notices will be sent.

Pierce Transit: Penny, 253-589-6886, safety and health of paramount importance, cleaning protocols and mask requirements continue, BRT virtual open house is online (at RideBRT.com), new on-demand service coming August 1 for access to Ruston Way and surrounding areas. Richard Gardner offers further BRT info as he is on the community committee for the project.

MetroParks: Craig, COVID-19 caused budget loss, some staff returning from furlough, Zoo and Aquarium are open again, now have a COVID-19 officer on staff, summer camps are beginning to open and free lunches at 6 different parks from 12-1pm through August 28 including at Wapato. Gabe reports hedges need trimming as they are being used as a bathroom; is there staffing for this kind of work right now?

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Metro Parks: What's Open, What's Closed:

<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/updates/>

Metro Parks Summer Camp Opportunities:

<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/category/camps/>

Treasurer's report: checking \$3,346.98, savings \$4,118.76, no additional funding from City to Neighborhood Councils this year. We'd like to spend this on neighborhood improvement projects.

Outreach committee: Melissa, SENCo-branded water bottles left over from rallies were distributed at Food Is Free tables in neighborhood

Bylaws committee: will meet again in Fall 2020.

Old business

Grand Pacific, Andrea reports that sidewalk will be installed on either S. 70th or S. 72nd, concerns for safety amongst neighbors, several discussions in neighborhood about using developer funding to get the best sidewalk option. Crossing the street is hazardous as things now stand.

Adopt-A-Street, Tony reminds us that we accepted S. Alaska between 48th & 56th as a SENCo Adopt-A-Street, first trash pick-up August 8 at 3pm or August 12 at 7pm. Tony will get equipment from the City. Meet 30 minutes prior at the fire station at 4911 S. Alaska (wear your mask). There will be two pickups per year. Darren suggests caps, shirts or vests with SENCo branding on them for all volunteers. Athena will check on availability.

New business:

Vice Chair vote: Melissa Dunbar was nominated last month (Athena motions, David seconds), votes collected by voice or chat, motion carries.

Open seat on SENCo: interested? Let us know. Tell your neighbors/friends.

2021 Action Plan: send your ideas to senco253@gmail.com

Tony asks that SENCo purchase 1,000 masks for local community members. We will get a cost on masks and vote at next meeting.

Adjourned 9:02pm.

Next meeting August 17 at 7pm (virtual)

Submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary