



Meeting minutes for October 19, 2020

Virtual general meeting via Zoom

Call to order 7:01pm

21 participants

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

Absent: Daniel, Cary

Approval of September minutes & Oct. agenda: Christina moves, David seconds, approved

Pressing Announcements

David announces: at Calvary Baptist Church one block off Pacific at 65th, Wed/Fri this week and next, Food Is Free food box giveaways

Community Concerns

Palmer Scholars application now open for high school juniors, <https://linktr.ee/palmerscholars> as well as a survey at bit.ly/3nRScAx to be connected to an outreach and recruitment specialist.

Presentations

Ryan Mello, candidate for County Council District 4

Cares about quality of life in Pierce County: clean air, transit, recreation areas, affordable housing, and behavioral health. Wants to bring back fairly-paid jobs. Must tackle various issues at the regional level versus city by city, brings his experience and leadership to the county position to help make progress.

Question: worried that all his efforts at Tacoma City Council haven't amounted to much... how will things be different if you are on the County Council? He, too, is frustrated by the lack of results; he has helped move City Council members from moderate to progressive on tough issues and hopes to do the same at the County Council.

Question: how will you boost economic development/job creation? Best path forward is to invest in quality of life. Business owners want to be located where people like to live, work and play. Qualified, skilled workforce and a quality transportation system (to effectively move good and employees).

Question: can you say more about your mental health plans? Behavioral health tax would invest outside of Tacoma city limits where there are also mental health needs, need more care providers, expand current programs. A plan has been put together by local providers that we need to fund.

Question: what will you do for urban agriculture in Parkland/Spanaway areas? Resourcing groups like Food Is Free who already know how to do it, navigating cultures to better serve those who don't know how to access our community.

Thank you, Ryan! Ryan@ryanmello.com, www.ryanmello.com

Miriam Barnett YWCA, Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Transforming lives through safety, healing and empowerment. Serve women and children and pets are allowed at their shelter. Spoke about the history of their "new" shelter (10 years old now); it offers an apartment for each client family. Trauma and incidents have declined due to families having comfortable space. Old shelter converted to children's space and legal office. Building new housing with a courtyard play area, solar panels, expanded counseling center. www.ywcapiercecounty.org or call 253-383-2593 for help or advice.

During pandemic, no clients have tested positive due to individual units. Some protocols and programming have changed to ensure social distancing. Donations of new goods and financial gifts still being accepted 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. They accept used cell phones with or without chargers.

Have residents been staying for longer during the pandemic? No, stay length has not changed much. Finding permanent housing for clients is the goal. Because of eviction moratorium, turnover is not occurring as usual. Average at old shelter: 40 days, new shelter: 76 days.

No holiday gift center this year; gift card drive instead.

Instead of just 'good enough', Miriam believes we need to give dignity to those in shelters to promote healing.

Mbarnett@ywcapiercecounty.org

Liaison Reports (note that liaison contact info is listed on the Agenda)

TPD: Lt Scripps, 253-594-7948, eric.scripps@cityoftacoma.org, citywide crime is down 10% down, arson and motor vehicle crimes up. Homicide rate is up this year; violence reduction team is working these cases. Any suggestions are welcome. Vehicle theft prevention tip sheet provided: don't leave your car warming up in the driveway unattended! Memorial service for fallen canine was held two weeks ago (view on TV12 and Facebook). New K9 coming to the team. Community liaison officers are available to assist with neighborhood concerns, issues.

Athena reports parties at 39th & Thompson has ceased since Hong Kong Supermarket has programmed exterior lights to stay on longer into the morning hours.

TFD: none

City of Tacoma: Linda, Wednesday Oct 21 virtual town hall with Council and Thursday Oct 22 budget town hall, 6-7:30pm (virtual – see www.cityoftacoma.org/budgetdevelopment). Rental assistance program related to COVID, can apply if you have lost income or employment due to the pandemic, payments made directly to landlords (60% median income or below). Two awards of \$1000 each per applicant. Emergency microshelter site at McKinley and 60th, community meetings held 2nd Monday of each month 6-7:30pm. 253-215-8782 passcode 825-8159-3484.

David noted a commercial building on Yakima that he'd like to use for his programs has been rezoned Residential... can he get a City provision to use it for another purpose like community center? Linda will follow up with appropriate City employee. Lstewart@cityoftacoma.org

CM Chris Beale: he will follow up with David on the commercial building issue as he has worked on this previously. Echoes Linda's invitation to budget town hall (as above). New Police Chief workshop on October 29. Reflected on bike tour of South End taken last Saturday to look at aspects of our community.

Safe Streets: Darren, in September had a great on-site community meeting with new owner of Morgan Motel which was live streamed and viewed by 300 people, was asked by community members if usual resources are still offered (311, code enforcement, etc.) so will hold a virtual community meeting Thursday Nov 5 to share information. Email dpen@safest.org

Port of Tacoma: Leslie, please check out the Port's online open house if you haven't already. Instead of traditional monthly bus tour, touch-a-truck and annual boat tour, they will have virtual versions of these and other tours (first one was a habitat tour).

TPU: none

Enviro Services: Preston, 253-593-7707, ppeck@cityoftacoma.org, exploring 64th & Yakima location for glass recycle center (discussing with landlord and tenants), curbside glass collection ending in January 2021 (info will be sent out shortly), grant from Dept of Ecology will allow them to launch Recycling Ambassador program.

MetroParks:

Pierce Transit: Penny, continued safety measures on board (frequent cleaning and masks required), Commerce Street transit center refurbishment started this week, to install new HVAC and lighting as well as art piece in place of the waterwall.

SETNA report: next meeting is Oct 24 9am, for link email chris.beal@cityoftacoma.org for details.

TPS: Lisa, staff mask requirements and learning environment adjustments will delay return of most students, some special needs students have returned in small groups. Until number of COVID cases drops and guidelines allow, at-home learning will continue. Don't forget to vote! Scott Heinz has resigned School Board position, five candidates in the running to replace him.

Treasurer's report:

Savings: \$4,118.97

Checking: \$3,274.35 (\$2,000 reserved for SETNA projects)

Outreach committee: flyers made for next month's member recruitment (applications due 11/6/20), Melissa is working on a SENCo calendar.

Bylaws committee: met and completed draft of revised Bylaws, will be reviewed by SENCo board for comments/edits

Old business:

Meeting day/time change vote next month

Seat 5 Vote: Treyvon Dunbar has applied, vote held and passes unanimously.

Grand Pacific Support letter: Andrea Haug read a letter she would like SENCo to support asking for construction mitigations around the Grand Pacific development, impacting the surrounding neighborhood. Vote held and passes unanimously.

New business:

Bike tour photos shared

Two open seats up for vote (need two people for elections committee: Melissa and David)

SENCo general election Monday Nov 16

Adjourned 9:28pm.

Next meeting November 16 at 7pm (virtual)

Submitted by Penny Grellier, Recording Secretary