

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

January 10, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Chris Karnes, Tracy Kelly, Juanita McBride, Kate Rose, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt. **Excused:** Pam Brewer **Absent:** Pam Orazem, Darion Reese. **Staff:** Elton Gatewood. **Guests:** Larry Steiner, Renee Paulsen, Julie Dahlen, Christian Clegg, Francine Artis, Ryan Petty, Corey Darlington and Justin Mayfield.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:34 PM by Marty Campbell. Motion approved to accept the corrected December NTNC Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City: Ryan Petty said there was lots of development activity, and new statistics showing there are over 43,000 people employed downtown. They are looking at trip reduction measures as the City looks at ways to further increase inflow into downtown. The City Council has assisted with funding for the Winthrop. Mr. Petty also noted that the Fawcett building will most likely be torn down. He indicated that Christian Clegg would be providing occasional reports from his office for the Neighborhood Council.

Elton Gatewood distributed a syllabus of the Government Leadership Institute, noted the NTNC's Annual Report was due by February 15, 2007. Information on Innovative Grants should be out on February 1, 2007.

Police Department: Corey Darlington talked about recent sting operations near the Elks building in which 5 people were arrested for tagging. The CLO's have been talking with the new management group at the Winthrop and are in the process of establishing a good working relationship. The CLO's have also been working with Sector 2 folks concerning the Western Storage building on St. Helens. Some improvement has been noted. The CLO's have also been working the area around 24th and A St., and 25th and Pacific Ave., with numerous arrests being made for drugs and nuisance violations. They also want to see the alley fenced off behind the Merkle. Of note is the calls for service in the Tacoma Ave. corridor are down 52%.

Fire Department: Larry Steiner stated the 5th CERT class starts next week. They've had close to 100 grads so far. There are ongoing CPR classes. Call 594-7979 for more information. For fire extinguisher training call 973-0063.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Eric Anderson introduced Christian Clegg, who is an intern, and will be Mr. Anderson's representative at Neighborhood Council meetings. It is expected that Mr. Clegg will meet monthly with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Gatewood. Mr. Anderson wants to track complaints, note how they are handled, and monitor resolutions. Although Mr. Clegg will be at meetings to gather information for Mr. Anderson, he may also provide a brief report to the NTNC.

Julie Dahlen briefly discussed the Tacoma Power brochures which were handed out, and noted that Tacoma Power was in the process of going to high tech. meters.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Tom Stenger talked about long range planning, adding more money to the Green Tacoma Partnership, adopting an open space plan, and supporting the Cascade Land Conservancy. He'd like to see an expansion of native species planting. Mr. Stenger briefly discussed housing issues, the Miller Amendment, and MLK Heights. There's been discussion on not wanting the future growth to spill over into single family home areas,

and possible amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The City's legislation of Special Needs Housing is on appeal with the State. In April the Council will pass a 6 yr. Transportation Plan. There will be opportunity to provide your opinion on this plan within the next 2 months. The Conservation Futures Project is looking at obtaining private property for open space. Application must in by May 25, 2007.

Jake Fey said the City Council approved Prium as the developer for the Winthrop Hotel. The management will change. He mentioned the City's support of a youth initiative to provide expansion of opportunities for kids. Mr. Fey appreciated the NTNC's support on budget issues.

PRESENTATIONS: Eric Anderson talked about the vision for downtown. He distributed information on property changes as a result of the City of Tacoma nuisance codes. He said there was an 80% voluntary compliance from property owners whose properties were slated for clean-up within the CBS areas. He also distributed maps of downtown, showing the new draft boundaries. The City Council defined the working definition of "downtown" which included all previous definitions of the downtown area. Goals were to protect neighborhoods, protect critical areas, and densify the downtown and neighborhood districts. Mr. Anderson also expressed a desire to focus on principles/issues such as parking, parking systems and transit (trolleys and streetcars). Keeping the neighborhood character would include saving old buildings, if possible, and identifying historic buildings for preservation. Plans include dividing the City into 6 areas, holding meetings to invite public input, and writing down concerns/questions for research. He'd like to have ongoing conversations at follow-up meetings to continue the dialogue and articulate an action plan. He would like to see a parking system that would support both neighborhood and business concerns. Mr. Anderson noted that parking, transit and housing issues are all related. These issues need to be addressed while taking into account social and economic relationships and impacts. He noted that \$ 2 million was being set aside for residential street repair.

Marty Campbell addressed issues concerning communication with the public regarding street changes and the need for planning cohesiveness. Jake Fey stated the City Council will continue to study this project.

OLD BUSINESS: Rollie Herman presented a draft letter for the Health Board regarding the Needle Exchange Van. A motion was made, seconded and approved to send the letter as drafted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mar-Le Wendt, Bill Garl and Kate Rose volunteered to be on the Budget Committee.

Rollie Herman, Bill Garl, Kate Rose and Nick Schuder volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee.

It was announced that a Board Retreat would take place on January 13, 2007, at the Section 1 Police Substation, located at 1524 MLK. Topics of discussion will be: How we do business; Budget priorities, Outreach, Being proactive vs. reactive; NUSA; Bylaws, Committees, and the pros and cons of being a group focused on Social Interaction vs. an Action Group; and the Annual Report to the City Council.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: N/A

Across The Fence: January's program will highlight the Neighborhood Councils and their accomplishments over the past year. February's program will focus on Innovative Grants.

Treasurer's Report: Account Balance = \$ 7,916.65.

Web Site: www.newtacoma.org.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00 PM.