

# NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

October 11, 2006

**ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present:** Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Pam Orazem, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt. **Excused:** Pam Brewer, Juanita McBride. **Absent:** Max Messman, Darion Reese, Kirsten Reynolds, Dan Wolch. **Staff:** Kala Dralle, Elton Gatewood excused. **Guests:** Clara Cheeves, Susan Eidenschink, Mary Gale, Kanda Patton, Nancy Davis, Ryan Petty, Greg Hopkins, Jori Adkins, Kate Rose, Rachel York, Jake Fey, Nathan George, and Craig Pfander.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:37 PM by Bill Garl. Motion approved to accept the September NTNC Minutes.

**City: Kala Dralle** distributed information on the Neighborhood & Housing Committee/ Neighborhood Council Program Update and a Review of the Innovative Grant Applications.

**Police Department: Greg Hopkins** distributed the sector's monthly report and discussed 5 recent arrests at the Winthrop, a homicide investigation near the Bryant Elementary School. 2 juveniles were arrested in a shooting in the 700 block on S. Sheridan. There have been ongoing Set Missions in the hilltop and downtown areas with narcotics arrests. They are also continuing to work on the Juggalo situation near 9<sup>th</sup> and Commerce. Robert Luke has cleaned up the Rescue Mission area. 9,000 pounds of debris were removed by work crews. Transients moved from the mission area to the "Jungle" (near Brown & Haley). These changes have impacted drug activity near 25<sup>th</sup> and Pacific. It was noted that a Tavern has applied for a liquor license to open in the spring of 2007 at 1210 Pacific Ave.

**Fire Department: Larry Steiner** noted that 21 graduated from the CERT class last Saturday. 375 clients completed CPR classes. Fliers were distributed for the Tacoma Fire Department's October 14<sup>th</sup> Open House. It was noted that Chief Stephens led staff on the Heart Walk.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Denny Faker** thanked the NTNC for its support for last year's Dicken's Festival, and invited us to support it again this year.

## CITIZENS FORUM:

**Tom Stenger** noted the Town Hall Meeting was successful. He noted the Comp. Plan Amendments would be addressed next year and suggested NTNC develop a Planning & Zoning Land Use Committee.

**Jake Fey** wanted the NTNC to forward notes from the City Council Town Hall Meeting to the City Council.

**Marty Campbell** invited everyone to participate in the upcoming Tour of Urban Living, noting that people choose neighborhoods to live in, not just condos.

**Kanda Patton**, World Vision, distributed fliers about their new Wired Café located at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Avenue. It will be offering espresso, breakfast, lunch and free we-fi. Check it out at <http://www.myspace.com/wiredtacoma>. She also indicated Club Friday will be opening up at a later date.

**Jori Adkins** would like to see the City to hire a tree advocate/arborist.

**Tracy Kelly**, Arts Commission, would like to see the 1% construction costs for Art be expanded to include 1% of the entire project.

**Nancy Davis** distributed the Metro Parks Today newsletter.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Ryan Petty** discussed the deplorable shape of the Elks building, the City's right of condemnation, and the fact that the lower courts were reviewing the case. A Portland company is looking at saving the building and restoring it, although a use has not been made public at this time. Three adjacent lots could also be developed. The Winthrop was originally a 4 star hotel property with historic value. There is a November 15, 2006 deadline for the developers to address the purchase and address current resident's need for housing. There are still many issues the city must decide in relation to this issue; the Miller Amendment, the wishes of the current city council, and what mix of subsidized housing and market rate projects are to be placed in the downtown core, as well as the rest of the city.

There is a synergy with the Elks and Winthrop developments that could result in even greater interest in the Theater District.

The Sound Transit extension of their line across Pacific Avenue at 26<sup>th</sup> and up South Tacoma Way to Lakewood is still being discussed at great length. The American Institute of Architects has held meetings and has presented an alternate design with no overpass, but uses a tunnel under 26<sup>th</sup> near Brown & Haley. Public Works is reviewing the engineering plans to assess the tunnel's feasibility. There will be further discussion of this topic at the City Council's October 17, 2006 Study Session.

There was continued discussion concerning grocery stores in the downtown area. There are some discussions going on regarding the potential for the Stadium Thriftway to expand. The kinds of shopping people do when using local transit services was also explored.

**Kate Rose** discussed Proposition 1 which will be on the November 7, 2006 ballot. This is a Tacoma Street Levy for \$8 Million over 6 years. This is for repair of 2,500 city blocks and upgrading curbs for ADA compatibility. It is estimated the cost would be \$98.00 for the average priced home. Handouts were distributed. Informational fact sheets were distributed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Marty Campbell** discussed the budget issues for City Council review, which was prioritized by the NTNC Board members.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tracy Kelly and Kris Karns** were nominated for 1 year terms to the Board. The following current members were also nominated: Pam Brewer, Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Juanita McBride, Pam Orazem, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt, and Darion Reese.

**Rollie Herman** stated the Council would be Electing Board Members next month; as well as taking nominations for the Executive Committee.

## **REPORTS:**

**Community Council Meeting:** This month's meeting focused on a presentation by John Briehl on the issue of encampments and the Housing First Initiative. There also was a discussion on gang resistance education in schools followed by a motion for CCOT to sponsor a community forum on gangs.

**Across The Fence:** October's program will focus on Crime Prevention, November (Eric Anderson's Annual Report), and December (Transient Encampments).

**Treasurer's Report:** Account Balance = \$ 8,967.79.

**Web Site:** [www.newtacoma.org](http://www.newtacoma.org).

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM.**