

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

December 13, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Juanita McBride, Pam Orazem, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt. **Excused:** Pam Brewer. **Absent:** Max Messman, Darion Reese. **Staff:** Elton Gatewood. **Guests:** Bob McCutchen, Larry Else, Steve Pfeifer, Brett Santhuff, Kanda Patton, George Jackson, John Larson, Dexter Gordon, Erle Thompson, Larry Steiner, Chris Karnes, Greg Hopkins, Corey Darlington, and Anthony Witecker.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:34 PM by Bill Garl. Motion approved to accept the corrected November NTNC Minutes.

City: Ryan Petty indicated the Sound Transit Board was going to have a meeting on February 8, 2007, although the environmental review won't be completed at that time. Prium has committed to going forward with the Winthrop. One of the first steps is to stabilize management and develop alternative housing for the current residents, then work on completing the design for restoration. The Elks project manager was here last week and their project is rolling forward. The Upper Tacoma Business Association has new officers and a new outlook for development along MLK. The Stratford Group is in the process of acquiring tenant leases in the Old City Hall. This will be followed by restoring the exterior and completely redoing the interior.

Elton Gatewood distributed copies of the Grapevine newsletter, which included nomination forms for the 21st Annual City of Destiny Awards For Outstanding Volunteers.

Police Department: Corey Darlington indicated they had a CLO meeting last week with the community economic development division. There is a wish for a realized or perception of public safety. It was noted there was increased graffiti around the Elks building. Robert Luke has been spearheading the "Jungle" clean-up around the Mission. The CLOs have been working on a systematic clean-up of drug houses and gang activity around 19th & Hosmer. There have been set missions, targeting high drug areas, near S. 16th and L St. and 24th & Pacific. Greg Hopkins confiscated a sawed-off rifle. Calls for service are down 52% on Tacoma Ave. from last January to date.

Fire Department: Larry Steiner stressed safety over the holidays, reminding us there have been 3 electrical fires in the last two weeks. Be careful with candles (place in non-combustible container), use power strips, test batteries in smoke detectors, and keep pictures of what's in your house (insurance purposes), and always check for exit signs when in public buildings.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CITIZENS FORUM:

Tom Stenger, City Council, talked about the City budget and increase in the neighborhood council's operating funds to \$7,500 per year, as well as an increase in support for business districts to \$130,000 per year. The budget also targets \$100,000 for Human Services and \$265,000 for Youth Development. Increases in the TPD budget may go to increase staff compensation rather than more #'s depending on arbitration. As an aside he also brought up the subject of neighborhood councils and turnover in their officers (possible term limitations?).

Donna Datko talked about upcoming parking changes on Dock Street. Streets will be torn up and parking will be limited. The goal is to have street parking look like that around the Museum of Glass.

Jake Fey, City Council, reminded us that much of the City budget goes to fixed costs, but there is an emphasis on Human Services and the Youth Initiative. There is money targeted for the Tollefson Plaza. Downtown panning is to include parking, transit and housing needs. The city is working with the Cascade Conservancy to preserve undeveloped property.

Denny Faker is in the process organizing a new business district. They are also looking at another clean-up in January. The Community Based Services project is looking at cleaning up blight and billing the client for the costs. The First United Methodist Church bought the Beacon Storage Bldg. between 6th and 7th on Tacoma Ave. He said they have been good neighbors and have already painted over graffiti on the building.

Marty Campbell stated that Steve Zimmerman would be addressing graffiti around the Elks building. Diamond Parking plans on pulling about 5 phones from the downtown area, but the one will remain at 9th and Commerce.

PRESENTATIONS:

Rick Talbert, City Council, briefed the group on the needle exchange van and its placement at 14th and G Street. The van parks there from 10 am – 2 pm 5 days a week. Alternative methods of needle delivery (Health Dept. and Pharmacies) have had an impact on the numbers of people visiting the 14th & G site (down 40-50 %). The clients find change difficult and there are community health benefits in keeping up the client numbers (Fewer Clients = Reduced Impact). Mr. Talbert wants input on what the community wants to happen. Clients can adapt to a new delivery system, but is radical change really required? How can we encourage collaboration in resolving this issue? There will be another report in 3 months.

George Jackson, Public Works Department, talked about the traffic patterns (Broadway is one-way north and will switch to two-way. St. Helens is two-way and will switch to one-way north) and the Broadway Neighborhood LID (huge infrastructure and streetscape LID). The goal is to create an urban village approach, including traffic calming, Opera Alley style lighting (but with 2 luminaries), and flower baskets on light stands. They are looking at rain gardens and storm water filtration systems as well as benches and trash receptacles (community economic department handles trash pick-up). Ledger Park will be a “cousin” to Cobbler Park. They plan to raise several intersections to give a unique feel (kind of like a speed bump which will eliminate the need for handicapped ramps). The plan is for 11 ft. – 13 ft. sidewalks (with a 5 ft. path for walking). Existing trees will be removed and 340 trees will be planted, using species more appropriate for urban planting.

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: A motion was passed to donate \$750.00 to the Stadium Business District for the Dickens Festival.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the following slate of candidates: Marty Campbell (Chair); Bill Garl (Vice Chair); Nick Schuder (Secretary); and Mar-Le Wendt (Treasurer).

Dr. Dexter Gordon made a presentation concerning Project EDEN, which seeks to promote economic development on Hilltop and MLK Way by establishing the neighborhood and ethnic dining and entertainment destination. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to pay up to \$750.00 for printing for promotional and marketing needs for this project; payable upon receipts of paid expenditures, and City legal review.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: This month’s meeting focused on a presentation by Spencier Beier, who distributed the Grapevine newsletter and discussed the one-time funds, estimated costs of projects and projected project schedules.

Across The Fence: December and January’s programs will focus on the Neighborhood Councils and what’s been accomplished over the year. February will revolve around Innovative Grants.

Treasurer’s Report: Account Balance = \$ 8,683.52.

Web Site: www.newtacoma.org.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM.