

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

March 8, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Forest German, Scott Gruber, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Juanita McBride, Max Messman, Darion Reese, Kirsten Reynolds, Nick Schuder, Ruth Swanson, Terrie Vestal, Mar-Le Wendt, Dan Wolch. Excused: N/A. Absent: Pam Brewer, Dalton Gittens, Pam Orazem, Staff: Elton Gatewood (Excused). Guests: Jori Adkins, Dave Cook, Florentine Hamm, Laura Hanan, Marty Fehl, Corey Darlington, Jake Fey, Larry Steiner, Launa Wolch, Bob Lavin

Meeting Called to Order at 5:33PM by Bill Garl. Motion approved to accept the February NTNC Minutes.

CORRESPONDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Launa Wolch distributed invitations for the 8th & I Park Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Red Door Project fliers and Metro Parks Today Newsletters were made available.

Jake Fey (City Council) reminded us that he is available to listen and inform. His personal cell phone number is (253) 383-5908.

Ruth Swanson is retiring and having a sale at the Connoisseur Shop. A retirement celebration will be held on Monday, March 13, 2006 from 5-7 PM at Taqueria El Guadalajara.

There is a meeting at 5:00 PM on March 9, 2006 at the Associated Ministries office on 13th & I St. to discuss the Needle Exchange Program.

Tacoma Police Department: Lt. Corey Darlington said they are still working the issues around transients and the SR705 area. Fencing will be installed and no trespassing signs posted in the near future. They still need volunteers for the TPD substations. If you are interested please call (253) 591-5205.

Fire: Larry Steiner distributed fliers on the Spring CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) class and a Safety & Health Kid's Fair coming up on May 6, 2006. CPR training techniques have been changed.

PRESENTATIONS:

Crime in Our Neighborhood (Laura Hanan):

Concerns expressed regarding vandalism, thefts, panhandling, alcoholism, homelessness and drug dealing in the 800 block of Pacific Avenue. It was expressed that this was not about affordable housing, it was about crime. Some apartment complexes have been cleaned up, although there are still concerns about the Olympus and the Winthrop. Weekend activity around Brick City has increased the number of juveniles hanging around the area. Lt. Darlington said Club Friday wants is working to maintain a clean run program. Kirsten Reynolds suggested taking the Safe Street's Block 101 Training. Marty Campbell stepped up to organize a neighborhood meeting at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 to be held at 811-813 Pacific Avenue.

Sound Transit (Sounder Commuter Rail from Tacoma to Lakewood): Maps were distributed showing current options for rail commuter lines from the Tacoma Dome area up the South Tacoma Way gully. Concerns were expressed regarding A Street Closure between 25th & 26th Streets, steep grades for tracks, angled rail crossings at Pacific Avenue & South Tacoma Way, an overpass option (additional funding required) and negotiations with businesses that would be impacted by the rail service. Additional comments surrounded possible fencing of properties to mitigate transient concerns, potential for freight trains on the commuter lines, and what closures of businesses would do to character of neighborhood. Contact Roger Iwata (206) 689-4904 for further information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Litter: Marty Campbell will meet with Lisa Wojtanowicz in the near future. He expects to be updated on plans that are already in the works to change local ordinances to increase litter fines.

NUSA: The final confirmation motion was approved to send 6 people to the NUSA conference in May, 2006 (NTNC to spend up to \$1,075 per individual for a total of up to \$6,450). Bill Garl has forms available for anyone wishing to be considered as a candidate for NUSA. The NUSA Committee will make decisions on approved candidates after March 23, 2006. The Community Based Services expressed an interest in partnering with NTNC to send two people to NUSA.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting:

Main topics of discussion were Crime & Safety and Community Based Services program update.

Across The Fence:

This month's program focuses on downtown living.

Next month will cover Innovative Grants.

Treasurer's Report: \$ 11,656.39

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:55 PM.

****Note**** An emergency Executive Committee was convened on March 9, 2006, following a Needle Exchange Meeting at the HAC/Associated Ministries office at 1224 South I St. A motion was made and approved to have Bill Garl be the NTNC's representative to future meetings regarding proposals to deliver these services at alternative sites. Currently needles are exchanged primarily at the Health Department Office, 3629 South D St., and via the van operated by the Point Defiance AIDS Project at South 14th & G Streets.