

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

March 14, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Chris Karnes, Tracy Kelly, Juanita McBride, Darion Reese, Kate Rose, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt. Excused: Pam Brewer, Pam Orazem. **Absent:** N/A **Staff:** Elton Gatewood, Chris Clegg. **Guests:** Erik Bjornson, Paul Gingrich, John Miller, Laura Karlin, Todd Mathews, Derek Young, Amanda Knowles, Jean Jackman, Lauren Walker, Kevin, O'Donnal, Nancy Davis, Morgan Alexander, John Wright, Clara Cheen, David Schroedel, Brett Santhuff, Rick Booth, Todd Kelly, Connie Brown, Roger Kuhrt, Alicia Lawver, Justin Mayfield.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:32 p.m. by Marty Campbell. Motion approved to accept the February NTNC Minutes with insertion of Brett Santhuff's presentation on the St. Helen's Neighborhood.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bill Garl read a letter from Laura Eklund announcing the third annual Urban Art Festival. The NTNC is to address the request for funding at April's meeting.

Marty Campbell discussed the upcoming "Conversation Café" sessions about the future of education, from preschool to life-long learning in Tacoma. The project will culminate in a Community Summit on May 4 & 5, 2007. For more information on this exciting opportunity contact Marty Campbell.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chris Clegg discussed the City's numerous mailing lists that are available. They will be provided to NTNC for placement on our web site. There is one more parking meeting on 3-19-07, which will complete the first round of meetings. NTNC will be updated as meetings progress.

Elton Gatewood noted that the next Innovative Grant workshop was on March 22, 2007. The deadline for grant applications is April 13, 2007. Each neighborhood council has \$20,000 in grants available, with individual grant applications not to exceed \$5,000 for capital improvements. For additional information contact Mr. Gatewood at egatwoo@cityoftacoma.org. Mr. Gatewood distributed the updated City Resource Guide.

Police Department: Greg Hopkins talked briefly about the expenditure of police resources in dealing with the protesters at the Port of Tacoma. He noted that anti-war protesters were expected to gather at People's Park this Saturday. Mr. Hopkins congratulated Denny Faker on his facilitation of the Tacoma Avenue Business Meeting, and the great clean-up that took place on the Tacoma Ave. corridor. He also noted the upcoming picket of the convenience store at 1901 MLK. This is being sponsored by HAC and will take place on March 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. The march is in response to continued illegal activity in the area. For further information see Jeanie Peterson. The police have been working with BIA to address concerns around the Olympus and Winthrop properties. This is an ongoing project which has included "hot pop" operations. The Department is committed to operations around 19th & 20th and MLK and around 9th & Commerce (bike patrols and the BIA also are addressing activity around the transit station). There are rumors of a national coffee chain moving into a new commercial building at 19th and MLK.

Fire Department: Kevin O'Donnal (Larry Steiner excused) said the Fire Dept. was accepting applications for fire personnel until May 18, 2007. There will be a subsequent exam this summer. Mr. O'Donnal also noted that free CPR classes are continuing. For a schedule call 594-7979. Check out the Department's new web site at www.tacomafiredepartment.org. There will be a Kids Fair on May 5, 2007 at Foss High School. Within our area there were 10 fires in February, and a total of 555 calls. The City had 2,231 EMS calls for service. For additional information call Kevin O'Donnal at (253) 591-5705, extension 3.

Metro Parks: Nancy Davis distributed a flier on the Parks Appreciation Day coming up on Saturday, April 28, 2007 from 9 a.m. – noon. Call (253) 752-2596 to join in!

CITIZENS FORUM:

Denny Faker talked about the problem of too many DOC offenders at 402 St. Helens. Don Ramsdell and Eric Anderson met with the owner of the property as a part of the abatement process. Issues addressed were CPTED issues and the lack of security. The owner agreed to quit doing business with DOC and will be redoing the building to move it toward market rate units. A motion was made, seconded and approved to send the owner of 402 St. Helens a letter thanking him for the steps he's taken in improving this property. Mr. Faker also talked about the Tacoma Ave. clean-up and thanked St. Leo's for providing a dump site for the eight dumpsters that were filled. CBS assisted by paying for the dump fees. The Tacoma Ave. citizens group will be having their next meeting on the 21st. (5 pm at the Carpenter's Hall at 1322 Fawcett Ave.) to talk about beautification and infrastructure improvements.

Bryan Boyd announced that World Vision was going to be re-opening Club Friday on March 16, 2007. There have been some renovations to the building, security cameras added, and off duty police officers will be assisting with security.

Lauren Walker, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Washington, said there would be an advertising spread in the TNT on a meeting to be held at 10 am on March 31, 2007 at the Commencement Bay Coffee Company. For further information call (253) 274-9523. The focus will be on housing priced in the market of \$250,000 or less.

PRESENTATIONS:

MultiCare System, Boiler and Emergency Generator Facility: Todd Kelly and Rick Booth gave a PowerPoint presentation on MultiCare's proposed new construction one block from Wright Park. The focus was on current system needs; building design, location and size; emissions compliance; noise impacts; and construction timeline (July 2007 – July 2008). They also distributed fact and information sheets on the project.

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Gardens: Derek Young (www.exit133.com) opened the discussion by asking if there was enough interest and momentum to get a community garden project going. *Kristen McLver (SP?)* discussed her research and exciting opportunity to be a part of new garden opportunities in the Tacoma area. She has been working with the "Pea Patch Trust" in Seattle, and wanted people to attend a community meeting to take place on April 19, 2007 regarding community gardens. She passed around a sign-up sheet for interested volunteers.

Marty Campbell discussed the need for the NTNC to provide a Community Council representative to replace the position vacated by Nick Schuder. Darion Reese volunteered. Any other candidates may submit their names to Marty Campbell. The NTNC Executive Board will discuss this issue further at their next meeting on March 30, 2007.

Bill Garl and Connie Brown talked about the newly forming committee on affordable housing. The committee is in its formative stages with an eventual goal to develop a strategy to present to the City Council. The City Council had asked the NTNC to take a lead on this project, which will be in partnership with the Central Neighborhood Council. Eric Bjornson, Kate Rose, Darion Reese and Marty Campbell also volunteered to be on the committee.

Bill Garl made a motion to spend \$250 for heaters for the Police Substation on MLK. After discussion it was decided to refer the matter to the City Manager to look into the building heating system needs.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: N/A (A Neighborhood Summit “Basic Gang Recognition” sponsored by the Community Councils of Tacoma in cooperation with the Police Department took place on Thursday, February 22nd, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., at Evergreen College, 1210 Sixth Avenue.

Across The Fence: April’s program is focusing on one-time funding. May will highlight neighborhood codes awareness.

Budget Committee: **Bill Garl and Mar-Le Wendt** distributed copies of the 2007 NTNC budget. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have the budget accepted, subject to amendment as needed. It was noted that the City Council’s Neighborhood and Housing Committee Meeting will take up the issue of Neighborhood Council budgets at it’s meeting at 4:30 pm on April 2, 2007 in Room 248 in the Tacoma Municipal Building, located at 747 Market Street.

NUSA Committee: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to provide \$1,000 each to the following board members to attend this year’s NUSA conference: Denny Faker, Chris Karnes, Bill Garl, Mar-Le Wendt and Mae Harris.

Planning Committee: **Chris Karnes**, said the meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month at 9 a.m. at Commencement Bay Coffee Company. Suggested topics are to include MultCare facility and the Miller Amendment (other topics needed).

Bylaws Committee: Presentation of proposed changes to be available for next month’s meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Account Balance = \$ 7,735.63

Web Site: www.newtacoma.org. Rollie Herman requests new and exciting pictures of Tacoma that would make nice additions to the NTNC web site.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19 p.m.