

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

April 12, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Juanita McBride, Pam Orazem, Darion Reese, Kirsten Reynolds, Nick Schuder, Terrie Vestal, Mar-Le Wendt, Dan Wolch. **Excused: N/A Absent:** Pam Brewer, Forest German, Scott Gruber, Max Messman, Ruth Swanson, **Staff:** Elton Gatewood (Excused). **Guests:** Pat Cummings, Bryan Boyd, Tom Davenport, Kristi Evans, Corey Darlington, Greg Hopkins, Matt & Laura Eklund, Johanna G., Linda Honeck, Laura Karlin, Steve Pfeifer, Steve Smith, Larry Steiner, Launa Wolch, Bob Levin, David Vestal, Peter Whitely, Sandy Zacek.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:33PM by Bill Garl. Motion approved to accept the February NTNC Minutes, with a change in the Across The Fence schedule.

CORRESPONDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan Wolch presented a letter from the 8th and I Neighbors requesting consideration for funds to close South I Street where it intersects with South Yakima. Anticipated benefits were listed as improved safety, potential beautification, and the creation of a more residential look and feel to the neighborhood.

Peter Whitley presented a plaque and pictures to the NTNC for its part in approving an innovative grant for a skateboard pad in Thea's Park. He said the project has been a huge success.

Pat Cummings and Tom Davenport expressed concerns about height restrictions and view corridors on the downtown waterway and impacts of potential high rise projects that might approach 200 ft. The Planning Commission will take public comment on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. A motion was approved to send a letter to the Planning Commission, City Council, City Manager, Dept. of Ecology, and the Dept. of Economic Development.

There will be an Urban Arts Festival on June 25, 2006 at S. 9th & Broadway / (Antique Row). A Sponsorship Form was provided to the NTNC for consideration. Contacts for the festival are Linda Honeck : Cell (253) 820-8342, E-mail: l_honeck@msn.com or Johanna Gardner: Cell (253) 288-6400, E-mail: johanisbrg@hayoo.com.

Tacoma Police Department: Corey Darlington indicated the Winthrop issues are being addressed, the police substation on 16th and MLK will have an open house on May 17, 2006 from 4 PM – 7 PM. If you are interested in being a volunteer for the substation contact Angie at 591-5205.

Greg Hopkins (Community Based Services) said they have been tagging and towing a lot of cars, working on nuisance complaints on South J & G streets and issues around 25th and Tacoma Ave. They've also focused on some narcotics activities around 4th & Tacoma Ave. He's continuing to participate in the transient encampment workgroup.

Fire: Larry Steiner indicated the 6th CERT class will graduate on Saturday, and there will be a Kids Fair on May 6, 2006, from 10 AM – 3 PM at Foss High School. For CPR class information call 594-7979. He also noted there was an arson at 4015 S. 19th and suspects have been arrested.

PRESENTATIONS: Bob Levin, Status on Local Properties: There have been several purchase/sale offers for the old Elks Bldg., The City has received a \$900,000.00 grant to restore the Spanish Steps. The City has postponed a court date until December, 2006 to deal with condemnation proceedings. A National client is in negotiation for the Rite Aid property, there should be an RFP for the Brown's Bldg. and adjacent parcels about April 17th, the old police station property around 21st and Jefferson is being studied for use as a City Hall Campus, and 2 firms have bid on an RFP for the parking garages between 9th & 13th on Commerce/Pacific.

Kristi Evans, Metro Parks: Updated NTNC on projects (Neighbors Park, Lots for Tots, and Wright Park). Ms. Evans is the project manager and invited the public to a public meeting on April 18th, 2006 at Metro Parks. For more information e-mail Kristi Evans at kristie@tacomaparks.com or call (253) 305-1054.

Tom Stenger, City Council: Eric Anderson was praised for having a hands-on approach and encouraging a more active debate regarding city finances. We're getting close to the budget season again, and some of the council members are looking at ways to increase the police force officer numbers and expanding library hours. Sound Transit improvements and the possibility of street car service within the city (focusing on areas around activity centers and hospitals) were touched upon. The City Council is looking at long-term effects of decisions. We were encouraged to check the City's web site for updates like those on the Special Needs Moratorium. The City is also looking at doing street bonds and the possibility of using general fund dollars for grant supervision.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was approved to provide up to \$200.00 for items needed for the walkabouts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Meeting Update: Marty Campbell distributed a packet of information regarding the Results and Recommendations from the NTNC Community Meeting which was held on March 30th, 2006. Some of the action strategies revolved around increasing lighting, supporting walkabouts, increasing TPD bicycle patrols. A motion was approved to pay for the printing costs of \$217.82 for this report.

NUSA: Approved candidates are Bill Garl, Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Mae Harris, Juanita McBride, Darion Reese, Launa Wolch. Mar-Le Wendt and Nick Schuder are being sponsored by the Community Council.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: Tacoma Mobility Task Force presentation with focus on traffic problems, with goal to create a safer, more walkable, bikeable, accessible and livable community. Painting bike lanes, planting trees along streets and fog lines all contribute to slowing traffic.

Across The Fence: This month's program focuses on Parks.

Treasurer's Report: Account Balance = \$16,117.37.

Web Site: The NTNC web site has over 100 people signed up to receive information on an ongoing basis. If you are signed up on the web site you will be getting meeting announcements.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20 PM.