

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

July 12, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Rollie Herman, Juanita McBride, Pam Orazem, Kirsten Reynolds, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt. Excused: N/A. **Absent:** Pam Brewer, Scott Gruber, Max Messman, Darion Reese, Dan Wolch. **Staff:** Elton Gatewood. **Guests:** Deanna Neidlinger, Laura Hanan, Mary Fehl, Steve Smith, Bryan Boyd, Steve Smith, Bryan Boyd, Susan Eidenschink, Bob Levin, Derek Young, Chris Karnes, Martha Mendenhall, Corey Darlington, Greg Hopkins, Larry Steiner, Peter Whitley, Kris Blondin, Jamal Yeager, Tory Laughlin Taylor, John Wright, Mary Gee, Steven Bridgeton, Wing Riley.

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

City: Elton Gatewood requested input, prior to the 9-19-06 City Council meeting, on ordinances to limit "panhandling". He also distributed the June 22, 2006 Public Policy Calendar.

Tacoma Police Department: Lt. Corey Darlington provided the group with a short synopsis of the Saturday morning shooting which occurred in the 800 block of Pacific Avenue. One person was killed; one grazed by a bullet, and one girl was shot and is paralyzed from the waist down. A 17 yr. old gang member has been arrested in this matter.

Greg Hopkins thanked Denny Faker and others for their participation in the crime and safety walkabouts. He reiterated the need for constant vigilance and follow-through. The needle exchange van discussions are ongoing. The Hilltop Challenge basketball game garnered \$7,000.00 in proceeds for their crime fighting efforts.

Fire Department: Larry Steiner said there were 14 new recruits for the Department who will be fully qualified EMTs after 2 months. They will be on probation for 1 year prior to being fully fledged firefighters. There will be a CERT class in October that can accommodate 20-25 people. If interested call 591-5737. Station 15 is moving to 64th and McKinley. Station 5, on Ruston Way, will be partnering with the police in their facility. CPR classes are ongoing. They will hold a terrorism class on target assessment on July 17th and 18th. The run numbers from January – June have averaged about 3,000 per month. There were 1,241 calls to the Department relating to fireworks, and about \$63,000.00 in reported damages.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The July issue of the Metro Parks Today newsletter was distributed. Also available were fliers promoting the Ethnic Fest on July 29 and 30th, and the Metro Parks Tacoma Summer Sounds Comcast Outdoor Cinema.

CITIZENS FORUM:

Marty Campbell has met with A.F. Evans on how he could assist with the criminal element that currently resides within the Winthrop. There is a rumor that the Olympus is under new ownership. There are continuing efforts to remove the payphone at 9th & Commerce. Diamond Parking is expected to remove the ringers and is considering pulling the payphones for 60 days to assess the impact. Marty said the shooting last weekend appeared to be the culmination of some problems that were carried over from the 4th of July between the 96th Crips and the Hilltop Crips. He thanked the World Vision staff for stepping up security and continuing to be engaged in dialogue with our group and others. Club Friday will now close at midnight rather than 1:30 AM. Diversifications of music at the club and gang intervention strategies were discussed.

Denny Faker talked about the ongoing Tacoma Avenue crime and Safety Group that meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Carpenter's Union at 1322 S. Fawcett Ave. They usually have a short meeting then proceed with their walkabout.

Deanna Neidlinger, of World Vision, spoke to their concerns about the gang violence and reiterated that Club Friday's kids also fear the violence. The club was described as being incident free within the building. They partner with the police, and invited everyone at the meeting to come down to the club this Friday (7-14-06) to participate in their counseling and prayer session, and to meet the kids.

Peter Whitley indicated he had recently met with BIA staff to discuss concerns about skateboarding in Tacoma, with specific emphasis on the Pacific Plaza. Mr. Whitley said he was willing to meet with any group to discuss ways to mitigate the public's concerns, and work with groups on how to design projects to serve both the public and the skateboarders' interests.

Local Residents/Business Owners: Concerns were expressed about Club Friday's negative impact on other businesses in the area. Some saw the venue as not a good fit with its proximity to bars/taverns.

PRESENTATIONS:

Eric Anderson, City Manager, talked about the City's plan to address the chronic homeless issue by first addressing the encampments throughout the City. With their concentrated squalor (trash, debris and swage) they are a health hazard and violate fundamental community standards. The City hopes to remove the encampments, offer supportive housing for individuals wishing to participate, and offer alternatives for those who don't. The hope is to eliminate the encampments by winter, and prevent squatters from reentering previously cleaned encampment sites. It's anticipated that the costs for public works, housing and services would be about \$2.5 million. Monies will come from the city, county, hospitals and philanthropic organizations. This is a pilot program and costs for serving chronic homeless clients will be tracked by local hospitals, county jail TPD calls, etc. to see if money saved approached the money spent on this program. The program, is expected to begin in the latter part of August and will be evaluated after one year. The alternative housing is expected to be located across the city and county. It is also expected that clients will be connected to SSI, VA, and other benefits as appropriate.

Bob Levin, Private Capital Division, updated the group on the Tour of Urban Living, which will take place on October 14 and 15, 2006. It's anticipated this will continue to increase interest in people living and working in the downtown core. The Rite Aid building on MLK is expected to house a Save-A-Lot grocery store by Sept. or Oct. of this year. Don Stolz is willing to meet with the NTNC concerning this issue. Derek Young has a web site @ www.exit133.com. Check it out! Hotel Concepts is interested in building a 3-star hotel on 21st in the old Heidelberg Brewery. The City has received two proposals for redevelopment of the old Brown Star Grill and adjacent properties (Prium and DeBolt). The project is known as the James L. Walton Hilltop Renaissance Project. Does the City want this project to include market-rate or affordable-rate housing? An executive summary and recommendation packet was distributed to our group. If we request it, he could arrange for the candidates to provide our groups with a formal presentation on the project proposals.

OLD BUSINESS:

Crime and Safety Walkabouts Update: Efforts have been successful to date. This is an ongoing process that will evolve over time.

Participants provided a brief recap of the Neighborhoods USA Conference. It was noted that 831 people attended and voting for board members was held on-site for the first time. Elton Gatewood and John Hargroves will be representing Tacoma as NUSA board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

NTNC will be participating in National Night Out (Aug 1st) and Ethnic Fest (July 29 & 30th). Contact Bill Garl if you are interested in volunteering.

A motion was approved to provide the 8th & I group with \$100.00 for the National Night Out celebration.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: N/A

Across The Fence: July's program will highlight local festivals, and August's program will introduce us to the new school superintendent.

Treasurer's Report: Account Balance = \$9,187.17.

Web Site: www.newtacoma.org.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:50 PM.