

NEW TACOMA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

September 13, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Board Members Present: Marty Campbell, Denny Faker, Bill Garl, Dalton Gittens, Mae Harris, Juanita McBride, Pam Orazem, Kirsten Reynolds, Nick Schuder, Mar-Le Wendt, Dan Wolch. **Excused:** Pam Brewer, Rollie Herman. **Absent:** Max Messman, Darion Reese. **Staff:** Elton Gatewood. **Guests:** Pat McCarthy, Kari Rooney, Monica Wells, Martha Mendenhall, Larry Steiner, Peter Whitley, Chris Karns, Bob Levin, Darrell Reich, Craig Pfander, Steve Smith and Cheryl Jones.

Meeting Called to Order at 5:30 PM by Bill Garl. Motion approved to accept the August NTNC Minutes.

City: Elton Gatewood noted that the city council wants input on the panhandling ordinance at next Tuesday's meeting. The September 26, 2006 city council meeting will address innovative grants. The city is starting to schedule the projects approved for the one-time funding. The city manager wants to attend our meeting within the next couple of months to address code enforcement issues and the need to increase the ability of the city to respond to code enforcement issues within one month, rather than 1-2 years.

Bob Levin said the city is talking with various developers concerning the Elks Building.

Police Department: Lt. Corey Darlington updated the group on the shooting in the 1700 block of S. 8th, near Byant Elementary School. There have been 2 arrests made. Robert Luke updated the group on drug and prostitution activities around Tacoma Ave., the Brown and Haley "jungle" and 9th and Commerce. Gang activity has included members of the Juggalos.

Fire Department: The new Fire Chief was sworn in on August 30, 2006. The fall CERT class is full, but CPR classes are still available. Call 594-7979 for more information. CPR Sunday will be held at the Elks on October 8, 2006. A paramedic class starts September 19, 2006. There was an emergency evacuation drill at Atlas Casting on September 5, 2006. All went well. The new fire fighter candidates will start in March, 2007.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Empty Bowls fundraiser will take place on October 15, 2006 from 2-6 PM at the S. Park Community Center located at 4851 S. Tacoma Way. Contact Ginny Eberhardt for more information (253) 224-6967.

Bill Garl asked for people to let him know if they were interested in being on the Board.

CITIZENS FORUM:

The pastor of the Urban Grace Church distributed fliers on an upcoming presentation on the "Dead Sea Scrolls" by Professor Douglas Edwards (University of Puget Sound Archaeologist) which will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the Urban Grace – The Downtown Church at 902 Market St., Tacoma.

Denny Faker updated the group on the Community Based Services and homeless encampments. He encouraged groups to set up walkabouts and incorporate them into block watch meetings.

Tom Stenger, City Council, invited everyone to the October 10, 2006 Town Hall Meeting, which will be held at the Oasis of Hope Center at 1937 S. "G" St.

Marty Campbell wants input on budget issues so he can get the information to the city council. Some ideas for budget priorities were voiced by the group: fund social services (Nativity House, King Center, St. Leo's), fund Libraries for Sunday operations, manage public spaces for program activities (Fireman's Park, Tollefson Plaza, Wright Park and Pierce Transit), greater funding for business districts, public art, and police & fire crews.

Jake Fey, City Council, also wants input on budget issues, updated the group on the Winthrop property.

Peter Whitley stated that Thea's Park was a huge hit and is getting national attention from the skateboarding community. They are looking at facilities at the other end of the Thea Foss Waterway, McKinley Park, and South 56th. There has been some controversy regarding skateboarding at Tollefson Plaza. Mr. Whitley invites public opinion on the matter and welcomes anyone to check out their web site at www.tacomaskateparks.org.

PRESENTATIONS:

Pat McCarthy and Kari Rooni made a presentation on the touch screen voting system. Ms. McCarthy emphasized the need for I.D. at the poles and the requirement to "pick-a-party" during the primary election. There is a voter verifiable paper trail built into the new machines, errors by a voter can be corrected, and when a voter has completed the process the paper copy rolls out-of-site. The voting devices are also set up to assist the visually impaired via a tactile device. There are no multiple language choices on the machines in Pierce County, but this is an option that may be added in the future. All the voting machines are state and nationally certified. Pierce County has a .0004 error rate. Don't Forget...GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

Bob Levin updated the NTNC on the Elks Building, and noted the City was still talking with various developers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Needle Exchange Update: There continues to be opposition to the van remaining in the neighborhood. Other distribution approaches are working, such as: home delivery, availability at the Health Dept., and distribution through 20 local pharmacies. There is also evidence the van attracts dope dealers, prostitution and other criminal activity. The delivery system was being questioned, not the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Garl stated the Council would be reactivating the Nominating Committee next month.

Julie Dahl distributed information on Summer Energy-Saving Tips and an Energy-efficient Lighting Sale.

Representatives from the Urban Arts Festival gave the NTNC a plaque of appreciation for our support.

REPORTS:

Community Council Meeting: Metro Parks passed their strategic plan and adopted the Kyoto Protocol. There was also a presentation on the Asarco clean-up status.

Across The Fence: September's program will focus on affordable housing, October (Crime Prevention), November (Eric Anderson's Annual Report), and December (Transient Encampments).

Treasurer's Report: Account Balance = \$ 8,984.66.

Web Site: www.newtacoma.org. Per Rollie Herman, the panhandling documents are posted on our web site. He also indicated that 100-120 people were signed up on web site to receive information.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:08 PM.