

NENC Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2015– 6PM-8PM

University Of Puget Sound – Thompson Hall, Room 193

Call to Order (6:05 PM), Adoption of Agenda M/S/P

Introductions & Welcome: Morf requested that everyone share one thing they love about Tacoma

Board Members present: Kyle Price (rich history in an assuming town), David Schroedel (great incubator for trying new things out), Jim Merritt (preservation of the historic buildings), Jim Lovejoy (waterfront), Morf Morford (Parks), Jenn Halverson Kuehn (access to great cycling), Connie Spangler (parks), Rachel Cardwell (biggest little town she's ever lived in)--departed at 7:40 PM, Bea Christophersen (grocery stores)

(Board Members absent: Erica Nelson, Anna Peterson, Jim Bush)

Community Liaisons and Neighborhood Residents: Shannon McMinimee (Tacoma's 29,000+ students), Paula Varner (parks), Kathryn Whitacre (arts community), Mike Fitzgerald (big fan of the parks, and master planning happening at Pt. D), Steve Beckstead (Variety of parks, and how they're kept up), Jason Feldman (Parks, community, architecture), Ellen Peters (Theater Community and the accessibility of theater, Brian Phill (Pt. Defiance Park and music community), Derek Young (Tacoma's support of their schools), Lynn Raisl (Kids have returned back to Tacoma and loves discovering the city through their eyes), Don Stodola (all the special events), Mary Tuttle (sense of community), Greg and Cynthia Feleppa (all its potential)

Local citizen opportunity to comment

- Lynn Raisl wants to advertise the UPS Flea Market on March 21st from 9-4. She's been involved for the last three years and the last few years they've tried to turn it into a celebration of Tacoma (crafters, locally-sourced food, arts and crafts people, Ice Cream Social etc.). Early bird 8:15, Doors open at 9. Kim Archer will be singing from 1-2:30, and there will be food trucks (Hometown Dogs, and the 7 Seas truck). Market's been nicknamed "Flea Market full of awesome stuff" courtesy of our awesome local artist Chandler O'Leary. All profits go to student scholarships. Puget Sound Women's League is highlighting a vendor each day.
- Kathryn Whitacre would like to advertise the "Nextdoor" neighborhood site. Rachel commented that what we as a Board can do is direct people on our facebook page to visit nextdoor.com.

Approval of Minutes

- Rachel Cardwell has one change, the Sustainability Expo is on March 7th from 10-3, not March 1st. Change will be made and notes for February's Meeting will be resubmitted. Kyle (M), Bea (S), All moved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Anna Peterson is not present to report.

Liaison reports

- 1) Shannon McMinimee (Tacoma Public Schools):
 - a) John Night at Washington Elementary is retiring at the end of the year. Ed Shaw at DeLong is going to move over to Washington.
 - b) Things are moving forward with finding a more permanent place for SAMI's campus.
 - c) This is the month for enrolling in pre-K and Kindergarten. They are expanding preschool offerings in the community. Enrollment is being centralized with CAB to help educate parents on what programs they are eligible for. Early Learning contact number for more info: 253-571-1048 (Tracy Ferguson).
 - d) Recently renamed 1818 Tacoma Ave the Willie Stewart Academy, a building that is a re-engagement center for older students (17-21) who need extra assistance to graduate.
- 2) Don Stodola (Tacoma PD):
 - a) Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (handout). Free service that is offered. How to make one's house unattractive for burglars.
 - b) Still waiting for a hearing date from the liquor control board on the alcohol impact plan. If passed, retailers would have 60 days to clear out the products being banned.
 - c) Responding to a question on crime, Don says it seems consistent. Due to resources, things like vehicle prowls will not generate an officer coming out to take fingerprints. However, if all the open positions are filled, TPD will have an increase in police positions and possibly be able to respond better.
 - d) Responding to a comment on the difficulty of the online reporting system, Don recommended calling the non-emergency line and saying you don't have internet access or are having trouble with the system and a report will be taken over the phone.
 - e) Question on the latest status on Medical Marijuana Shops? Wait and see what happens in the legislature.
- 3) Derek Young (Pierce County Council)
 - a) This afternoon, we passed our Shoreline Master Plan Update. Habitat protection, impact of health of puget sound addressed.
<http://www.piercecountywa.org/index.aspx?NID=956>

- b) Regional Compact: between County and all of its cities. “We’re not going to get this fixed until we’re all on the same page. Cities brokering jail business need to be brought to the table.” The County sent a letter to all the cities stating the jails are at capacity. But that’s not true, we’re just understaffed. Complicated issues need to be dealt with around prosecutors and the sentencing they choose or are indirectly choosing by delay of trials.
- c) New County Admin Building. Robert Thoms and DY had a back and forth at our last meeting (Jan.). Since then, the County voted 4-3 to move forward with the plan, DY was one of those who voted for it. For him, this is part of the broader effort of getting the county’s budget under control. Slight increase in cost in year one, with a gradual slide over the next 8 years. County needs to provide better services for the budget we’ve got. In examining locations, County cannot find a way to make it work downtown. One thing Robert Thoms and DY will work on: Robert has proposed a downtown investment zone, county forgo some property tax revenue to encourage development downtown. DY thinks we can access some additional community investment dollars to encourage downtown development.
 - i) Question from Board Member Kyle Price on the process surrounding the decision around the new building. Young, “I get the impression they aren’t used to the process surrounding development the same way the City is. My colleagues did see the frustrations, it wasn’t a small number of people speaking up. The time to speak to the people was before they hired an architect to spec out a design (last year). By the time meetings were being held the decision was a binary one: either we were doing it, or we’re not.”
 - ii) BM Jim Merritt doesn’t want to get into a debate, but does want to comment on a few things. For a project this size, we should have discussed this years ago. Also, he points out County is using tax dollars to sue a private citizen who is filing opposition--as allowed by the Charter.
- d) Question from Kathryn Whitacre (resident) on the golf tournament regarding police and security. Derek says no matter what, we will have adequate security. What we don’t know, is how we are paying for it (and they are significant costs). There is a possibility of funding from Olympia, they they will kick in some of their windfall, but legislature is going to end of June, which is too late to count on.

4) Mary Tuttle (Metro Parks):

- a) Turf remediation at Baltimore and Vassault parks.
- b) Run the Parks--happening at Swan Park, moved from Titlow.
- c) Destination Pt. Defiance, Steering Committee is taking all the public comments (several hundred comments).
- d) Is the go-kart place closed down? It is. Lease is up.

5) Steve Beckstead, Puget Creek Restoration Society:

- a. watershed conference (date?)

- b. Board Member Schroedel asked about the tree planting at 31st and Union. Steve said that is city property that Metro Parks oversees. Joe Brady asked when PCRS was going to start working on it, so they started the work.

6) Mike Fitzgerald, Tacoma Fire

- a. Fire recruit class start in 2 weeks. 20 people. They're graduating their first class of paramedics since recession.
- b. March 15-21st- poison prevention week. accidental exposure to children or animals, therapeutic error, intentional misuse are common ways poisoning occurs.
- c. Handouts, [Plugin to Electrical Safety](#) and Water Storage--encourage to replace every year.

7) Bea: Community Council

- a. PSCAA came to speak about the uncertified wood stoves being outlawed on Oct. 1st. www.airsafepiercecounty.org, 253-798-4540.
- b. Transportation Master Plan: www.cityoftacoma.org/tmp to view the draft documents
- c. 105,000 additional residents in city of Tacoma and 95,000 jobs by 2040.
- d. Medical Marijuana discussed.
- e. If you have comments on the Tacoma Dome "paint/vinyl" design, contact your city council
- f. Pt. Ruston: Ruston wants revenue, Tacoma wants certainty that they'll get their return on investment, as does developer
- g. Local High Schools are having plant sales
- h. Executive Board Member chairs were nominated, elections will happen on last Thursday of the month.

LONG DISCUSSION ON POTHOLE. Jim Merritt would like NENC to take up this issue and advocate for our area on permanent fixes to the problems with our roads.

Old Business

Morf asked for an update on website. Kyle responded we are waiting on some content to be transferred from Jonathan, but the site is up and ready for launch once transfer happens.

Jim Merritt would like to replant the seed of the "Tacoma Peninsula."

New Business – Our executive board has decided to have four theme-centered meetings this year; our April 6 meeting will be based on local and neighborhood grants, our June 1 meeting will be largely an information meeting regarding summer events impacting our neighborhood. The October 5 meeting will be our annual election forum and our November 2 meeting will feature our NENC board election. No meeting in July or September.

Question re: the April Meeting. Answer: Innovative Grants, Spark Grants, Make a Splash are programs bringing \$ to neighbors. They will be discussed in greater detail at the April Mtg.

Adjournment

Motion at 7:56 PM by Bea, Seconded by All.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Halverson Kuehn (Secretary)