

NENC meeting
April 6, 2015

Meeting called to order 6:05

Board members present: Jim Lovejoy, Kyle Price, Rachel Cardwell (acting chair), Anna Peterson, Bea Christopherson, Erica Nelson, Jim Bush

Welcome to the neighbors! (about 25+ in the audience, see attendance sheet)

Minutes from March approved.

Treasurer's report approved. Motion to pay our dues to the North End business districts, approved by all.

Rachel told folks to visit the website, which is new: www.nenc.org. And then she also presented our new logo, which was completed for us by Jeff Soifer, a local graphic designer who volunteered his services. We adopted our new logo. We gave him gift certificates to restaurants in our three business districts.

Then we went to our grants forum. Our speakers were Carol Wolfe and Sheranna Kildun from GTCF.

Carol spoke first about the city's Innovative Grant program. (The grant is attached to the email, and the grant opportunities will also be listed on the NENC website.) Carol spoke about the history of the program and presented a few changes to the program this year. It used to be just for right-of-way projects, but now it can be more broad and doesn't just have to be for capital projects. It can be for a variety of human capacity building projects within the city. There's also now no minimum or maximum for the request. It's now also a two-year cycle rather than a one-year cycle for the grants. It's \$36,000 for projects for the two years. See the Innovative Grant attachment for all of the specifics. There's an emphasis on spreading the grant money around. Reimbursement happens after the fact, but some application projects can work with the NENC if there are funding hurdles. Carol urged people to think about long term issues and problems with the projects.

Sheranna from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation spoke about Spark Grants. The program works to engage individuals on a community level. It's a micro-grants program to inspire community action. \$1,500. Looks for matching resources. Goal is to empower people. They select about six projects per cycle. One example is The Really Big Table Project, which is a table dragged around on a bike to some spots in the city that need some social engagement and conversation. There was another project on food preservation. Can be events, but not on a recurring basis. She also mentioned the Jane's Fellows program, which is worth checking out.

Bea gave a Community Council report. There were presentations by Fire and Police. Fire is going to be having some turnover because of an aging group. Elton Gatewood is the new Chair of that group. The historic home tour is coming up. Don't forget about the Tacoma 2040 meeting coming up. Ours is at Stadium on Thursday the 16th.

Rachel said next meeting will be more like a regular meeting with liaison reports and such. Morf will get that schedule out like he normally does. We adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted by Kyle Price, standing in for Jenn H-K.