



NENC Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2016, 6pm
Trimble Forum - UPS Campus

1. Call to order, adoption of agenda—Board Members present: Kyle, Susan, Jodi, Morf, Jim M, Brian, Bea, Jim L, Erica, Anna, Rachel

Meeting called to order at 6:00. Agenda adopted.

2. Introductions and welcome—Welcome all. About 50 in attendance total.
3. Approval of Minutes--approved
4. Treasurer's Report—deferred until next month
5. Liaison Reports

Marie from TPS—Hoyt will now be Hoyt Early Learning Center, opening in a few weeks. Kindergarten registration is now open. School calendar through 2018 is now finalized and posted on the TPS website.

Mary from Parks—Just finished some planning. Two public meetings at Feb 24 and 25 to share the findings and ask for feedback. SERA field grand opening is coming. Fort Nisqually is master planning. Public can weigh in there as well. Check the metro parks website.

Mike from Fire—Be aware of burns. There was an increase in fires and emergencies this year. Another reason to not smoke. And make sure you have fire detectors.

Dan from Police—Shooting today. The substations can accept used and expired medications. Luring—There have been some cases. There does not seem to be an overwhelming number of connections. One is being pursued with a detective. Bea asked about transients and transgenders and bathroom availability.

India from the City—Minimum wage increased today. And paid leave started today as well. The Click! engagement committee has been formed. They should have a plan by April 29. Methanol meeting is February 10 at the TCTC. Another will be at Meeker on the 16th. Check the city's webpage. All comments will go into the review record.

6. Presentation – Jim Parvey – Tacoma's tree canopy

Jim is with the Environmental and Sustainability Office. The city's looking for 30% canopy by 2030. There are a lot of benefits with trees: erosion, stormwater, cooling, traffic calming, resale values for homes, climate management, etc. Plus, they're just beautiful. Our current canopy is about 19% (2009). The only way to reach the goal is to engage citizens. Plant trees! Trees@cityoftacoma.org gets you \$25 off the cost of a tree. They're looking for volunteers. He has info on rain gardens if you want to install one. They are looking for an implementation plan. Jim M suggested adding some trees to the port area, which has a lot of open space. He also mentioned that a number of trees have come down and weren't replanted. Jim wants volunteers to help with trees. Maybe that's a system we can maintain on our website or Facebook page. Can there be a tool-sharing program? Is there a way to water trees in a water conservative way? Gator Bags could work. There's a right-tree, right-place bit of info on the city's website. Friends of Trees is a volunteer organization that maybe could be started here. Depave program looks to undo paving and replace those spots with plantings. Kids can often help with those plantings. There are some code requirements for trees, like no fruit trees on parking strips. No current regulations for view sensitive areas with tree plantings, but right tree, right place is a good guide. There's also a right tree, right place for your yard as well as your

parking strip. The Pierce County Master Gardeners have good workshops also.

7. Jim Merritt & Brian Spindor – Introduction to Design Commission

Brian went first. What are design standards? This is an information meeting to start thinking about this issue. MUCs (Mixed-Use Centers) were put together several years ago. There are several around the city. There were efforts in the design of the MUCs to stimulate growth. Is the code too broad? How will the character of the MUCs, like Proctor, be preserved while still allowing for growth? Buildings last longer than 10 years. Currently, the city just follows the code. If it's within the code, the public doesn't really get a say on the design. There are several places in the state where it's been done, like Leavenworth and Winthrop. There are guidelines in places like Wallingford and in parts of Portland that give a more clear direction of the character. Should there be a design commission for Proctor? What would the theme of Proctor be? A moratorium makes sense if the city is waiting for design guidelines.

Jim went second. Design commissions can be positive and challenging. He offered a hand-out with several questions: Why design review? What would be the make-up of the board and the process for having one? How does review mesh with zoning? How will different constituents respond and accept? What do you want in April? He went to several places to look at what they do: Seattle, Portland, Spokane, Sumner, Thea Foss, UWT, and even one for the city of Tacoma (which might be defunct) during urban renewal. There's also Landmarks Preservation, which is a design review board that already oversees neighborhood areas in Tacoma. It's better to have the ideas of design up front. Then the developers and builders haven't spent the money yet and will be willing to change. Once the rules become clear, it's better. There's a learning curve. There has to be a perceived benefit for it to work. How will this help us make good decisions for the future? That's what it's all about. At the April 4 meeting, we're hoping to have experts from a variety of places.

There was a question about what extent would be designed. Most of the concern is about building appearance. But we can cover a wide variety or a small variety of requirements. Bea thinks we can invite a wider

audience, like the other neighborhoods, so it doesn't seem like just a Proctor workshop. How can we use the communication efforts like the ones used for Lincoln and the Tacoma Mall plan? Is that a separate land use issue? Historic preservation guidelines are simply design guidelines. Can trees be part of the guidelines?

8. Citizens opportunity to comment (no more than 3 minutes, please).

Why are conifers planted in some parking strips? Jim wasn't sure, but he says that sight lines are preserved.

Kyle moved that we send the letter. Anna proposed amendments. Amendments were approved. Kyle updated the letter and will send it out with the minutes. It was not a content change, just some extra clarification.

There was a request for the NENC to ask for a parking study from the city around the MUCs. Kyle will ask Kurtis to address those studies at the March meeting.

Jim asked about grade separation (or similar ideas) at busy streets like 21st. Maybe we can ask Kurtis about that at March as well.

The Jewish synagogue is for sale on the corner of 4th and J. Is there something that can be done? Temple Beth El is saving money in case they need to save some of the heritage of the building. Can we encourage Landmarks on this?

9. Community Council Report

The city is giving \$1,000 to each council for NUSA attendance.

There was a presentation about the methanol permitting process. There are a lot of unanswered questions.

10. Adjournment 7:30ish