



NENC Public Meeting Agenda  
July 11, 2016, 6pm  
Trimble Forum - UPS Campus

1. Call to order, adoption of agenda—Called to order at 6:00—Agenda adopted.
2. Introductions and welcome—Board members: Jim M, Susan, Jim L, Brian, Morf, Anna, Bea, Jodi and Erica came late and about 40-50 attendees.
3. Approval of Minutes – approved
4. Treasurer’s Report – Anna reported on a number of checks that were written, our current working balance is \$15,000+. Question asked about where our funds come from and what do we write checks for? This was explained by Anna. Council Member Robert Thoms mentioned NENC’s support in grant funding for the new bulb outs going in at N Alder & 30<sup>th</sup>.
5. Liaison Reports
  - a. Tacoma Police – Reported on the number of prowls (25) and burglaries (23) recently. Applicants are being sought for Citizen’s Academy starting this fall. One Wednesday per month from 6:00-9:00 PM. For more details go to COT, type in search field, Policy Academy. There is a maximum of 30 participants.
  - b. Rebecca from City Managers Office – Rebecca is filling for David Nash-Mendez. She mentioned upcoming events; Maritime Festival, Celebration of 10 Year Foss Clean Up, Tacoma Pride, Food Truck Fest, & Ethnic Fest. A new website is up detailing the Tacoma Streets Initiative and City Council meetings will be temporarily held at TPU till the end of Sept while council chamber is undergoing upgrades. Tomorrow City Council meeting the main policy will be on Bring Your Own Bag. Councilman Ibsen spoke of the Proctor Parking Study, which will be released later this month. He also touched on news of the first Transfer of Development Rights project in the Stadium District. A program where farmland is preserved in exchange for additional housing units in new Tacoma Developments.

6. Presentation – Tacoma Public Utilities staff and COT Traffic Engineering presented on current status of the Cushman Sub-Station site and power line transitioning along 21<sup>st</sup>. Visuals were provided suggesting what the new steel monofolds will look like. The quantity will be reduced to 9 instead of our current 16 towers dating back to 1925-26. The new ones will be 100-110' tall compared to 75'. The new lines will be much longer and carry more energy, designed to meet the newest codes however no increase in volts. There will be some need for replacing a few standard wood utility poles as well. Work will start in April 2017 and is expected to take 5 months. Power delivery is impacted the least during the summer, which determined the timing for this transition. The steps were briefly gone over. Traffic Engineering shared three very preliminary concepts for pole placement and lanes consisting of down the middle, off set but in the middle and along one side. Traffic studies have determined that peak traffic flow varies and is not consistent between morning and evening commutes. Westbound in the evening is higher which lead us into the discussion of lanes and turn lanes how best to handle current and future use while also considering COT Transportation Vision Plan with bicycle, pedestrian and moving vehicles. Questions asked about problems with cars driving too fast cutting through on secondary streets, how will the increase in traffic from new housing developments like Proctor effect the volume and has this been calculated in. We were assured that the most robust projects were calculated into their study. It was asked that projections be monitored after the fact and mentioned that the design will need to be tightened up pretty soon before the poll location is complete. A decision will be made on this by the end of September - early October 2016. Concerns were raised over bicycle safety, dedicated streets and why not do an option with four lanes.

TPU's second in command Bob Mack spoke on the Historic Building explaining it will be at least 2 years before the building is completely decommissioned and ceases to be used as a power generator, then becoming available for surplus. TPU is not allowed to give it away property, for example to Metro Parks, it must sell at Fair Market Value per state law. Currently it is zoned as R2. No decisions have been made about the future of the building. Neighbors expressed interest in being involved with any decisions and want to have a say. Councilman McCarthy mentioned there are efforts underway about the possibility of creating a Sub Area Plan and that an extensive study needs to be done that addresses this and brings about a new direction.

Representing the TPU: Nora Doyle, Joe Rempe, Bob Mack COT: Josh Diekman and Brendan?  
Handouts and comments sheets were made available. TPU will be making two presentations in Mid Sept.

7. Old Business –
  - a. Jim M. read a draft letter addressed to the City Council and City Manager in follow up to our first letter dated June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 addressing a request for design review. This follow up letter came about after Councilman Thomas e-mailed a response to the NENC expressing an interest in developing this with the assistance of former Councilman Boe. In addition, it had been learned that city staff may also be working internally on this. The draft letter reiterated the need for community

participation and a pilot project area. Motion made to adopt the letter as is. Anna P. rejected to the letter outright stating it was filled with grammatical errors and was insulting in tone. Jim M. stated it was a draft and we could easily make grammatical changes. Jim L. suggested a slight change to soften one of the sentences. A resident spoke up that she was an English teacher and thought the letter was very well written. Anna P. stated that the North End is viewed as NIMBYS and it is not our place to ask for this. It was stated that this request is for the entire city to be involved and that the letter was going out to all the neighborhood councils too. A pilot could be anywhere in the city but the community needs to be included. Overall the residents in attendance provided positive feedback to sending the letter. Susan R. spoke to the fact that where else can residents go to talk about their own community other than their neighborhood council. This is our neighborhood and the place to talk about it, rejecting the NIMBY classification. Passed 8-1.

#### New Business –

- a. Guest - Shirley Schultz, COT Principal Planner came to speak with us about new projects at the request of one of our board members. She spoke of three projects. The Marc, Westgate North and Proctor South.

The Mark - at 6<sup>th</sup> & Alder is in its pre-application process and has expanded to the Old Milwaukee diner. It will be a 5 over 2, 2 floors concrete with underground parking making it six floors. 108 Studio -2 BR apartments with 121 +/- parking stalls. No driveways allowed on 6<sup>th</sup>, they are reworking there design to meet this requirement.

Westgate North – Westgate North Shopping Center on Pearl has been purchased. Round Table will be going out, a second building at a 6,000 sq. ft is planned with some potential outdoor seating/café. They'll be demolishing the Round Table and building a multi-tenant building up at the corner, as well as doing some façade improvements to the other buildings on the site.

Proctor South – across from Metropolitan Market on N. 25<sup>th</sup> St Will also be a 5 over 2 and the architects have applied for SEPA (environmental review process) and the city has reviewed and returned it with some comments. Once comments have been met it will go to Peter Huffman and with the input and cooperation from public works and other departments to make the final determination. A Preliminary Determination will be sent out to neighborhood councils and business district as well as reviewing agencies. It also gets published in the Daily Index and in the public notices section of [tacomapermits.org](http://tacomapermits.org).

Resident asked when, how and if comments could be made. Shirley explained the steps, leaving little opportunity at times. Those opportunities take place [when discretionary permits like conditional use permits or variances are applied for](#). She noted that when making comments it is important to provide “thought out comments. “ Don’t just say I don’t like it.

Lastly, she spoke about Cushman and that in our code, Historic Structures in residential neighborhoods are allowed additional uses. One such use is condos. Conditional Use Permits would be required.

8. Citizen’s opportunity to comment (no more than 3 minutes, please). No additional comments were made at this point in the meeting.
9. Community Council Report—Bea reported that mailers were going to be made available for councils. She was unclear as to what they would look like. It was noted that Tacoma is unique in that they provide funding for councils to send one representative to the annual NUSA Conference, Neighborhoods USA.
10. Erica motioned to adjourn at 8:15.

**Our August meeting will be August 1**

No planned guests or special topics at this time.