



NENC Public Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016, 6pm
Trimble Forum - UPS Campus

1. Call to order, adoption of agenda—adopted about 6:00 with the slight change of Kurtis going before the liaisons
2. Introductions and welcome—Susan, Jim M, Jodi, Kyle, Brian, Morf, Anna, Jill, Bea, Rachel

--moment of silence observed for Skip Vaughn
3. Approval of Minutes--approved
4. Treasurer's Report—We have \$19,421. We owe \$40. Still waiting for a reimbursement for the community garden, which is money we fronted for an innovative grant. The reimbursement will push us over \$21,000.
5. Presentation – Kurtis D. Kingsolver, P.E. City of Tacoma Public Works Director/City Engineer – powerpoint was presented (attached to the email with the minutes)
 - a. \$325 million total for roads over 10 years (\$90 million is grant matches)
 - b. almost three quarters of funding for residential streets
 - c. trying to touch 70% of residential system—some maintained, some rebuilt (6,000 blocks), some gravel streets built for first time
 - d. street treatments are overlay and chip seal type
 - e. trying to work with utility so the work is coordinated rather than having new roads ripped up later
 - f. trying to do 30-40 blocks in an area rather than hopscotching around
 - g. arterial/mobility/freight side of things is more likely to get grants
 - h. city will be working on transparency, partly because they might need to ask again in 10 years
 - i. no 10-year plan, partly because 30% of streets won't be touched, partly because a 2-year-plan focuses on what's getting built

- j. hiring some people, but still lower than 2007 levels in Public Works; trying to hire local Tacoma people
- k. LID—Kurtis is hoping to get an LID option going next year and will contact neighbors about the LID possibility
- l. The funds will pay for streets, not streetscaping. Streetscaping will be with LIDs.
- m. There was a question about lane markings. The city tries to stripe half of the city each year. They don't have the funds to actually do half. The funding will probably push us to half, maybe better.
- n. This funding will not cover pervious roads, but Environmental Services will do some of those.
- o. None of this money will go to burying wires, but Tacoma Power can also do LIDs to underground the wires.
- p. Grade separation is not likely for pedestrian safety. There might be some matching grants out there for rebuilding 21st.
- q. ADA ramps might not need to be yellow. Kurtis will have to check. We might be able to influence this color.
- r. No traffic studies.
- s. We don't know which streets come first. There are some starting around Stadium.
- t. Life cycle of concrete is longer. When asphalt is expensive, the city goes with concrete. They often bid both. Chip seal is used to maintain a road, not to build a road. There is some effort to look at just the drive lanes.
- u. \$2 million is committed to mobility, and bike lanes are part of that. Refresh painting will happen.
- v. New large developments are required to help with infrastructure.
- w. Cobblestone and brick roads cost much more and will need extra money to fix.
- x. Trying to get away from temporary patches. Looking for ways to rebuild the underlying structure.

6. Liaison Reports

- a. Kelly from Proctor District—Spring Zing is this Thursday and Friday. April 16 is the Junior Daffodil Parade. Proctor Arts Fest in August is shaping up. Check out Walla Walla clothing. Peaks and Pints is delayed until summer.
- b. Angela from 6th Ave—Green Week coming up 16th to 23rd. Pub ride on the 23rd. Art on the Ave is second Sunday in July.
- c. Chris with TFD—Fire will weigh in on methanol plant if it resumes. They have concerns. PSE plant will also have plans reviewed.
- d. Dan Still from TPD—vehicle prowls have mostly been evening to night. Empty your cars. Even empty bags are tempting. Drugs are cheaper. They are having a child abduction response training. Keep your eyes open. Parking enforcement is higher on the list than marijuana enforcement. There might be an encampment in Puget Gulch near the bridge. Car/camper living is a policy in flux.

- e. Michelle from TPS—Tacoma Schools is the first in state to adopt a community inclusion plan. Updates are happening. Stadium is opening special ed spaces.
- f. Karen from the Proctor Market—the market is now open every Saturday 9-2. If you want a booth, there's a vendor link on the market home page.
- g. India from the city manager's office—plastic bag ban discussion on April 27. May 7 is a city services expo at the T Dome.

7. Old Business - Committee Reports –

- a. Proctor Arts Fest—moved and seconded that we give \$1,000. There was a question or two about costs and the event budget. Motion amended to require the Arts Fest to give us the budget for the event before disbursement of funds. There were questions about how we will advertise at the event. Motion passes 10-1.
- b. Design Review will be having a meeting in May. They have a speaker coming, Lisa Rutzick. She will be here in advance of our meeting. Jim Merritt asked for a commitment to sponsor their dinners. No decision reached.
- c. Proctor Farmers' Market asked last month about sponsorship. Moved and seconded that we give them \$500. Passed unanimously.
- d. Backpack project asked last month as well. We want to get outreach and recognition from them. Moved and seconded that we give \$500 contingent upon outreach efforts to drive more people to our website and Facebook.
- e. Morf reported on the City Club Meeting about the methanol plant. There's a video of that meeting on the city site, and we can try to put that video link on the NENC site.

8. New Business – Methanol plant, Save Tacoma Water—Looking for voter consent for large water using businesses. They have a charter amendment draft and a code amendment issue. There are endorsements from a variety of activists, politicians and past politicians. Moved and seconded that we endorse the resolution. Tabled until next month.

Historic districts—Jeff Ryan spoke for College Park Historic District, which is around UPS but excludes UPS. There's also Buckley's Addition Historic District. It would be a large area. It takes a long time to work on the reports and applications. And then the approval process takes a while. A letter from us will waive the city fee when they go for local recognition. They are going for National and State to start, which are more honorific. The local Tacoma register is the one with oversight. There will be more outreach. There needs to be a majority of neighbors who support the district. Over 90% of the houses in the North End could be part of a district, based on their history. 20% of houses themselves could qualify. There were more questions about outreach. Jeff is looking at a website and newsletter and maybe even door hangers and knocking. At the local level, you have to prove that the neighborhood is on board. End goal is to get the local register, but that depends on the neighbors. Why the trend now for historic districts? There are three—Buckley's Addition, College Park and the Wedge all looking for the National Register. Moved and seconded that we support the efforts of those three neighborhoods to join the National and State registers. Passed 9-2.

9. Citizen's opportunity to comment (no more than 3 minutes, please).
 - a. Methanol plant—Steve--The Tacoma plant would be much bigger than the one in Kalama. There are concerns about environmental review. The plant will use a lot of electricity and water. It's not something that's very green at all. Valerie--She asked about the methanol plant and if we could write a letter opposing it. Another speaker talked about the chemicals from the plant, which are not good. Larry Falk, candidate for Pierce County Executive, spoke against the methanol plant as well. Why couldn't we get REI instead of methanol? Bea voiced concerns about the threat to our national security (or at least our local security). Judy spoke up about wanting a sense of place that's not industrial. She wants a livable city with clean air and water. She asked us to write a letter also. Community Council is not taking a stand, apparently so that members can speak out freely(?). Jim Bush asked us to oppose. He has concerns about the LLC organization of the business. LLC means the business won't be liable if there's a disaster. He doesn't see plant opposition in our leadership of the city and thinks we need to speak up. Northwest Innovation LLC knows they just need the EIS rubber-stamped, and then there's no way to fund the fight to stop them. Kyle raised concerns about fairness since we didn't invite the company but also recommended that our letter focus on the neighborhood angle. Jim Merritt is opposed to the smokestack industry. He can't see why we're pursuing the plant in the city. Anna motioned that we write a letter in opposition to the methanol refinery both now and after the EIS comes out so that we can part of the official record. She said our letter should focus on a couple livability issues. Jim Merritt seconded. Passed unanimously to rounds of applause. There was a lot of applause tonight, which was nice.

10. Community Council Report

11. Adjournment 7:30ish—adjourned at 8:35.

Coming Attractions in May:

Special guests will give examples of effective community Design Commissions.

KPLU's Jazz Host Robin Lloyd and KPLU's Director of Content Matt Martinez.