



NENC Public Meeting Agenda/Minutes
September 12, 2016, 6pm
Trimble Forum - UPS Campus

1. Call to order, adoption of agenda—Called to order at 6:03. Agenda adopted.
2. Introductions and welcome—Susan, Kyle, Anna, Morf, Bea, Jodi, Rachel, Jim B, Erica, Jill (board members) along with about 50 neighbors
3. Approval of Minutes—approved.
4. Treasurer's Report—July 1 we had over \$17,000. Now we have just over \$18,000.
5. Liaison Reports
 - a. Lincoln Correa from TFD—Emergency Preparedness Month is upon us. October 9 is CPR night. Register online. Remember to have two forms of escape out of your home.
 - b. Dan Still from TPD—26 vehicle prowls, 13 assaults, 12 vehicle thefts in the North End. The busy time is 11pm to 1am around the weekends. Those crime numbers are about normal. The citizen engagement class is full!
 - c. Marie Verhart from TPS—SAMI groundbreaking is coming. There's a celebration for the start of construction. Attendance is a bigger focus this year. TPS has one of the highest chronic absence rates in the state. There's a support plan being rolled out, which has several facets. Also, TPS is in the process of reviewing middle school boundaries. That's to accommodate the opening of a new Hunt MS. There are more elementary school sports opportunities! That's because of some partnerships with parks and clubs, which combines resources.
 - d. Anders Ibsen from the city council—budget draft is coming. There's a town hall for Click! on next Wednesday at 6:30 at the TPU building. There are some ambitious plans to expand. Maybe. There's also a meeting on the 28th. There will also be a meeting

next Wednesday to discuss the 21st Street improvements. That's at UPS in the Rotunda.

6. Presentations:

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager, will give us an overview of the next biennial budget.

He's trying to do some outreach. About 2,000 people came to an event designed to figure out how people rank/prioritize city services. In June he walked the city council through a 6-year forecast. There's a structural shortfall of \$7 million. That's much better than a few years ago when it was as much as \$63 million in the red. He heard feedback on the libraries. We're not shutting down any libraries or the Northwest Room. He thinks we're closing in on the \$7 million and we'll be fine. But if everyone gets what they want, we're closer to a \$50 million hole. We might need to manage expectations a bit...He's hoping to preserve public works, especially streets since voters approved the money for those. The rumor about the library being axed helped grow the Friends of the Library group. Why was the exercise for cutting funds pegged at a 4% reduction for the library? He says he's trying to fix a structural deficit AND look at ways to reinvent so we might be able to find other ways we can serve the public through the finding of extra funds. How do we balance raising police salaries vs. adding more officers? 60% of the budget is public safety, so cutting does happen there because it's such a large portion. Salaries are bargained and are comparable to other areas near us. There has been a spike in crime, but it's not clear if that's related to officer numbers. The city is looking at more community efforts with police. Back to library, how can services be increased? There are currently only three university trained librarians in the system. The library did get some increase. The library is the third or fourth biggest system in the city's budget, and the city, once it allocates funds, doesn't completely determine how those funds are used. More appreciation was expressed for the Northwest Room. Is there any option for revenue enhancements? TC says we're always looking, but there's not always ways to add. However, the county often leans on Tacoma to solve the urban ills for the county, so some of the suburbs maybe could pay for some services. Or some services have been in an antiquated model, but TC wants the system to be stable so there isn't sticker shock. So it's a balance. Why is the city contributing to the mental health hospital? There is a tax for mental health, and some of those funds go to police and fire to manage some issues, but some goes into things like a mental health facility, which is good for the city. The county had to kick in to some to the system. The money going to the hospital is not part of the structural deficit. There was some angst about ignoring people at citizen's forums. There was a question about port planning. The city is looking at how the port's improved process for input can be layered with the city. The mayor is also looking to build a subarea plan for the tide flats, but that planning process will cost as much as a million, which is a chunk that's not planned. Yet. Maybe we can get some from the shoreline planning or even from

private sources. He knows there could be improvements in notifications. There should be info on the website for 21st, especially as part of the mobility master plan. There are some trails highlighted in the budget this year. There was some final concern about public safety being funded. TC said it's a balance. We already spend 60% on public safety. How do we keep/make Tacoma a thriving community? There was a comment about small businesses and appreciating the efforts the city has made to attract them. Tacoma is now a bit of a software place, and some of that is because of the cost of living. There are lots of needs.

Connie Bacon, Port of Tacoma, will address community engagement on future Port policies.

She is a port commissioner. The port board works on issues like expansion, labor, business choices, etc. The port is part of an alliance now with Seattle's port—the Seaport alliance. She is here because of all the feedback on port projects, like the LNG plant and the methanol plant. The commissioners heard from people that they want to be seen more. The commissioners have made some efforts, but they haven't always been able to keep people in the loop, at least to some people's satisfaction. The port is a public agency, managed by the commissioners to build jobs and business. The port will soon be celebrating its 100th year on the tide flats. Their goal is to be an economic development agency. The port is hearing that there's not enough comment period for the approval of leases, especially for businesses that involve fossil fuels. Now, once they set terms for a lease, the port will bring those leases to the public, and the time period for comment will now be long enough (at least a month) for public input before the port votes to approve those leases, which they previously have done at just a single meeting. They are also trying to figure out the best times for those input meetings. The port is saying they heard they heard the public in this past year and want to make public comment more valuable and more accessible. What does the port consider with leases? Connie says many things. Some are jobs, safety, economic impact, reliability of company. Environmental impact is also a piece. Will the port pay a commission if people in Tacoma bring businesses to the port? There is some feeling that the website doesn't solicit public input on businesses. However, Connie says many cleaner businesses haven't responded to the RFPs. Also, some cleaner jobs haven't been job creators, according to Connie. She would love to have citizens bring companies to the port as long as they create jobs and drive the economy. All leases will come before the port for two readings, no exceptions, she says. There's a Korean shipping line that's gone bankrupt. She thinks it's unlikely to affect us. The cargo still has to go someplace. Does the port factor commute times in its environmental impacts? The port has carpool vans and some commute options. What weighs the most in figuring out which companies to pick?

Leases are considered individually, so sometimes there are factors that weigh heavier. Not everyone agrees on acceptable risk. The attorney general feels there has been use of public funds by port to stymie public initiative. That's in court. You can sign up on the port's website to receive updates.

7. Old Business - Committee Reports – Trees--There's a tentative planting date for November 19. We need groups of 10 trees and three neighbors. If there is not a cluster, but people are close enough, then maybe there can be a drop site. We'd love to have volunteers for digging and planting. Susan is looking into renting a digger of some sort. Will the council help pay to rent a digger? Maybe TPU?

Will we have the forum in the rotunda or the Trimble Forum? We need mics. We will attempt the rotunda.

8. New Business – There are deer hunters, apparently, in Tacoma. The folks on Waterview have seen some people hunting and will write a letter to help us clean the code and end the hunting.

There was a request for a letter of support for Cushman Substation being placed on the Tacoma Register. There was some discussion about the merit of preserving the entire site. TPU isn't sure whether or not they are on board, but we approved a supporting letter for advancement to the register.

9. Citizen's opportunity to comment (no more than 3 minutes, please).

10. Community Council Report—TC gave a report that was smaller than the one we got tonight.

11. Adjournment 7:30ish—7:45 in reality.

Next NENC meeting will be October 3.

Coming Attractions

October – Election forums

November – Election of new NENC board and officers