South Tacoma Neighborhood Council - General Meeting Minutes - March 15 2017

Called To Order: Approximately 06:30

Board Members: Clifford Armstrong III, Beverly Bowen-Bennett, Andy Mordhorst, Elman Reyes, Pennie Smith

Attendance: 20 general members.

Minutes: Motion was made by Andy to accept the February 15, 2017 General Meeting minutes, seconded and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Current balance of $3485.05

Chair’s Report: Innovative grants have been received for the year of 2017. We will be reviewing and voting on them in the next month. The Neighborhood Council received a letter from the Police thanking us for our support of the Jake Gutierrez memorial. The Neighborhood Council also received a letter from Mary Lewis in opposition to the youth drop-in shelter. Both letters were read aloud to the general body of the Neighborhood Council.

Meeting Reports

Tacoma Police - Steven Storwick - Neighborhood statistics presented, nothing particularly standing out. Questions from the audience: (Andy Mordhorst) Recent scuffles between kids from Mt. Tahoma and Lincoln in the Manitou area, what is being done? SRO will be contacted to get an update if it’s a repeat issue he can follow up on. Member Question from Velmer Hempstead: Kids outside homes in front of Mt. Tahoma, all day during school hours. Concerns about drug use and truancy. Concerns about School and Police pointing responsibility back and forth and neither taking action. What can be done? SRO will be contacted, Storwick card shared to follow up further. Mr. Hempstead Question: Traffic concerns near Mt. Tahoma: general speeding around corners, particularly on Mullen street, as well as when there’s a game/event at the school when people park too close to the corners and even sticking out into the road. Storwick will inform traffic division about the problem to look during events at Mt. Tahoma, report any active violations of people sticking out.

City Manager’s Office - Brad Forbes - March 31st is deadline for Businesses Seeking Social Enterprise Partnership with the City, targeting the Retail portion of 5401 S Tacoma Way. Free workshop for subcontractors happening March 28th from 5PM to 8PM @ Bay Terrace, 2250 S G St. Lincoln revitalization open house on March 29th from 4 to 6PM at Lincoln High School. Question: Is Pierce Transit cutting service on Oakes Street? Route 3 is getting moved to South Tacoma Way. Route 53 is restructured to serve South Oakes between Tacoma Mall and 66th Street.
**Tacoma Fire** - Ray Managola - Next week 19th-25th is Poison Prevention week. Accidental exposure to kids and misreading labels causes many issues nationwide. Tip: Program the Poison Control hotline into your phone: 1-800-222-1222. Awareness of earthquakes and other natural disasters, the most important thing is water. Keep 3 gallons/day/person for at least 72 hours prepped. 2-litter soda bottles are fine (You’ll need six soda bottles per person/per day, recommended minimum 3 days worth). Tap water is fine, doesn’t need treatment, remember to rotate water out every 6 months. Electrical fires are a concern even with the winter coming to a close. Remember to NOT use water on electrical fires. Get an ABC rated extinguisher (available Costco, Home Depot, etc). Audience question (Didn’t get name): Rechargeable extinguishers, answer: Rare now-a-days, cheaper to just replace. It’s daylight savings time, time to check your smoke detectors. Statistics presented about area. Mr. Hempstead Question: Does Tacoma Fire deal with health inspections? No, but will report things that look concerning to appropriate city department if they see something.

**Metro Parks** - Matthew Kearns - South Sound Summer Camp Fair on March 25th, opportunity to explore various summer camp options. 10am-1pm at STAR Center. Metro Parks is supporting the conservation plan for Grizzley Bears in the northern Cascades.

**South Tacoma Business District** - Karen Rich - Newsletters available. TNT Tire is changing its name, but still same owners. Still in appeal process for 5401 drop-in shelter. The flower baskets along South Tacoma Way are coming back. Brown’s Flowers and Mt. Tahoma are cooperating to provide and grow the flower baskets respectively. Watering will be done by Communities in Schools organization working with at-risk youth. Anecdote about friendly neighbors with the motorcycle club next door.

**General Audience**

- Frank Peace - Lions Club has been in this area 60+ years helping with community services. Vision and hearing exams, diabetes awareness and education across Pierce county. Delivering dictionaries to 3rd graders. Interested in community ideas about doing a commemorative token (for example a bench) for the 100th year of the Lions club and a long-time member who turns 100 years old at the same time. Looking for members to get involved, organization is worldwide.

- Quick greeting from some local candidates for office: (Name - Position sought) NOT ENDORSEMENTS.
  - Meredith Neal - City Council position 6
  - Victoria Woodards - City Mayor
  - Chris Beale - City Council position 5
  - Jim Merritt - City Mayor
Featured Presenter: Christopher Cora - Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel. Area designated in the 80’s to protect local water and aquifer from metals contamination. Critical to the area. Project is currently on-time though the last review showed a bit behind goal. Provided contact information in case anyone wanted further info. Quite a bit of technical specifics about protecting water.

- Afterward, colleague Kay Morrison showed up and introduced herself. She works with him and does research.

Board Members

- Elman Reyes - Introducing Technology and Outreach committee. We have a twitter: @SouthTacomaNC, outreach to community ideas are brewing.
- Beverly Bowen-Bennett - Introducing the Schools Liaison committee. Outreach to Mt. Tahoma during their conferences. Better understanding about school catchment boundaries and student body.
- Clifford Armstrong III - Introducing Economic Development committee. Shared information on apprenticeship program available city-wide.
- Pennie Smith - Statement of Services with the city is signed/filed.

New Business

- Motion by Beverly Bowen-Bennett to send a letter supporting city ordinance 28417. Letter language read aloud to body. Motion seconded and brief discussion about everyone being an immigrant in some respect. On no further commentary, moved to a vote. Passed by hand-count (8 ayes, none opposed). Letter is the final page of this document.
- Patrick Babbitt introduced himself as working with the city as part of Environmental Services and Healthy Homes. 2017-2018 program is being discussed. South Tacoma is a potential site. Described a bit of what the program provides, some questions. It seems mostly an engagement program with communities for changes that benefit everyone: their wallet, the environment, etc. Mostly behavioral but neighborhood improvements do happen as well.

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 07:41
3/15/2017

To the attention of Tacoma City Council in regard to Ordinance # 28417

At the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council general meeting held this date, the neighbors present voted to support the Ordinance in its meaning and intent. We are opposed to further expansion of Private Prisons within the City of Tacoma.

Several residents from our neighborhood may attend the hearing on this matter scheduled for April 25, 2017 in the City Council Chambers at 5:15PM. However, consider this document as the will of those who chose to attend the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council general meeting for March 2017. The South Tacoma Neighborhood Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Star Center beginning at 6:30PM.

Thank you

South Tacoma Neighborhood Council