



South End Neighborhood Council

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2023

1. Call to order & Chair's Welcome

- a. Andrea Haug called to order the regular meeting of the South End Neighborhood Council at approximately 7:02 PM on October 2, 2023, via Zoom. Described the South End Neighborhood Council. One of 8 neighborhood councils in Tacoma. Everyone is welcome.
- b. Board Member Roll call - Andrea conducted a roll call.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Andrea Haug, Rachel Wilkie, David Thompson, Cheryl Kopec, Judy Ly, Emily Hernandez.

Absent: Ralette Churchwell, Melissa Knott, Tony Caldwell, Eric Paulsen, Isaac Pennoyer,

- c. Cheryl motioned; Emily seconded to approve the previous minutes. Motion passed.
- d. Cheryl motioned; Emily seconded to approve the current agenda. Motion passed

2. Community Announcements/Comments/Concerns/Questions

Zac Matthews, Tacoma Public Library – it is freedom to read week. Banned books read. Highlights the role of public libraries banning censorship. It is still Tacoma Reads season. It is a book club for the entire City. Theme is home housing and security in our community. Questions, please contact Zac. Tacoma Library Freedom to Read Week events!
<https://tacoma.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?q=freedom%20to%20read&locations=4>

Sandesh Sadalge, Eastside Neighborhood Council Planning Commissioner representing District 4 – Shared email address. Home in Tacoma Phase II. Comprehensive plan.

3. Guest Speakers

Speaker Laurie Jinkins - Shared a PowerPoint with the 2023 Legislative Report. From 27th legislative district. Representing since 2011. Serves on Healthcare Committee and Appropriations. Was elected Speaker of the House. Jake Fey is chair of the Transportation Committee. Legislative priorities:

Addressing the housing crisis – Dept of Commerce reported \$250K housing units short. Need to build \$1mil housing units to house WA citizens.

Strengthening Washington's Workforce. Backlog of people waiting to be trained. Opened one in Pasco and one in Vancouver. Investing in vocational colleges and health workforce training. Shortage of social workers. Decreased the hours of required training. Funding training.

Protecting reproductive and Gender Affirming Care – strengthening abortion protections and protection for people providing reproductive care.

Health Care Investments – to keep people out of emergency rooms. Providing healthcare for undocumented adults, lower income or not Medicaid eligible.

Behavioral Healthcare implemented the 988 behavioral health systems. People who went out on the 911 calls weren't trained. People can call 988 and have referrals for help they need. Combining mental health and substance use issues. Found peer connection help expand their care. Working on kids behavioral health. Invested in capital budget to expand beds.

Blake Decision legislative response is trying to balance treatment options. There was a one day legislative session to address this bill.

Environmental Policy is working on streamlining clean energy. Planning for consistent reliable electricity and preventing utility shutoffs during extreme heat. Climate change and planning.

Climate Commitment Act is to get corporations who are burning carbons to pay for the carbons

that they are burning.

Equity in the CCA – making the distribution of funds equitable

2023-25 biennium transportation budget goal is to keep major projects on schedule. Investing in our ferry system.

27th District Projects – Transportation Budget Highway 167 and Highway 509 to get goods in and out of the port. Also invested in rail and rapid transit.

There are three budgets in WA. Operating budget; Transportation Budget and Capital Budget.

Laurie shared the list of Capital Projects that were funded.

Question was asked about how to make housing available for home buyers. Laurie will provide data to the report. With “We Feed” coming to an end, how are we going to feed hungry. Budget writers are working on funding. The Food Fighters are specifically focused on funding. Sun Alliance is working on a Community Center. How do they get funding? Need information on how to get them connected. Need to have details of the project to Laurie Jinkins. Also, suggested send to Senator Conway. Legislative Assistants: Faith.Flaherty@leg.wa.gov; Stefanie.Skar@leg.wa.gov.

Charlie Best-Rainbow Cntr. - Was unable to join this evening.

4. Liaisons Extraordinaire (3 minutes each) South End news we can use.

Tacoma Fire Department – Chief Green was unable to attend this evening.
tacomafiredepartment@ci.tacoma.wa.us if you would like to reach them.

Tacoma Police Department – Lieutenant Katz jkatz@cityoftacoma.org – Childhood safety event Saturday 10/7 at Cheney Stadium is a gun buy back. There is a tiered purchase system. Funded by Multicare and Children’s Advocacy Center. TPD is hiring. Cut down vacancies from mid 30s mid 20s. If you have a vision for public safety in Tacoma. Please apply.

Council Member Joe Bushnell – City Council District 5; jbushnell2@cityoftacoma.org Thanked the Senators for their leadership at the legislature. Started HOPE team which is alternative BH response. Starting up the 988 system. <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=245576> Council Consideration Request to Tacoma Tree Foundation to fund a new vehicle to support their efforts with trees. City provided \$10,000 and the Foundation reached their goals. Visited sister city in Fuzhou, China. Provides opportunities for dialog and relationship building. Briefly met Donnie Yen. News article concerning street takeover on the north end. Officers are working on the situation. Cheryl asked why they do not use spike strips. Joe answered there are probably reasons. Lt Katz stated that spike strips are for vehicle pursuits. Need to have a crime of violence to pursue a vehicle. Joe has stated that he is in big support of the South End Community Center and has written a letter in support. County Councilmember Ryan Mello has written a letter of support. Would like to do a needs assessment to find a good location. Will be focused on the Hosmer Stafford area and appreciates support of the community. Senator Conway is also in support. Joe thanked everyone.

Council Member Catherine Ushka – Absent

City of Tacoma Neighborhood & Community Services Department (NCS)

Allyson Griffith, 253-591-5119 - agriffith@cityoftacoma.org – Caught the end of Speaker Jenkins remarks. We are in the middle of transitioning Aspen Court from a shelter to Housing. Need to move folks out before the remodel. Down to 82 residents in the location. Working on getting them transitioned. Will reopen as housing. Thursday, October 5th at Mt Tahoma HS in Room 108. Code compliance we have 184 open cases, down slightly from 192 last month. Majority are nuisance cases. 15% are building cases. 8223 Pacific Avenue (Buddy’s) has been working with Department to get demolition permits. Andy noted that the fence was moved and Allyson will check it out tomorrow. Will stress with them keeping the property secured.

City Manager’s Report– D’Angelo Baker, City Management Fellow dbaker@cityoftacoma.org
absent

Safe Streets Darren Pen, 253-272-6824 – dpen@safest.org – absent

Tacoma Public Utilities – John Gaines – absent

5. Outreach Reports - Report Out Committees

Ralette Churchwell – HBA, Picture Pacific Avenue – absent. Andrea provided update: Currently working on setting up bylaws and budget. Keeping interim board until next year. Facebook page. Look for Hosmer Business Association. Working on a joint security initiative looking into the cost of security if everyone pays a little bit. Also working on a legislative committee and looking at the camping ban as it was not working. Sage Investment Group bought two apartments. Having a trunk or treat on the property. Salmon Art from Stafford Elementary. HBA was concerned over Emerald City Health Development bought the property between Extra Space Self Storage and Hampton Inn on Hosmer. Andrea asked Allyson for more information on that. Allyson asked for more information and contact information. Andrea has the minutes from the last meeting.

Eric Paulsen, TBD no report

Melissa Knott – Legislative no report

Judy Ly Safestreets/SUNA/Hybrid Meetings: *Trunk or Treat October 28th from 3-6 at Sage's Safe Harbor Apartments Grand Opening on Hosmer. TPD is providing security. Flyers went out last week. Booths are available. Contact Andrea if interested.* **Safestreets:** Neighborhood concerns over the Emerald City Health Development between Extra Space Self Storage and the Hampton Inn on Hosmer. There is a legislative committee starting to contract representatives with concerns on the development which is too close to the daycare. There is a lack of information with nothing presented to the neighborhood meetings. *There were questions on the TPD Phase 3 crime reduction plan. Concerns that TPD is not replacing the CLO for the Hosmer area.* The Combined South, North Wapato, Gaudrone Neighborhoods Safestreets meeting is Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. at Birney Elementary School Library 7627 S. Sheridan Avenue. On a side note, for those of you who do taxes, it is time to volunteer with VITA in 2024.

David Thompson - Food is Free — Just finished the Big Share at Wapato Hills starting back up in May. Doing the last food distribution at Calvary Baptist tomorrow 11 a.m. with vegetables and food. Coming to the end of the season. If you still have fresh produce, still taking donations.

Cheryl Kopec - Finance Committee \$5,907.94 in checking \$4,722.12 in savings account. Still looking for volunteers to join the Finance Committee please sign up for the committee. Help

Tony Caldwell - Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities, – no update

Isaac Pennoyer - Depave/Tree Walk – no update

Rachel Wilkie S 72nd & D Planting Party on Saturday October 14th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 72nd and S. D Street Mural Had to wait until October to plant. Pierce Conservation District is helping and you can sign up so we know how many people will be there. We recognize Troop 507 for their help. Andrea thanked Eric and Troop 507 who are receiving the Community Compassion award. Also the Community Artspace is still open so if you know any artists, please have them sign up.

Emily Hernandez - Outreach/Soc. - – Blueberry park cleanup; Safeway project on 56th working to connect with the managers at Safeway. WCC is funding work crew for blackberry abatement and wetland restoration. Bob Hope was a great meeting. They did a great job cleaning up. Learned a lot about the community. Housed 65 and provides individualized care and works with Washington Worksource. Go on trips to reengage and join the commute. Community meetings at 2:00 p.m. every Thursday for conflict resolution, community work and everyone connects. Doing a fantastic job. They were concerned. There is an apartment complex that is diagonal from the community.

There is illegal activity that is disrupting the lives of the veterans. Would like feedback. Would like to engage more with the community. Invited to the gardening event on the 14th. They are coming to the trunk or treat.

Athena Brewer SNAPs Update — Andrea reported **Mann Walk** meeting at South 52nd & South J Street at 9 a.m. at Mann Elementary Parking Lot on Saturday, October 7th walking tour.

Andrea Haug LF253/CCT - Litter Free 253 — Andrea is still looking for volunteers that will commit to one litter clean up a month and one meeting. If you are interested in being a lead for Litterfree 253, please give a shout out. **Community Council of Tacoma** is where all 8 neighborhood councils go to information share on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
ccotacoma@gmail.com

6. Old Yet Still Important Business

- a. **Hosmer Urban Forest** Rachel is seeking grants. Rachel also wrote two grants for the Safeway project. Working on putting a mural and turning the area into a greenspace. There are more grants coming down the pipeline to work on the Hosmer development.
- b. **SUNA Fiscal Sponsorship** — we were in agreeance that we want to be the business sponsor. Need to work with Sun Alliance Board on some information that we need.

7. (Mostly) Brand New Business

- a. **Hosmer Trunk or Treat October 28th** from 3-6 p.m. at the Safe Harbor Apartments at 8220 South Hosmer. Fred Meyer is supporting with treats and there will be booths.
- b. **Senco's Souper Socktober!** We are collecting soup, noodle soups, socks, all types, cash donations. Contact us at senco253@gmail.com We were over 1400 pairs of socks last year. Would like to beat that number this year.
- c. **Next all board meeting** at 4911 South Alaska at our Fire Station Meeting Room. Conversation with United Way on October 16 at 7 p.m. We are a finalized in the United Way From Poverty to Possibilities. We are on to the next round and need to create a video and present it on November 14, 2023 8 a.m. to noon. Need a \$2,000 give from United Way. Veronica Davis from Bob Hope has agreed to do a video for us.
- d. **Elections every November.** On odd number years, odd number seats are up for election. On even numbers, even number seats are open. If we get applications for a seat, the board members will have an opportunity to speak. If we do not receive any applications, we will keep out seats if we do not receive any notification of anyone running.

8. Adjournment

- a. Next meeting is Monday, November 6th at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Judy will get the hybrid meetings set up.
- b. Emily motioned to adjourn. Cheryl seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.