



Neighborhoods and Housing Committee Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/NH>

Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 248, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

October 21, 2013

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Council Committee Members Present: Boe, Lonergan, and Walker.

Council Committee Members Absent: Ibsen.

Approval of October 7, 2013 Minutes

Council Member Boe moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 7, 2013. Seconded by Council Member Lonergan. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Traffic Circle Beautification

At approximately 4:33 p.m. Jennifer Kammerzell, Public Works, provided background information on traffic circles and discussed tools, criteria, and neighborhood participation. She stated there are 153 traffic circles in the city, four to eight are installed per year, and they are either landscaped or asphalt, noting 124 are currently landscaped. Council Member Lonergan asked how long the Adopt-a-Spot program has been in place, and inquired about the cost of a traffic circle. Council Member Boe inquired about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for the traffic circles. Chair Walker inquired about the costs for curb ramps when a Neighborhood Council is interested in putting in a traffic circle.

Ms. Kammerzell reviewed beautification programs and introduced Pennie Smith from the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council. She noted Public Works is going to try to help increase traffic circle beautification advertisement. She then discussed research she conducted on other cities, noting Seattle is also struggling to maintain their traffic circles. Ms. Smith discussed the traffic circles she maintains. Council Member Boe discussed traffic circle participation and recognition in Vancouver, British Columbia. Council Member Walker inquired about connecting with those who participate in the community garden programs to see if they would be interested in traffic circle planting as well. Council Member Lonergan stated access to water for those tending to multiple traffic circles can be a challenge and asked if there may be a creative solution for this issue.

Noise Code Update

At approximately 4:59 p.m. Lisa Wojtanowicz, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided background information on the Noise Code and reviewed a graph of the number of noise complaints over time and complaints by type. She provided background information on the types of noise, including commercial and construction noise. Council Member Boe inquired about garbage collection noise occurring in the early morning hours.

Ms. Wojtanowicz stated a consultant review is currently underway on Port/industrial noise, golf courses, continuous noise, and stationary noise. Council Member Boe asked if Port/industrial ships are specifically included in the review; and requested Bremerton, Everett, Longview, and Portland be included in the peer city review. Ms. Wojtanowicz concluded with the schedule, stating the consultant review and stakeholder input from auto dealers, businesses, neighborhood groups, Neighborhood Councils, and Tidal Wave will occur November 2013 through January 2014; followed by a recommendation for consideration for referral to the State Department of Ecology. Discussion ensued regarding noise variances and the notification process.

Temporary Homeless Camps

At approximately 5:15 p.m. John Herrington, NCS, stated in 2010, the Washington State Legislature granted broad authority to religious organizations to host temporary homeless camps. He stated it is the intent of the City to regulate the temporary homeless camps to protect public health and safety for such camps within the city that are associated with religious organizations as provided for in RCW 36.01.290.

Colin DeForrest, NCS, reviewed the approach for these efforts, including public outreach and benchmarking regulations from other cities. He then reviewed outreach completed with the Tacoma Human Services Commission, the Cross-District Neighborhood Business Council, Planning Commission, Community Council, Tacoma Police Department Community Liaison Officers, the interdepartmental subject matter expert team, and the Coalition to End Homelessness. Mr. Herrington reviewed next steps, including presenting a summary of findings and draft regulations to the Planning Commission on November 6, 2013, noting tentatively, this item will come before the full Council in February 2014. Discussion ensued regarding site specific standards for homeless camps, opportunities for cities to exempt tent cities if they can demonstrate an adequate number of shelter services, if a church would be eligible for City funds if they chose to open a tent city, which local churches staff has been working with, if the City can charge to issue permits for, and inspect, the tent cities; the maximum number of persons allowed per square foot or acre, the per site time limit in days, setting a time restriction for Tacoma, sex offender and warrant-check services, and collaborating with shelter and Housing First providers for opportunities to connect tent city residents with services. Chair Lonergan requested staff include the Stormwater Division of the Environmental Services Department in tent city discussions. Assistant City Manager Tansy Hayward stated staff will do further analysis on this item and return in November.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Christina Watts, City Manager's Office, stated the next meeting is November 4, 2013 and the tentative topic is Neighborhood Council recommendations. She noted the November 18, 2013 meeting will include interviews for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Committee Members requested the November 4, 2013 meeting be moved to Conference Room 16.

Other Items of Interest

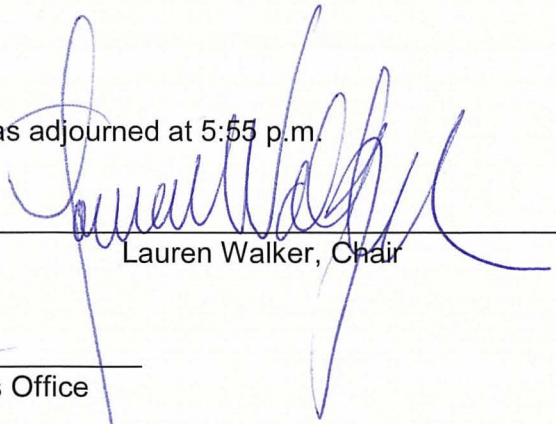
There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Lauren Walker, Chair



Jennifer Joyce, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office