



# Neighborhoods and Housing Committee Minutes

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

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

September 16, 2013

Chair Walker called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

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

Council Committee Members Absent: Ibsen.

## **Approval of August 19, 2013 Minutes**

Council Member Lonergan moved to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Council Member Boe. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

## **Encampments: Site Identification and Clean-up**

At approximately 4:37 p.m. Colin DeForrest, Homeless Services Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services, stated the purpose of today's presentation is to provide the Committee with an update on the revised encampment clean-up process and encampment clean-up work completed throughout the City over the past 9 months. He stated in 2013, the City began the implementation of the revised encampment cleanup process, noting this new process is the result of collaboration and design involving multiple City departments, and the revised process has been separated into four phases. He noted the Public Works Departments' Abatement Crew is responsible for the clean-up and removal of identified encampments.

Mr. DeForrest reviewed the four phases and other efforts. Discussion ensued regarding homeless individuals found during the encampment cleanups, their status, the types of services City staff try to connect them with, and why some individuals choose to remain in encampments rather than stay in shelters. Council Member Boe requested a map of encampment locations relative to Council districts. Discussion continued regarding the individuals who choose to stay in encampments, the upcoming cold weather season and ensuring shelters and service providers are ready, keeping neighborhoods safe, and the best points of contact for services.

## **Single-Family Blight Abatement Program**

At approximately 5:04 p.m. Carey Jenkins, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development (CED), stated on July 15, 2013, CED staff gave a presentation on the proposed Single-Family Blight Abatement Program to the Committee, provided a basis for its development and identified overall goals to be achieved through its implementation. He noted a series of questions were raised by Committee Members and staff were instructed to respond and return to the Committee for further consideration. Mr. Jenkins stated the Single-Family Residential Blight Abatement Program is envisioned as a joint effort between various City departments, the local housing development community and construction

professionals whose mission is to address blighted and abandoned single family homes that have been designated as derelict by the City's Code compliance staff. He stated coordinated through the Housing Division of CED, Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program funds would be allocated to selected service providers to acquire, rehabilitate, and resell these previously abandoned properties to eligible home buyers. He noted the service providers would be obtained through an open and competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Mr. Jenkins then reviewed the program summary, goals, compliance with the 2013-2014 Strategic Direction Statement, linkages with the Affordable Housing Policy Advisory Group, displacement of existing affordable housing activities, and acquisition candidates.

Lisa Wojtanowicz, Neighborhood and Community Services, reviewed Code compliance statistics. Mr. Jenkins then reviewed affirmative marking and neighborhood targeting, fiscal impact of the program, and next steps for the program. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP for developer services, if there will be Historically Underutilized Businesses and Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program requirements, if there is a way to integrate an opportunity to create job skills through this program, if the properties that are included in the 2012 closed Code compliance cases are on the market, and the down payment assistance program. Council Member Lonergan discussed obstacles and challenges for home buyers with the Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) recent changes to mortgage insurance premiums for FHA-backed mortgages and asked if the City has a way to assist with this challenge through the down payment assistance program.

#### **Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

Christina Watts, City Manager's Office, stated the next meeting is October 7, 2013, and tentative topics include community clean-up efforts and a mural site update.

#### **Other Items of Interest**

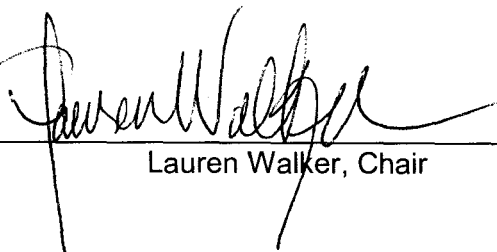
There were no other items of interest.

#### **Public Comment**

Public comment was heard from Connie Brown, Executive Director, Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.



Lauren Walker, Chair



Jennifer Joyce, Office Assistant, City Clerk's Office