



City of Tacoma

Community Vitality and Safety

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 248
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 859 6160 4917
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85961604917 Passcode: 614650

February 08, 2024

4:30 PM

Chair Catherine Ushka, Vice Chair Sarah Rumbaugh, Jamika Scott,
Kristina Walker, John Hines (alternate)

Call To Order

Vice Chair Rumbaugh called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Ushka, Rumbaugh and Scott

Absent: 1 - Walker

Chair Ushka and Council Member Scott participated virtually.

Council Member Walker arrived at 4:39 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Briefing Items

1. [24-0116](#) Annual Update on Tacoma Housing Authority Work
[April Black, Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority]

At approximately 4:32 p.m., April Black, Executive Director, Tacoma Housing Authority (THA), presented an annual update including an overview on THA's work and who they serve. She continued by outlining THA's goals, 2023 strategies and progress, including to increase the amount of available housing for low-income families; to increase housing access and stability; to embed principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in THA's program; to make THA a great place to work; and the Housing Hilltop project, noting its location along South 11th Street and South "L" Street, residential units and priorities, and commercial space.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 4:39 p.m.

She concluded by providing information on THA staff demographics and 2023

accomplishments, and stressing the importance of housing wages.

Discussion ensued regarding apartment floor plans, reducing water damage, growing cost related to risks, water loss, vandalism, structural issues, voucher holders, displacement issues, data availability, housing wage, development of a new property project at East 60th Street and McKinley Avenue, intergenerational housing, affordable home ownership similar to Salishan, seeking public and private partners, budgeting and negotiation with unions, shelter burdens, and paying people what they are worth.

2. [24-0119](#) 2023 Human Rights Commission Annual Report
[Nancy Shattuck, Human Rights Manager, Office of Equity and Human Rights]

At approximately 5:12 p.m., Nancy Shattuck, Human Rights Manager, Office of Equity and Human Rights, introduced Verda Washington, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, and together they presented on the 2023 Human Rights Commission Report with an overview; background; accomplishments; discrimination cases; engagement in 2023; challenges; insights; proposed initiatives, noting they would like to discuss City policies; requested support; summary; and feedback.

Discussion ensued regarding cross commission collaboration, outreach events, policy reviews, outreach, public accommodation, clarification on no reasonable cause, clarification on cases closed due to no reasonable cause, clarification of the term background evidence, prioritizing meetings, and appreciation for Commissioners.

3. [24-0120](#) Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Annual Report
[Felicia Medlen, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 5:40 p.m., Felicia Medlen, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Ronda VanderMeer, Senior Housing Analyst and staff liaison for Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority (TCRA). VanderMeer presented the TCRA Annual Report including an overview, background, board membership, staffing support, affordable housing and economic development, 2023 highlights, and the 2024 outlook.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of recruiting for the TCRA Board and its priorities, funding, multifamily assistance program, allocating funds, capacity building workshop programs, Black home ownership program, infrastructure grants, technical assistance workshops for the public, turnover rate for TCRA Board Members, and appreciation for Board Members.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [24-0122](#) February 22, 2024 - Human Rights Commission Interviews;
Human Services Commission Report;
Commission on Disabilities Report
March 14, 2024 - Tacoma Housing Authority Annual Update;
Human Rights Commission Annual Report;
Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Annual
Report;
Community's Police Advisory Committee Report
March 28, 2024 - To Be Determined

D'Angelo Baker, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be held on February 22, 2024, and will include Human Rights Commission interviews and Human Services Commission report; the March 14, 2024, meeting will include reports from the Tacoma Housing Authority, Human Rights Commission, TCRA and the Community's Police Advisory Committee; and the March 28, 2024, meeting will include the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities report.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Catherine Ushka, Chair

Hollyann Piotrowski, City Clerk's Office