



# City of Tacoma

## Community Vitality and Safety

### Committee Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

August 22, 2019

4:30 PM

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Chair Keith Blocker, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka,  
Chris Beale, Robert Thoms, Lillian Hunter (alternate)

#### Change of Location

#### Call To Order

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

**Present:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

#### Approval of Minutes

1. [19-0900](#) Approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting

**MOTION:** Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Beale.

**ACTION:** Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

**Ayes:** 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

## Briefing Items

2. [19-0901](#) 2019 Fireworks After Action Report  
[Shawn Gustason, Assistant Police Chief]

At approximately 4:35 p.m., Shawn Gustason, Assistant Police Chief, presented an overview of the fireworks after action report, including the Tacoma Police Department Fireworks Plan, education on firework related laws, enforcement, number of incidents, and a staffing summary.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of infractions, tribal property being outside of the City's jurisdiction, enforcement, response time, and staffing for Tacoma's Freedom Fair event.

3. [19-0902](#) Tacoma Municipal Code 8.27 Park Code Amendments  
[Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager]

At approximately 4:43 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Peter Mayer, Deputy Executive Director, and Marina Becker, Parks and Recreation Director, Metropolitan Parks Tacoma (MPT), and made opening remarks on the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 8.27, relating to the Park Code. Mr. Mayer outlined the briefing objectives; background on jurisdiction and authority; Park Code goals and frequency of updates; MPT's mission, values, and compliance philosophy; and a summary of substantive Code changes, noting definitions, use of equipment, vehicular and micromobility device standards, structures in parks, and authority to adopt a code of conduct. Mr. Mayer concluded by reviewing community outreach and communications strategies, summary of public comments received, key dates regarding the Park Code update, anticipated critical timeline, and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding collaboration with MPT, rules regarding electric scooters on sidewalks, proposed regulations of structures in parks, legality of proposed regulations, enforcement changes, temporary and permanent shelter beds, ordinance providing flexibility for non-profit organizations to host temporary shelters, educating the public, and safety concerns for people utilizing the parks.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Cheryl Kopec, resident, speaking on fireworks.
2. Al Ratcliffe, resident, speaking on homelessness.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to recommend the proposed TMC Chapte 8.27 amendments to the full City Council for consideration.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.**

**Ayes: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka**

**Absent: 1 - Thoms**

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [19-0903](#) September 12, 2019 - Neighborhood and Community Services Mobilization Contracts, Neighborhood Council Review, and State of Black Tacoma

September 26, 2019 - Domestic Violence Strategic Alliance and Closed Captioning Request for Ordinance

Bucoda Warren, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on September 12, 2019, and will include a Neighborhood Council review and State of Black Tacoma. He further stated the Neighborhood and Community Services mobilization contracts have been postponed, and the September 26, 2019 meeting will include Domestic Violence Strategic Alliance and a closed captioning request for ordinance.

## Other Items of Interest


There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

Public Comment was heard earlier in the meeting.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

  
Keith Blocker, Chair

  
Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office