



Neighborhood Council Program Review

City of Tacoma | CED

**Study Session
December 4th , 2018
ITEM #1**





OVERVIEW



- TMC 1.45 Requires a 5 Year Review of Neighborhood Council Program.
- Program provides community engagement opportunity that build individual civic involvement and neighborhood grass roots advisory capacity.
- Program serves as a strategic engagement tool and has provided a pathway for elected local leadership.



BACKGROUND



- TMC 1.45 States “The Neighborhood Council Program shall be reviewed and revised if necessary by the City Council at least every five years, with a corresponding presentation to the City Council by Neighborhood Council Program Coordinator or other staff regarding the Program overall.”
- Most recent program review conducted in 2013.
- Staff conducted a review of the Neighborhood Council Program in 2017 and 2018.



BACKGROUND



- Staff has identified recommendations for revisions to TMC Chapter 1.45 and the Standards and Guidelines Document.
- Revisions to TMC 1.45 will be brought before Council for first reading in April 2019 for adoption.
- Revisions to the Standards and Guidelines Document will be brought before Council in April 2019 for adoption.



OUTREACH



- Updates provided to the Community Council of Tacoma (CCOT) on 8/24/2017, 10/16/ 2017, 1/24/2018 and 8/23/18.
- Neighborhood Councils and the CCOT provided suggestions with their Annual Reports at end of 2017.
- Online survey Feb-March 2018.
- Solicited feedback from individual neighborhood groups.
- 2018 Livable Cities Year projects.



OUTREACH



- Interviews with key departments – Public Works, Neighborhood and Community Services, Planning and Development Services, Office of Equity and Human Rights, Media and Community Relations Office, City Manager's Office, Liaisons from Tacoma Public Utilities, Port of Tacoma, Pierce County Health Department and Metro Parks.
- Draft Revisions to TMC 1.45 presented to CCOT in Sept 2018.
- Draft Revisions to Standards and Guidelines Document presented to CCOT in October 2018.
- Discussions with CCOT on Revisions November 2018



ISSUES



- Community members, city staff, liaisons and community members have voiced concerns regarding consistency among the eight Neighborhood Councils that impact program effectiveness in overall civic engagement and its ability to meet equity and inclusion objectives.
- Community Council has concerns with some revisions related to Term Limits and By-Law standards.



ISSUES



- Representation of existing neighborhoods within Neighborhood Council Boundaries.
- Neighborhood Council Boards not reflecting the evolution of their neighborhoods.
- Lack of transparency and communication related to priorities, meeting process, decision making and opportunities to participate as a board member or elected officer.



ISSUES



- Unrealistic expectations of volunteer board members without adequate support from City.
- Concerns with Neighborhood Council boundary configurations.
- Lack of transition within Board Officer roles.
- Membership attendance.
- Lack of leadership development and succession planning.



PROPOSED REVISIONS



Proposed revisions to TMC 1.45 will impact the following issues:

- Equity
- Inclusion
- Capacity Building
- Consistency



PROPOSED REVISIONS: Equity



Section 1.45.020 Intent

- “It is the intent of the City to engage its neighborhoods within each Neighborhood Council as equitably as possible...”

Section 1.45.050 Boundaries and Membership

- Language confirms desire to not impose an undue burden on requirements for Board Members or Officers.



PROPOSED REVISIONS: Equity



Section 1.45.050 Boundaries and Membership

- Intent for building civic capacity within neighborhoods that is equitable, inclusive and empowering.
- Language that requires there be Standards and Guidelines within the program for transition and leadership development within Neighborhood Council Board Officers.



●●● PROPOSED REVISIONS: Inclusion

Section 1.45.010 Purpose

- “affirm commitment to purposeful engagement with neighborhoods as a part of the City of Tacoma’s Civic Engagement Strategy”

Section 1.45.020 Intent

- “renters and owners of property”

Section 1.45.050 Boundaries and Membership

- Language confirms desire to not impose an undue burden or requirements for Board Members or Officers.
- Intent for building civic capacity within neighborhoods that is equitable, inclusive and empowering.



●●● PROPOSED REVISIONS: Capacity Building

Section 1.45.050 Boundaries and Membership

- Language confirms desire to not impose an undue burden on requirements for Board Members or Officers.
- Language that requires there be Standards and Guidelines within the program for transition and leadership development within Neighborhood Council Board Officers.



●●● PROPOSED REVISIONS: Consistency

Section 1.45.050 Boundaries and Membership

- Language confirms desire to not impose an undue burden on requirements for Board Members or Officers.
- Language that requires there be Standards and Guidelines within the program for transition and leadership development within Neighborhood Council Board Officers.



••• PROPOSED REVISIONS: Consistency

Section 1.45.070 City Responsibilities

- Adds subsection “B” for Neighborhood Council Program Liaisons.
- Language refers to Standards and Guidelines for notification practices.



PROPOSED REVISIONS



Standards and Guidelines

- Contain the day to day operations of the program.
- Revisions reviewed through a facilitated community workshop including key stakeholders.
- Revisions brought before Council for adoption by Resolution in April 2019.



PROPOSED REVISIONS



Standards and Guidelines

- Term Limits for Board Officers
- Bylaw standards reducing barriers to board involvement
- Reporting standards
- Liaison standards (GG, TPU, TPS, TFD)
- Utilization of GovDelivery for Notifications



••• PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

Non Legislative Program Enhancements

- Re-purpose \$32,000 from SNIG to direct allocation by Neighborhood Council's for community building projects.
- Align Program Coordination with Neighborhood and Community Services Department.
- Improve support to Neighborhood Councils in outreach efforts to independent neighborhood groups.
- Improve City website and online social media involvement.
- Leverage Citywide Civic Engagement Strategies.



NEXT STEPS



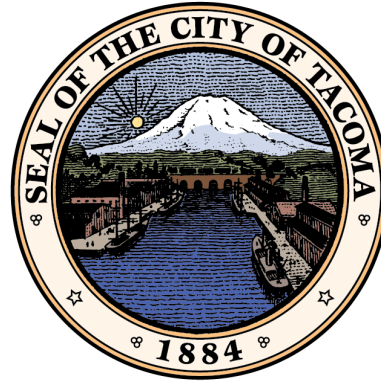
- Standards & Guidelines Community Workgroup – Q1 2019
- Resolution for Revised Standards & Guidelines – April 2019
- 1st Reading of TMC 1.45 Revisions – April 2019
- Boundary Review – 2019



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Staff recommends adoption of concurrent revisions to TMC 1.45 with the adoption of revisions to the Standards and Guidelines Document.
- Staff recommends adoption of revisions to Standards and Guidelines Document by Resolution in April 2019.
- Review of Neighborhood Council Boundaries in 2019.



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