

CITY OF SEATAC
COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 11, 2016

Members present:

Jean Blackburn, Virginia Olsen, Patricia Gonzalez (alternate) and “Fuzz” Hill (alternate)

Members absent:

Mathew York, Nibret Aga, Florian Purganan and Yolanda Gonzalez

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee wasn’t able to approve the August, September, October, November or December minutes due to the lack of a quorum. The minutes will be added to the February 2016 meeting for approval.

3. Community Conversations

Members shared their experiences and observations on the community.

4. Public Comment

One member of the public commented.

5. New Business

A. Tukwila Rental Registration

Kathy Stetson, Code Enforcement Officer with the City of Tukwila, provided an overview of Tukwila’s residential rental licensing program. Kathy provided background that the program got started when the City received numerous complaints regarding a single apartment complex. After much staff time spent addressing each problem individually, the City got permission from all the tenants to inspect the entire building. They found that 39 of 40 units were condemnable. Motivated to find a more efficient method for addressing housing quality concerns, Tukwila instituted a comprehensive program as follows:

- All rental properties are required to get an annual business license
- All rental properties are inspected every four years
- Inspections are conducted by a city inspector or private inspector who meets certain criteria
- Use IPMC for property code enforcement
- Adopted National Healthy Housing Standards to fill gaps in the IPMC (also provides protocols for fixing)

- City provides minimum standards to ensure properties are safe
- Washington State has since adopted restrictions for future programs that reduce the number of issues a city can inspect for
- 60% of the housing in Tukwila is rental
- Benefits of program
 - Provides good records of interactions with property owners/managers
 - City is proactive; no longer operating in crisis mode
 - Protects lives; addresses serious safety issues
 - Goal is to work with landlords to improve properties, not to impose fines
 - In first 4 years, 300 units were improved; if 3 people per unit have improved the lives of 900 people
 - City receiving fewer complaints
 - Will need to do a second round to see if the number of violations has decreased

B. SeaMar Lunch Program

Ninfa Quiroz shared the extensive work that SeaMar does to outreach to seniors, and Latinos in particular, to share information about socialization and medical services. Ninfa indicated that SeaMar is interested in additional funding to conduct outreach. The Committee suggested that SeaMar apply for funding through the City's Human Services Program.

C. Recommendations to Council

Due to a lack of quorum, members agreed to continue the discussion until the February meeting.

6. Future Meeting Topics

The Committee agreed that the focus of the next meeting would be on discussing the Committee's goals and accomplishments and identifying next steps.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Attachment A

To: City of Seatac City Council
From: Committee for Community Building
Subject: Community Cooking Class
Date: January 12, 2015

One of Seatac's greatest advantages is the vast diversity of its resident's cultures. This also happens to be one of the greatest challenges to building a sense community. There are certain human experiences that draw all cultures together. Food is one of those cross cultural experiences. Even in its innate diversity, food is grown, cooked, and consumed in every culture around the world. One of the first new cultural experiences a person has in enjoying the food of another people. This bridge between differing backgrounds is why the committee is asking the City Council to support a community cooking class.

The committee is proposing that a once a month cooking class be developed and started in at the YMCA. This class will start by teaching the students how to prepare dishes from an African culture. If successful, a different teachers can be located, the class will eventually expand to other cultures in Seatac. Committee member Nibret Aga has volunteered to be the first teacher. She will be instructing on how to prepare healthy, vegan dishes from her culture.

Proposal Details:

1. The YMCA has already agreed to provide space and the use of their kitchen. The space should accommodate up to 15 students.
2. The City Council will provide \$400 as starting money to pay for materials for the first class. From this point the class will charge a nominal fee for those enrolled and the money will be used to support the following classes. If the budget cannot support the startup money, the committee will look into other funding options.
3. Nibret Aga will manage the project and serve as the first instructor.
4. The City will provide space in appropriate places for postings and advertising for the class. This will include but not be limited to: web space, bulletin boards, mailings already scheduled to go out.

Food brings people together. It is our hope that this project will bring together the residents of Seatac to expand their cultural awareness and meet their neighbors at the same time.

Attachment B

Hi Gwen. I apologize for taking so long to get back to you. This email has been hanging out in my drafts folder, and it almost got away from me.

Following is information specific to the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative. I have some additional information I'm preparing for you as well pertaining to the other programs that we either currently fund or have funded in the recent biennium (2013-14).

In early June, the City met with partners from the Tacoma School District, University of Washington Tacoma, and Comprehensive Life Resources to discuss how we could facilitate a partnership that would address the School District's imperative to ensure all youth have a pathway to graduate by 2020 with emphasis on youth who, due to their behavioral health concerns, often struggle to stay in school.

The outcome of the partnership would support reduced absenteeism, reduced suspensions, and reduced disruptive behaviors.

Through an open application process, the City has partnered with the University of Washington to expand the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative (TWCI) that provides social emotional learning, positive behavioral interventions and supports, restorative practices, trauma informed care, school based mental health, dropout early warning and intervention/reengagement, and academic systems change. Part of the TWCI services will be provided by Comprehensive Life Resources through their evidence based program entitled Social Skills Group Intervention (S.S. GRIN). This program is found to dramatically reduce school violence and increase the social-emotional competence of both perpetrators and victims. The Intervention also addresses issues of social anxiety and depression. By 2016, S.S.GRIN will be in 27 Tacoma schools – targeting students identified as experiencing emotional/behavioral issues impacting school achievement.

This partnership promises to support both the School District's directive ensuring all youth have access to the resources they need to succeed and graduate on time, as well as meet the specialized needs of youth experiencing behavioral health challenges.

Pam

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Service, Integrity, Accountability, Respect, Stewardship, Innovation, Teamwork

Hi Gwen. Here is some additional information about the programs/partnerships I mentioned at the January 12 meeting. I hope this is helpful for your councilmembers.
Pam

Summer Jobs 253—General Fund and Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

- A summer youth employment program offering pre-employment (soft skills) training, case management, employment/payroll verification, transportation assistance, paid work experience, and the opportunity to earn credits to stay on track for high-school graduation. Target population is incoming juniors and seniors who are low-income and credit deficient.

Tacoma Whole Child Initiative – 2015-16 Community Services (CS)

- TWCI infuses best practices in behavioral intervention, data-based decision making, academic improvement, and system sustainability in schools. Everyone in a school that comes in contact with a student (teachers, librarians, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, administrators, janitors, and playground staff are included in a comprehensive system of promoting student success.

Ladies First – 2013-14 CS

- Ladies First is dedicated to empowering young women to make healthy decisions & promote free thinking and cultural awareness. The program encourages youth to build safe communities, confidence, and trust.

Community In Schools – After School Program 2013-14 CS

- Communities In Schools of Tacoma plans and provides after-school academic and enrichment programs for at-risk children and their families. In addition, our Site Coordinators case manage 30-40 students by connecting them with resources they need to succeed in school.

St. Leo's - Backpack Project – 2013-14, 2015-16 CS

- The Backpack Program provides two days of food each Friday during the school year for children who are at-risk of going hungry on the weekends. This program currently serves more than 750 children each week at 26 schools throughout the Tacoma and Clover Park school districts.

Peace Community Center – McCarver Scholars 2013-14, 2015-16 CS, Hilltop Scholars 2013-14 , and FLITE 2013-14 CS

- McCarver Scholars is an academic-intensive extended-day and extended school-year learning program serving second through fifth grade children in the culturally diverse, low-income Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma. Students work in reading, writing, math and science; and develop positive mindsets to gain a strong foundation for success in middle school and beyond.
- Hilltop FLITE Middle School is the first step in an academic-intensive 11 year pipeline (6th grade through college) that helps students discover their full potential, encourages learning, and prevents dropouts. It serves sixth, seventh and eighth grade youth in the culturally diverse, low-income Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma with academic coaching, college readiness classes, tutoring, and summer learning opportunities to prepare them for success in high school and beyond.
- Hilltop Scholars is the continuation and culmination of an academic-intensive 11 year pipeline (6th grade through college) that helps students discover their full potential, encourages learning, and prevents dropouts. It serves high school and postsecondary youth in the culturally diverse, low-income Hilltop neighborhood with academic coaching, college readiness seminars, tutoring, summer leadership experiences, and post-secondary transition coaching to ensure students graduate college-ready.

**Update on Status of Recommendations by
Community Building Committee
January 12, 2015**

Community Liaison Project Description

- Consistent with the CBC's recommendation, the City Council approved \$15,000 in both 2015 and 2016 to fund a Community Liaison Pilot Project.
- This project will be centrally administered by the City Manager's Office so that we can develop best practices and share them throughout the organization.
- The budget will fund approximately six (6) community liaisons who will engage approximately 120 residents, representative of the City's demographics, through in person, one-on-one surveys. The City plans to work with students at Global Connections high school and the City's Senior Program to include youth and seniors.
 - The community liaisons will be trained in government 101 and be able to answer basic questions residents may have, or refer them to the appropriate city staff, as an additional element.
- To deliver this project, the City will contract with Forterra and Global to Local. Forterra has expertise in community engagement project management and event coordination. City staff will learn these approaches and strategies during the two year pilot project, so that we can deliver these services directly to the community in future years. Global to Local will manage and support the community liaisons to ensure their success in the field.
- Each project will conclude with a wrap up community meeting to celebrate the in-depth input received, hold additional discussions and build relationships with the community, Council and staff.

Community Gardens/Food Forests

- The City Parks & Recreation Department has received notice of a two-year, \$122,500 grant award through King County Public Health. In year one the grant would focus on urban agriculture including developing a prioritization process for site selections for food forests/community gardens, model policy and code development and design standards.
- There is also \$65,000 in the 2015-2016 city capital budget for actually building a garden or food forest and the design of new fire station 45 on South 200th Street includes edible landscaping (trees and low-growing plants that produce fruit, vegetables) that would be maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department.
- If the Committee is interested, the Parks & Recreation Department would like to come report out to you and get your input as the planning work proceeds. There could be an opportunity there for you to provide some even stronger support for this effort.

Code Compliance

- The Community and Economic Development Department is implementing a significant change in the Code Compliance program in 2015. Following the City Council's Working Group recommendations from last summer, the Council authorized two changes in the 2015-2016 budget. The first is the conversion of the vacant Code Enforcement Officer into second Code Compliance Program Coordinator position. The Council also added a

half-time Admin Assistant which will allow the two Coordinators to spend more time on community outreach and in the field. Both coordinators will also be active in complaint-response code enforcement.

- These changes reflect the philosophy of the Council and staff towards community-based outreach and education leading traditional complaint-response code enforcement.
- To further support this change, program administration will transfer from Building Services to the Planning Division in January. The public outreach and education efforts of the program more closely aligned with typical planning processes for engaging the public. The Planning Division Manager also has previous experience supervising code compliance programs at three other Puget Sound jurisdictions.
- By the end of February, the new Code Compliance Program Coordinator and Admin Assistant should be recruited, selected and working on staff.

Community Cooking Class—Nibret and Matthew