



City of Tacoma Central Neighborhood Council (CNC) Meeting Minutes- June 2026

Tacoma Nature Center
1919 South Tyler Street Tacoma, WA 98405

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 861 6014 6388

Passcode: 98405

Your neighborhood. Your voice. Join the Central Neighborhood Council and help build a stronger Central Tacoma. Board Members Needed Now!

Date: June 4, 2026

Meeting Start Time: 7:01pm

Board Director Attendance: Neal Sartain (Interim Chair), Ramie Pierce (Interim Secretary, Interim Vice-Chair), Mitch Williams, Jen Lacy (Absent) and Shawn Cole (Absent)

Liaison Attendance:

Felicia Cross, WA Office of Independent Investigations, online
Joe Franco, Special Assistant to the Public Works Director, in-person
Daniel Key, City Manager's Office, in-person
Corey Newton, City Engineer & Assistant Director of Public Works, in-person

1. 7:01pm Call to Order & Housekeeping

- Council board Introduction and call for new members
- Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 3 Ays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
- Treasurer's Report:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$4,374.87 | |
| 5/14/26 Hilltop Street Fair | -\$50.00 | |
| Ending Balance | \$4,324.57 | |
| Upcoming Expenses | | <u>Porchfest</u> - \$600 |

- Reminder No July Meeting and August meeting location TBD

2. 7:06 pm Presentation: Irina Rasputnis, Tacoma Porchfest

- Posters are available for hanging, Fungi theme. Contact **CNC** or Porchfest if interested in some.
- The event is more organized this year with a new graphic designer

- Two benefit shows June 6 and June 27 (see flyer or [webpage](#)), Free (fundraiser portion is the beverages, do drink up and responsibly!)
- Partnering with TPL for [Tape Loop Workshops](#) (they mean cassette tapes)...2 workshops at the Main branch and one at Wheelock Library Age: Teens and up.
- Main events are Saturday, July 18 (on the South side of 6th Ave) & Sunday, July 19th (North side of 6th Ave). Parade is bigger this year through the neighborhood (not on 6th Ave), at about 3-4 pm on Saturday check website for details closer to the event. You are invited to join the parade.
- Questions/Comments:
 - Q/C: Is the funding from Tacoma Arts Live or COT Arts? A: No-one small grant from Tacoma Events grants, Central and North have helped paid for liability insurance... 1-2 week notice for Tacoma Creates Grant.
 - Q/C: How many groups/bands? A: Over 300, no that's not a typo. Three Hundred!
 - Q/C: Is it Ok to tip bands? A: Yes. Make sure to purchase merch from bands with business license. Most bands are paid although about 15% donate their time and BIPOC bands receive a larger payment.
 - Q/C: Volunteer ops available? A: Yes. Go to [website](#), click volunteer.

3. Liaison Reports

7:26 pm Daniel Key, Director of the IT Department, representing the City Manager's Office, dkey@tacoma.gov, (253) 382-2660

- Standing City Council Committees:
 - Infrastructure, Planning & Sustainability Committee, *meets 4:30pm, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the 747 Market Street, Room (Tacoma Municipal Building, St Helen's side entrance for 2nd Floor).*
 - Upcoming meeting topics: June 10, 2026 - Planning Commission Interviews, Parking Citation Fine Structure and Proposed Gault property acquisition June 24, 2026 - South Tacoma Tree Canopy Enhancement; July 8, 2026 - Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Gas Utilization Facility Update; City Right-of-Way Design Manual Update July 22, 2026 - Urban Forestry Priority Action Plan Update; Stormwater Discharge Permit on Tribal Land and Stormwater Comprehensive Plan Update
 - Economic Development Committee, *meets 10 am, 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays at the 747 Market Street, Room (Tacoma Municipal Building, St Helen's side entrance for 2nd Floor).*
 - Upcoming meeting topics: June 30th - Tacoma Minimum Wage, June 24, 2026 - South Tacoma Tree Canopy Enhancement; July 8, 2026 - Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Gas Utilization Facility Update; City Right-of-Way Design Manual Update July 22, 2026 - Urban Forestry Priority Action Plan Update; Stormwater Discharge Permit on Tribal Land and Stormwater Comprehensive Plan Update
- Council Study Session, *every Tuesday, at 12 pm, 747 Market Street, 1st Floor.*
 - June 9th- General Fund Financial Forecast
 - June 30th-Middle Housing Permitting Program Update
- City Council, *every Tuesday, 5 pm, 747 Market Street, 1st Floor.*

- June 9th, 2nd reading to amend Rule 9 of the Rules and Procedure of the Council relating to Public Comment & Community Forum
- Tidy Up Tacoma Summer 2026, focus on Gateways. Check Tidy Up Tacoma Stats and organize your own cleanup today, email litter@tacoma.gov for information about supplies and disposal.
- Office of the Mayor, Anders Ibsen, Public Hours 2x a month. To contact Mayor or request a meeting, (253) 591-5100.
- Puyallup All Together, World Cup Events with Puyallup Tribe. Parade on June 12th.



7:31 pm Mariesa Bus, representing Tacoma Public Library (TPL) (submitted via email and read aloud by Ramie Pierce)

- June is the start of Summer Reading! This year's program for all ages of readers starts on June 2 and ends on August 15. [Join online](#) or at any library!
- June is also Pride Month, which is also celebrated in July in Tacoma! Visit our [LGBTQIA+ Pride Month page](#) for book lists, events, and more.
- Thanks to a partnership with the American Heart Association called “Libraries with Heart,” TPL now offers blood pressure monitoring kits for check-out or in-branch use. Ask a staff member for more information on our [website](#).



7:33 pm Katt Merilo, Parks Tacoma (submitted via email and read aloud by Ramie Pierce)

Responses to May Questions:

- **Ocean Fest:** This was a Foss Waterway event and there are not current plans to partner/bring back this event under Parks Tacoma, but the expressed interest was relayed to the Events team.
- **Peck Phase 2:** Current construction start date is aiming for late summer/early fall 2026
- **Franklin Park Crosswalk on S 12th:** The team in coordination with COT is currently discussing crosswalk additions along S 12th, so stay tuned!
- **Stanley Questions:**
 - Trees: I have passed the concern along to the CPG team.
 - Partnership with TPS: Our project at Stanley will be distinct from any work that TPS has ongoing at the elementary school. The intent is to conduct community engagement and work together with the local community to create a high quality public space there.

June Updates:

- This weekend (June 6th & 7th) is the Point Defiance Flower & Garden Festival! Both free and ticketed opportunities are available - details can be found on [the event's page](#).
- The Park Board hosted a Public Hearing on May 18 to receive public comment on the proposed cuts to address the current budget shortfall. The next Board meeting will be on **June 8th**, where the budget amendment will be presented to the Board. The Board will then vote on the presented amendment at the board

meeting on **June 22**. More information on upcoming meetings, including links to watch virtually, [can be found on the Board webpage](#). More details about the proposed budgetary changes as they are announced [can be found on the Budget updates page](#).

- Tacoma Trails Challenge is open! A key Central area spot to complete challenges is the Nature Center for guided and independent walks. BINGO cards can be picked up at the Nature Center, HQ, and more. Details on the challenge [can be found on the website](#).
- Last chance to register for youth Baseball and Softball Leagues! Registration closes on June 5 for School-based recreation leagues and competitive leagues. For more information or to register, [Baseball and Softball Registration](#).



8:00 pm Email submitted During CNC Meeting from Dr. John Gaines, Community Relations Manager with Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU): jgaines1@tacoma.gov, (253) 502-4661

- *Water Supply Update:* Despite the statewide drought declaration, Tacoma Water is in a strong position heading into the summer months. The utility has proactively managed and stored water supplies and currently does not anticipate any water shortages this summer. As always, customers are encouraged to use water wisely, especially during peak summer demand periods.
- *Budget and Rates:* TPU is beginning work on its next biennial budget and rate package. Over the coming months, the Public Utility Board and City Council will review proposed investments and any associated rate adjustments needed to continue providing reliable utility services while balancing affordability for customers.
- *Customer Lobby Remodel:* Beginning June 15, TPU will start improvements to the customer lobby and atrium at the main administration building. The project is focused on improving safety, accessibility, customer experience, and energy efficiency. While portions of the entrance area may be impacted during construction, customer services will remain available throughout the project.



Post Meeting Email Submission from Nicole Wanner, Community Development Coordinator with Pierce Transit: nwanner@piercetransit.org or (253) 581-8030

- June is Ride Transit Month, and we have several activities coming up.
- Ride Transit to Market Day is Thursday, June 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Community members are encouraged to take their favorite Pierce Transit route to the Broadway Farmers Market in downtown Tacoma and win a prize for riding.
- Beginning June 12, Pierce Transit will launch the [fare-free Fan Zone Express](#) to help connect people to local World Cup celebrations and match watch events hosted in partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the City of Tacoma, and Pierce County.
- Anyone interested in the future of local transit to join our virtual Community Review session on Thursday, June 11, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about potential service enhancements, funding

considerations, and provide feedback on what's being explored for the future.
Online Registration is required: www.PierceTransit.org/more-transit/

4. 7:38 pm City of Tacoma Public Works Presentation: Connect Tacoma, Safe Streets & Sidwalks Levy

Corey Newton, City Engineer, Assistant Public Works Director: cnewton@tacoma.gov, (253)-591-5765 &

Joe Franco, Special Assistant to the Public Works Director: jfranco@tacoma.gov, (253) 532-1273

- City staff heard residents: All roadway users need to feel safe in the mode of transport they are using. No more streets only. More complete projects.
- *Proposed New Levy but it is a replacement of recently Expired Tacoma Street Initiative Funding and the focus on complete streets, not just pavement this time.*
- Better Neighborhood Streets - includes new street paving, pothole repairs, sidewalk improvements, traffic calming measures
- Safer Streets for Everyone - includes improved street surfaces, supporting freight and economic development, pothole repairs, safety enhancements, expanded transportation connections. Key arterials and busiest streets focus
- Improved Connections - includes safe routes to school, sidewalk repairs and new sidewalk links, ADA accessibility upgrades, new and improved trails, multimodal enhancements (walking, biking, rolling, transit)
- With Tacoma Street Initiative Funding: \$200 million was leveraged to gain an extra \$90 million in grant funding and \$30 million from partnerships (such as with developers) for a total of \$320 million invested in Tacoma's Streets.
- *Proposed Funding* is a combined total 1.5% earnings tax on utilities and a property tax of \$0.20/ \$1000 of property value
- Per month \$10.43 month for a \$507k home estimated, \$125.16 estimated annual cost to average individual household
- Questions/Comments
 - Q/C: Less pavement, even in alleys and how does this incorporate the Open Space goals? A: De-pave projects are happening around the City and Open Space Policy is one of many policies driving the complete street approach instead of the street-only approach.
 - Q/C: S 12th near intersection of Cedar-maybe consider traffic calming measures on S 12th, S 15th & Sprague, S 19th? A: Yes- safer streets for everyone.
 - Q/C: Maybe consider calling it something other than arterial. Heavy traffic maybe
 - Q/C: Pedestrians shouldn't have to press a walk signal at a 4 way stoplight intersection. Save \$ on some posts where it isn't absolutely necessary. More "efficient timing" for lights is efficient for cars and limits pedestrians crossing.
 - Q/C: Thanks for S 12th crosswalks, very effective. A: More of these are a intended to be installed, if the funding is renowned. Raised crosswalks too.
 - Q/C: Have All Way Walk crossing been considered, especially for Sprague/6th/ Division intersection?

- Q/C: Is permeable pavement being used-especially in sidewalks around trees where pavement widths limit space for planting? A: Yes. Additionally, other technologies are being implemented to increase root volume area under pavements also to minimize future infrastructure conflicts.

Mr. Franco reminded us there are openings on the Transportation Commission since we have so much interest in the subject. 5 positions open! Get yours now! (NOTE: Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office by noon on June 22, 2026)

5. 8:26 pm Discussion Hilltop Street Fair / PorchFest Booth-

Tabled for CNC Board to discuss internally due to time constraints.

6. 8:27 pm Questions, Comments, Concerns, Suggestions?

7. 8:30 pm Meeting Adjourned



We Need Board Members!

Do you care about the future of Tacoma's Central Neighborhood? Join your Neighborhood Council and help shape the community you call home. Whether you're passionate about public safety, parks, housing, local businesses, or *simply connecting with neighbors, your voice matters*. The CNC is looking for folks who want to make a difference by serving on the board and helping guide neighborhood priorities. No special experience is required—just a commitment to community and a desire to get involved. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected Central Tacoma.

- To make corrections or have comments/questions, etc. please email us at TacomaCNC@gmail.com or visit our [website](#).



And if you've read this far, please enjoy the following:

"If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.

...

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

– Excerpted from “If There Is No struggle, There Is No Progress” a speech delivered by Frederick Douglass, 1857 regarding the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in British West Indies