



Downtown Business | Downtown Life

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
(Unapproved draft)

**Welcome and Introductions** – Whitney Rhodes

**President's Report** – Tacoma+ is in the proofing stage and goes to the printer next week! This project has been a great collaboration and will be available next month! The Spanish Steps are under construction! UWT – the Joy Building is underway!

**VP's Reports** – North – Art & Wine Walk, Stadium District – October 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$25 purchase ahead of time, \$35 at the door. Dollars donated to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital!

**Chelsea Levy, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber/BIA - TPD** – Great job! Another tagger has been caught! There have been a series of car prowls/smash & grabs. Don't leave your valuable items in your vehicle! **Parking** – September 20 is the go live date! Forty machines are in and will be installed by September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Parking task Force is relying on the merchants to be program ambassadors – your message is key! The message is there will always be a place for customers to park! Note: Money from the parking meters stays in the parking system! Contact Chelsea, David Carr or [downtownparking.com](http://downtownparking.com) with questions. **TacomaACTS** - Sprouted from the Creative Cities initiative and the City of Tacoma's Green Ribbon Task Force, recommendations to formulate TacomaACTS (Alliance for Clean Technology and Sustainability) emerged. The goal is to create a voluntary pact among Pierce county employers to take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to work together to help meet the community-wide goal of creating a vibrant sustainable economy. Stephanie Gowans with the Chamber is the new TacomaACTS manager. Meeting September 29, 11-1 at the Chamber to discuss: Making the Case for Retrofits

**BIA/TPD Safety Report:** No major issues. If you have a problem area or question – email Rob at [rjepson@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:rjepson@cityoftacoma.org).

**Transit, D to M Street Update – Rachel Wilch, Community Outreach Coordinator, Link Light Rail Department-** Contractor authorized – Mid Mountain. Project to begin mid September. There will be an open house mid to early October to look at the plans and answer questions. Check out the website for updates – [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org).

**Advocacy Priorities with Tacoma City Manager, Eric Anderson** – The biannual budget will be presented to City Council on October 1, and it doesn't look great. There is a proposed \$16 million in cuts, and over \$40 million of reserves have already been used in the last two years. The plan is based on a four year recession – based on speculation and with national and regional forecast. A few things have to be done! We have to take \$40 million of reserves and turn them into cuts. Also, add \$20 to 30 million more in expenditure cuts to balance the budget, avoiding layoffs and service reductions and not adding any new taxes. They are working very hard to meet all three of these guideline. There is an effort to keep capacity on positions. Right now there are 123 vacant positions. One hundred of those positions will be eliminated, so no layoffs. Those \$100 jobs represent approximately \$10 million over the next two years. Things can be done better and cheaper. Pacific Avenue - \$2.3 million in federal money has been secured due to efforts of Congressman Dicks. The city will match those funds to work on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and Hood Street to above the university streetscape. The Tacoma Art Museum and UWT are stakeholders who have ideas and want to be involved. The Goal: Get the project underway by late 2011. Way finding included. Currently there is \$400,000 in the budget (proposed) for way finding. Commerce Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets and the Winthrop redevelopment are also in the plan. Resources are very limited! We need to work together to make this happen. A great example of the community working together is the parking program. Businesses and citizens worked together to make a difference in downtown!

**Questions for the City Manager**

Flag for the Port of Tacoma – Rotary is willing to help pay? **Will look into Pacific Avenue Maintenance? Streetscapes, not reconstruction on Pacific Avenue.**

Other streets? **Right now \$2 million/year is available and it isn't enough.**

Russell Building Vacancy? No immediate companies to fill

5, 10, 15, 20 year vision – Dome to Stadium? **Yes – there is a vision, but not of one thing. We see a series of districts with growth and that integrate with each other. We want to keep the character of individual parts of the city, but to have character as a whole.**

Lights? **No one is working on this right now.**

Sound Transit/Lakewood Project? **It is moving forward**

**Good of the Order**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00AM. Thank you to the BCPA for the used of the Pantages and First Citizens Bank for coffee.

**Join us at 8:00am October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Pantages!**