

**DRAFT** Minutes  
Neighborhood Advisory Commission  
January 4, 2023



Draft minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, Lane Carraway, Gabe Hagen

**City Staff:** Richard Adkins, Urban Forester; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

**Guests:** Dominik Flores

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Moulton Belec

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call**

**Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, Lane Carraway, Gabe Hagen

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and approval of meeting minutes: Dec. 7, 2022 NAC Meeting**

**Motion:** Commissioner Wells made a motion to approve the Dec. 7 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Vice Chair Stern seconded the motion

**Result:** Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of 10-0

**Commission Member Ayes:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, Lane Carraway, Gabe Hagen

**Agenda Item 5 – Welcome and Introduction of New Members**

- Chair Moulton Belec welcomed new members and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves and share a Tempe specific New Year's resolution.
- Commissioner Melcher lives in 85282 in the Hollis Park neighborhood and would like to get to know more neighbors.

- Commissioner Kozel lives in 85281 in the Holdeman neighborhood and has not been down Mill Ave. recently, would like to visit.
- Vice Chair Stern lives in 85282 in the Dromedary neighborhood and would like to hike A Mountain 40 times.
- Chair Moulton Belec lives in 85282 near College and Southern and would like to check out more dog parks.
- Commissioner Carter lives in 85283 in the Dava Lakeshore neighborhood and would like to hike A Mountain for the first time.
- Commissioner Wells lives in 85281 in the Borden Homes neighborhood and would like to try new Tempe establishments.
- Commissioner Granillo lives in 85282 in the Meyer Park neighborhood and would like to get the neighborhood back together for meetings
- Commissioner Puffer lives in 85283 in the Oasis neighborhood and resolves to not make any resolutions.
- Commissioner Fields lives in 85288 near Loop 202 and Scottsdale and would like to get back to the gym and walk around Town Lake more.
- Commissioner Wall lives in 85281 in the Maple Ash neighborhood and would like to run around more parks in Tempe.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

At the December meeting, Vice Chair Stern was nominated as a candidate for Chair. There were no additional nominations.

**Motion:** Commissioner Wells made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Stern as chair

**Second:** Commissioner Carter seconded the motion

**Result:** Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 10-0

**Commission Member Ayes:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, Lane Carraway, Gabe Hagen

**Motion:** Commissioner Wells made a motion to nominate Commissioner Hagen as vice chair

**Second:** Commissioner Carter

**Result:** Motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 10-0

**Commission Member Ayes:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, Lane Carraway, Gabe Hagen

Chair Stern thanked past Chair Moulton Belec for her leadership that set the commission on the right direction and made it more meaningful.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Overview and Discussion of Tempe’s Urban Forest**

Richard Adkins, the city’s urban forester gave an overview of the city’s Urban Forest program. City Council’s performance measure 4.11 is to achieve a citywide 25% tree and shade canopy by 2040. Richard’s charge is not only trees on city-maintained property but outreach to neighborhoods, individuals and private property that need help and technical assistance. He also works closely with contractors, non-profit organizations and other city departments to help and grow the urban forest.

The city's inventory of trees is 28,500 with 18,500 trees located in preserves and facilities and 10,000 in city right-of-way and trails representing 100 species and varieties adding up to a \$58,000,000 value. The city currently has an 11.4% tree canopy cover and is planting an average of 1,000 trees per year.

The community can explore an interactive dashboard of the tree inventory at [urbanforestry.tempe.gov](http://urbanforestry.tempe.gov).

Commissioners asked the following questions.

Q: Are there requirements from developments that you have to plant trees, engage with the urban forestry office?

A: There are shade % requirements and trees required a certain number of feet along the street. Different requirements depending on type of development. Work needs to be done on enforcement of policy.

Q: Who does enforcement?

A: Code compliance has citation ability and works together with Richard, but there's a gap.

Q: How much is it to plant a tree on average?

A: Residents will pay \$80-\$100 for a 15-inch box tree and \$150 for a 24-inch box tree plus an additional \$150 to \$200 to plant if using a landscaper. The city tries to plant 24-inch box, larger tree. The city's cost on average is \$500, which includes the cost for irrigation and initial maintenance. Part of an urban forestry strategy is to maintain the trees you have.

Q: Does the goal of a 25% tree canopy conflict with conserving water and preserving trees?

A: They are not opposing goals as trees can help save water. Trees need more water the first few years, but can survive afterwards on average rainfall. Species choice and water management is key.

Q: Do you have a legacy project where residents can donate money to plant a tree at a park or other public access?

A: The city has programs to fund the planting of trees, including in memorium. Each individual program has different criteria.

- Cost Match Tree Program information at [tempe.gov/tempetrees](http://tempe.gov/tempetrees)
- Living Tree Donation Program information at [tempe.gov/government/community-services/living-tree-program#](http://tempe.gov/government/community-services/living-tree-program#)
- TreeBate Program through Water Conservation at [tempe.gov/government/municipal-utilities/water/water-conservation/rebates/treebate#](http://tempe.gov/government/municipal-utilities/water/water-conservation/rebates/treebate#)
- Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grants at [tempe.gov/neighborhoodgrants](http://tempe.gov/neighborhoodgrants)

Q: Is there a requirement where a tree gets placed?

A: No, just work on proper placement to bring benefit and value to homeowner.

Q: Do you talk about roots? Placement and tree type can destroy sewer line. Electrical lines in alley?

A: Yes, t's all a part of it to advise appropriately. Electrical lines that go through alley. Yes.

Q: Do you create areas of opportunities? Maps of areas where you can plant trees?

A: Yes for city property, not on private property.

Q: Does the city have resources for homeowners with large trees that die or are damaged?

A: No, the city has a landscaper on contract that can provide discounted rates, but is not a large tree remover. It is being explored.

Q: Does the urban forestry office have a relationship with ASU?

A: Yes, work and consult with staff on campus and work with professors that do heat and shade studies.

Q: How is the program integrated with APS and SRP tree programs?

A: It's not integrated, separate program. SRP uses city facilities to donate trees and provide educational materials. The city worked with SRP 4 years ago on planting trees under utilities, but it's a program SRP moves around the state. Office works with APS on removal and replacement when trees get to big near utilities, more on removal with SRP. Goal is to maintain open power lines and grid. Work with Planning to make sure trees planted in correct place.

Q: Does city offer inspection on trees? Help identify if close to foundation, sewer lines, electrical lines, etc.

A: No, there are private companies that do that work for private property.

NAC can help support the Urban Forestry Program by spreading the word and helping to drive development policies. Have to grow together with green space and shade canopies. Richard was invited to table at the April 1 Neighborhood Celebration event.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – 2023 Neighborhood Celebration Event Updates**

Nominations for the various award categories are open and the forms are available at [tempe.gov/NeighborhoodCelebration](https://tempe.gov/NeighborhoodCelebration). Chair Stern reminded commissioners they are tasked with submitting a nomination or encouraging/supporting a nomination from others. SRP did confirm sponsorship again of the event. Closer to the event date, a sign-up sheet will be sent out for commissioners to volunteer.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Zip Code Vacancies Update**

Appointments were made at the Dec. 15, 2022 City Council meeting. The two remaining vacancies are on the City Council agenda meeting for Jan. 5, 2023.

#### **Agenda Item 10 - Parks and Streets Renaming Committee Update**

Commissioner Moulton Belec provided an update from the Parks and Streets Renaming Committee. The effort began after research historians found several parks and streets were named after KKK members. The committee was chaired by Andrew Ching, City Manager and was made up of representatives from the tribes, commissions and community members. There was a public process to nominate names. More information is available on the website [tempe.gov/renaming](https://tempe.gov/renaming).

The committee chose to follow a restorative process restorative and chose names that represent those most impacted by KKK. The following parks and streets names were recommend to City Council:

- Proposed name, Romo-Jones Street to replace West Laird Street
- Proposed name, Michelle Brooks-Totress for Redden Park
- Proposed name, Parque de Sotelo-Soza to replace Hudson Park
- Proposed name, Mary & Moses Green Park to replace Harelson Park
- Proposed name, Thomas Lane (for Maggie and Theodore Thomas) to replace Hudson Lane
- Proposed name, Ragsdale Street (for Lincoln J. Ragsdale) to replace East Laird Street

The committee also forwarded the following names to City Council for future consideration of naming future city facilities.

- Hohokimel (A'Odham word for "butterfly")
- San Pablo
- Okemah
- Obregon (for Pedro "Pete" Obregon)

The recommendations will be presented to Council at the Feb. 9 Work Study Session with a resolution scheduled for the March 2 Council meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 11 – Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050 Update**

The Circulation Chapter was discussed at the last Technical Advisory Group meeting. The next set of public meetings is scheduled for Jan. 19 with a virtual meeting at noon and an in-person meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and share the information.

#### **Agenda Item 12 – Proposed Future Agenda Items**

- Tempe Tomorrow: General Plan 2050 Presentation
- Neighborhood Award nominations rating process
- 2023 Neighborhood Celebration Event Update
- Pedestrian and bike safety presentation
- Vision Zero
- New park rules
- HRC – CEASE program, education re: human trafficking
- Reopening of Kyrene Reclamation water treatment plant on
- Joint meeting with Sustainability
- Issue of Homelessness

#### **Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Prepared by: Shauna Warner