

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
December 6, 2023



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) Meeting held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option along with virtual component option via Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Duane Washkowiak

(MEMBERS) Absent: Brandon Abrahams, Annette Fields, Stacy Novis, Nicholas Weller (Note: Nich resigned following October meeting due to work timeframe conflict)

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Keith Burke, Deputy City Manager

Guests: Brittney Wong, Holdeman NA resident

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Stern

Agenda Item 2 - Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 - Review and approval of meeting minutes: Nov. 1, 2023 NAC Meeting

Request made by Commissioner Granillo that the breakdown of the ages of ADU survey participants be inserted into the meeting minutes. This information was shared by Ryan Levesque verbally during his November presentation. Staff agreed to insert requested additional information.

Motion: Commissioner Carraway then made a motion to approve the Nov. 1, 2023 minutes as presented with the one addition noted.

Second: Commissioner Kozel seconded the motion

Result: Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of those present, 11 - 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Duane Washkowiak

Absent: Brandon Abrahams, Annette Fields, Stacy Novis, Nicholas Weller

Agenda Item 4 - Final Review and Approval of DRAFT 2023 Annual Report

Staff confirmed the December member attendance will be added and verified that there were no additional volunteering or collaborative activities members participated in individually to be added. There was brief discussion of the 2023 Annual Report and the formatting changes.

Motion: Vice Chair Hagen then made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Report as presented and with the December attendance figures.

Second: Commissioner Washkowiak seconded the motion

Result: The 2023 Annual Report was then approved by a unanimous vote of those present, 11 - 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher, Nancy Puffer, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Duane Washkowiak

Absent: Brandon Abrahams, Annette Fields, Stacy Novis, Nicholas Weller

Agenda Item 5 – 2024 Neighborhood Celebration Event Ideas and NAC members role in promotion and solicitation of Neighborhood Award nominations

Members reviewed and discussed the new universal Neighborhood Award nominations form which will go live on the Neighborhood Celebration website www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodcelebration soon with nominations being open from January 1, 2024 through February 15, 2024 for all awards categories.

Staff shared the many ways, including various publications and social media channels, that the call for nominations will be promoted. Public Information Officer Maegan Pardue has separate plans – both for the call for nominations outreach and the Neighborhood Celebration event outreach. As always, NAC member participation, communication and outreach will be essential. Staff will share event graphics once available later in December or in January. Printed materials will also be available at the January NAC meeting for taking to workplaces, local businesses, groups like the Kiwanis and events like Empty Bowls.

Staff confirmed there is periodic communication with staff liaisons for the participating commissions (Arts and Culture, Human Relations, Historic Preservation, Sustainability and Resilience) about call for nominations dates, encouraging nominations for all categories and attendance at the 2024 Neighborhood Celebration event. Email communication is also starting re: sponsorship, topical information/resources tablers and potential small business vendors.

Chair Stern expressed a desire to attend some Boards and Commission meetings in person to share information peer to peer about encouraging boards and commission member nominations, help with getting the word out and attendance at the Saturday, April 6 event. Staff agreed to help him locate the links for some upcoming meetings. Chair Stern added that a Neighborhood Celebration Working Group will be scheduled soon. Staff emphasized the need for feedback *sooner than later* for planning purposes about event music, food, giveaways (if any and budget permitting), honoree prizes and more.

Agenda Item 6 – Review of November 8, 2023 Neighborhood Services and NAC Community Building Workshop

Commissioners Moulton Belec and Carter attended along with Chair Stern and Vice Chair Hagen. Although attendance was light, all were new faces and the results were impactful. Two attendees submitted applications to fill NAC vacancies the next day and another reached out about activating a dormant neighborhood association. Members who attended expressed appreciation for the intimacy of the event, the robust discussions and information sharing, the casual and relaxed atmosphere and the flexibility staff exhibited quickly transitioning from the Open House approach to a roundtable.

Member suggestions included:

- Commissioner Carter suggested maybe a future workshop could be branded as a Mixer & Conversation. She added that Chair Stern's personal shares about the benefits of being in a neighborhood association resonated with her from knowing when a neighbor's dog is loose to hosting a drop in nachos party.

- Commissioner Moulton Belec noted that this event came closest to the speed dating concept she envisioned previously. She commented that members would want to ensure that any attendees can come and go as they please. Messaging could incorporate that as well.
- Wearing asking me about **topic** or B&C related buttons
- Maybe explore a collaboration like inviting a Council member to attend or sponsor a mixer or workshop? Keith Burke agreed to follow up.
- Requesting information about the nominations and the event be shared on a future City of Tempe podcast. Staff agreed to follow up with Kris Baxter/

Agenda Item 7 - February 7, 2024 Meeting - moving meeting date discussion and decision

Members briefly discussed the conflict with the Council Candidate Forum and the regular February NAC meeting date. There was agreement to move the NAC meeting from Wednesday, February 7 to Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

Members were also reminded again that the January meeting, the first of the New Year, was moved from Jan. 3 to Wed., January 10, 2024.

Agenda Item 8 - Recognition of outgoing members, Commissioners Moulton Belec and Weller

Chair Stern thanked Commissioner Moulton Belec emphasizing her accomplishments during her six-year tenure and how she had inspired him throughout her service - envisioning what NAC could be and helping successfully transition the Commission to a more engaged, active and impactful one. Members expressed their appreciation for both Hannah and Nich. Commissioner Moulton Belec thanked members for their willingness to take on the challenge, expressed her knowledge that the good work will continue and her pride that NAC has become a highly desirable commission to be on rather than a back-up plan. She reminded members to join the NAC Alumni FB group after their terms are up to stay connected.

Agenda Item 9 - Proposed Future Agenda Items

- Park Ranger program update, Alex Jovanovic/Deputy Community Services Director - Parks and Recreation
- Envision Center update - any needs or ability for NAC to help?
- Alley Clean Ups and neighborhood outreach, Keep Tempe Beautiful/Joe Forte
- Meyer Park/Rural Geneva/Hughes Acres meeting updates/Commissioner Granillo
- Care 7 Update - program growth and needs, impacts on neighbors (maybe an opportunity to combine with Park Rangers item?)

Agenda Item 10 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas