

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission March 7, 2016

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on March 7, 2016, at the Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano 2nd Floor Conference Room, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Isela Blanc, Jack Escobar, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Carol Shixue Hu.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Nancy Buell, Matt Korbeck, Scott Smas, James Wennlund

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager.

Guests Present: Arizona State University Students: ZhongXu Liu, Tengbo Yuan, Brent Nargren

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: February 3, 2016

The following two edits for the February 3 minutes were noted:

- Under Members Present, Kiyomi's last name (Kurooka) was missing
- Commissioner Hu's name should read Carol Shixue Hu

Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the February 3 minutes with the above two edits as noted, Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Neighborhood Award Nominations Group Review and Voting

Ten nominations total were received this year. Five were for Neighbor of the Year consideration and five were Property Beautification nominees. No Alley Upkeep nominations were received this cycle. Commissioners were reminded that nominations can come in from individuals as well as neighborhood or homeowners associations or groups and that in prior years all nominees are publicly recognized as award winners or honorable mentions and provided framed certificates and professional photographs are taken with Mayor and Council.

After a significant amount of discussion and initial votes tallied based on completed rater forms for each nomination, Commissioner Lesko made a motion that Darlene Justus be nominated as the Chuck Malpede Neighbor of the Year Award recipient which was seconded by Commissioner Adams and passed by a unanimous vote. Commissioner Adams then made a motion for Gary Roberts to be the Neighbor of the Year Award winner, seconded by Commissioner Munch and passed by a unanimous vote.

Commissioners noted that based on existing nomination criteria and rater forms, those nominees that are part of a network and nominated by a group typically have a more substantial nomination in terms of supporting documents and letters of support and fare better than those nominated by individuals. There was considerable additional dialogue regarding the importance of diversity in nominations, recognizing unsung and lesser known individuals as well as honoring those who give years of service and are recognized by other awards processes. Commissioners requested the nomination process and nomination and rater forms be placed on the April NAC meeting agenda for additional discussion. Commissioners expressed a desire to update some of the materials. The current rater form was created and passed by the commission in 2012.

Commissioners noted the Property Beautification Award requirement of two current photographs. In addition, a before picture is requested but not required and can be harder for nominators to secure. Commissioners discussed category nominees, looked over provided photos in their packets and as part of a powerpoint presentation and tallied votes. Commissioner Munch made a motion to recognize the Levy/Crawford Residence with a Property Beautification Award which was seconded by Commissioner Kooroka and approved unanimously by fellow commissioners. Commissioners chose not to award a golden shovel this year.

Agenda Item 5 – State of the Neighborhoods Awards & Workshop Update

Staff provided a brief update. Past sponsors include Whole Foods, SRP and Association Assistant. All have generously agreed to sponsor this year's State of the Neighborhoods event. The proposed giveaway item is likely going to be a thumb drive loaded with some topical, frequently requested materials. Commissioners suggested including information regarding some important but lesser known programs such as Thrive to Five and Feral Cats donation program.

Workshop session topics are being finalized. The kick off for the Character Area 3/Downtown Workshop has been confirmed along with a Code Compliance new initiatives session which will include a Tempe 311 and Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors overview. In addition, staff is working to coordinate a State Legislation Awareness and Activism workshop as well as looking into a Dementia Friendly America training session should the timing be appropriate.

Agenda Item 6 – NEW Development and Impacts recommendations for Mayor/Council discussion

This item was tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints.

Agenda Item 7 – Sign Code Reform Update

A business community focused outreach meeting regarding the Tempe Sign Regulations and Review Process was held March 2, 2016 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Library. Input is being sought about existing sign regulations, desired sign code changes or suggested improvements as well as feedback regarding any recent experiences. More information including the survey link is located

at www.tempe.gov/signs. After comments, general input and suggestions have been collected, community development staff will schedule a study session with council for further direction.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for March or Future Meeting

- Neighborhood Award nominations discussion – criteria, nomination forms, rating sheets
- Character Area 3/Downtown Update (kick off workshop preview?)
- New Development and Impacts recommendations for Mayor/Council discussion
- Sign Code Reform Update

Agenda Item 9 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager