

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 3, 2012

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on October 3, 2012 5:35 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Joe Agins, Nancy Buell, John Chester, Pete DeMott, Gary Johnson, Britney Scott Kaufman, Angela Lopez, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Russ Plieseis, Julie Ramsey, John Sanborn, Scott, Smas.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Ann Lynn DiDomenico, Britney Scott Kaufman, Joe Pospicil, Bill Wagner, Mike Wasko.

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences:

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Nancy Ryan, Community Development, Project Management Coordinator, 480-350-8096, nancy_ryan@tempe.gov

Guests Present:

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: September 5, 2012

Commissioner Chester made a motion to approve the September 5, 2012 minutes and Commissioner Agins seconded the motion. The motion passed with 11 votes and one abstention due to absence from the September meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – General Plan 2040 Community Working Group Update

Over the next year Tempe will take a fresh look at its General Plan, the overarching policy document for the City of Tempe. Nancy Ryan, Community Development, Project Management Coordinator, came to briefly describe the General Plan 2040 and the accompanying outreach process. The General Plan encompasses the community's vision for the future and is an expression of how the community wants to grow over the next 30 years.

The initial community meeting held on September 24 was and an Open House format. The meeting was well attended by community members and staff is currently compiling comments from that meeting along with online comments. The draft General Plan 2040 will be online as sections are written. In addition, there is a now a GP2040 video on the website and applicable maps will be placed online as well. The website is located at www.tempe.gov/GP2040.

Tempe is forming a Community Working Group as one means to ensure a broad and diverse representation of community engagement during development of the General Plan 2040. The Community Working Group will advise staff during the development of the General Plan. Nancy encouraged interested Neighborhood Advisory Commission members to submit an application for the Community Working Group by the October 15 deadline. Once appointed by Mayor and City Council, the group is anticipated to meet one time monthly for an evening meeting lasting approximately two hours. Specific dates and times have yet to be determined. As much as possible, the timing of the meetings will be set to avoid other known conflicts such as City Council meetings or other Board and Commission meetings.

Agenda Item 5 – Final Neighbor of the Year Application

Commission members examined the final application provided in the meeting packet. This final version reflects both the previous edits made as a result of commissioner feedback from the June Retreat as well as the September 5 meeting.

Elizabeth noted that due to the significantly earlier deadline for this year's nominations to be submitted, the nomination has already been placed online, a press release has been issued and the availability of the applications and encouragement to submit a nomination is being promoted in the October and November issues of Tempe Today, the water bill newsletter. In addition, staff will be using other outreach methods such as the Neighborhoods ListServe to promote neighborhood nominations for all categories. Commission members were encouraged to help get the word out.

There was brief discussion regarding the commission decision to add holiday decor to the description of eligible Property Beautification examples. Vice Chair McNamara noted that the use of the word holiday was intended in its broadest sense of the word and not specific to any one holiday.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Purpose, Benchmarking and Goals

There was significant discussion regarding the Commission purpose. The Commission mission statement appears on every agenda as follows:

“The Neighborhood Advisory Commission will advise the Mayor, Council and City Departments by proposing and promoting programs and policies that preserve or enhance our neighborhoods and encourage a sense of community.”

Vice Chair McNamara acknowledged the ongoing and considerable undercurrent of frustration and confusion. She encouraged each member to share their observations and feelings regarding the commission mission, purpose, goals and expectations with the group.

Comments and concerns included:

Need for further and more specific/detailed clarification regarding the mission

Is this commission doing what the mission says?

Time spent on programs/projects such as the Neighborhood Awards and Code Compliance

Expectations for the commission and expectations of the commission

Commission subcommittees.

Meeting attendance and quorums

Level of Council direction and involvement

Commission relevance/credibility

Property conditions throughout the City of Tempe

Code compliance activity

Number of and types of development projects being considered by Council

Desire for commission to take a proactive approach on recommendations to Council

Member attendance and accountability

Number and variety of proposed transportation projects
CIP Budget timeframes and process for decision making
Communication amongst city staff when policies or projects are in the early stages of being proposed and discussed

Agenda Item 7 – The Green at Hayden Flour Mill (Park Clean Up Activity)

Elizabeth reminded members of the recent adoption of the Flour Mill Park by the Commission. The first clean up is scheduled for Saturday, November 3. The start time is anticipated to be 8 a.m. Chair Wasko will follow up to confirm. Participating members need only bring water and gloves. Likely tasks will be picking up trash, raking and moderate trimming should anything need it. Vice Chair McNamara asked that a save the date reminder be sent out this week with a follow up email from Chair Wasko later confirming meeting time.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Agenda Items for November 7, 2012

- Proposed Solid Waste Ordinance Amendments Update/Report
- Neighborhood Grants Program Overview
- Commission Purpose, Benchmarking and Goals

Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist