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**Minutes  
Neighborhood Advisory Commission  
May 7, 2014**

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**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on May 7, 2014 5:37 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Nancy Buell, Arlene Chin, Cole Hickman, Nancy Lesko, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Jon Mulford, Russ Plieseis, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas, Bill Wagner, Christopher Ware.

**(MEMBERS) Excused Absences:** Karen Adams, Kiyomi Kurooka, Bill Munch, Joaquin Rios

**City Staff Present:** Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager, Robert Yabes, Public Works, 480-350-2734, robert\_yabes@tempe.gov

**Guests Present:** None.

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: April 2, 2014**

Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the April 2, 2014 minutes and Commissioner Plieseis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – Transportation Master Plan Update and Discussion**

Robert Yabes, Public Works, Principal Planner and Project Manager for the Tempe Transportation Master Plan began by noting that he was the Project Manager for the 2003 Comprehensive Transportation Plan. This Plan was since updated in 2008 to address the completion of light rail and establish stronger link between transportation and land use, including the development of transit oriented strategies.

The current charge is to create a multi-modal Transportation Master Plan further encouraging how we live and how we move around Tempe. Factors like the desire of many seniors to age in place and remain in their own homes for as long as possible as well as the wish of many younger residents to have closer, easier access to work, home, school and activity nodes will all be

considered.

Transportation project funding sources vary and can include federal grant funding, local and regional funds, sales tax, improvement districts and private contributions. Most of the requests for transportation projects start with residents.

Commissioners had the following comments and questions:

- Are Rural and Broadway and Rural and Southern the intersections with the highest crash rates? What is planned for those? Robert noted that as part of the Broadway Rd. project one lane of traffic will be removed between Mill and Rural.
- Have safety improvements been documented at those intersections that have lagging left turns? They seem to be better.
- Do bike lane markings have to be white? Color options to highlight bike lanes are used in cities like Madison, Wisconsin and Portland, Oregon and will be explored here as well but would require system-wide integration.
- How is short term defined? Identified projects with cost estimates that can happen by 2020.
- Will the Transportation Master Plan consider all of the Character Areas Planning Process input such as the ability to get places on foot or by bike within 20 minutes? Yes, both efforts are in concert and involved staff is working collaboratively. An example would be that some subdivisions in South Tempe have no access except via major arterials, installation of card activated gates might allow for travel through neighborhoods and more direct routes encouraging addition walking and biking.
- Due to the auto-centric construction and nature of the Tempe community including all of the pass thru traffic from our neighboring cities, it seems like it will be difficult to address and re-work how people move around.
- How about using parking meters? Parking meters do slow traffic, narrow the look of a street and provide a funding source.
- What are the next steps? Staff provided commissioners a flyer with May and August 2014 meetings noted. In addition, comments can be provided online at [www.tempe.gov/transportationplan](http://www.tempe.gov/transportationplan) or by calling 480-350-4311.
- Traffic speeds and volumes make walking along major arterials and trying to cross them feel unsafe. Need to create a safe environment for all residents to walk or bike.
- Concern was expressed regarding jaywalking across Mill Ave. in the area just south of 10th St., from Gammage over to Chipotle.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – 2014 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Update**

Commissioners present at the event commented they liked the venue's central location and ample parking. Staff noted that this year's event attendance topped 150, and more attendees than usual stayed to take in a workshop. All workshops were well attended and the Character Areas workshops were well received. Commissioners suggested next year's workshops include additional Character Areas and an Animal Issues workshop.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Open Meeting Law**

Chair Miller requested this item be on the meeting agenda. He commented that NAC members have repeatedly asked for a presentation from City Attorney and/or City Clerk. He inquired if this still remains a priority for the group. Members indicated some confusion over how to disseminate

information to others, when permissible to identify as a NAC member and how best to understand and serve their roles. The suggestion was made for a presentation with specific case examples of do's and don'ts vs. hypothetical scenarios. Members also noted they are an advisory body not a decision making body and likely any errors made would be accidental and unintentional.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Flood Irrigation Update**

No update provided due to meeting time constraints.

#### **Proposed Agenda Items for June 7 Retreat (if quorum achieved) or Future Meeting**

Staff and commissioners discussed a June 7 Retreat. As there was some concern regarding making quorum, commissioners decided to meet on Wednesday, June 4 as usual, take the month of July off and plan for an August Retreat. A Character Areas update was suggested as an agenda item for the June meeting.

Currently, there are 16 members of the commission and 11 must be present for a quorum. The quorum will change to eight once City Council approves the membership change to 15. Commissioners inquired if City Council can base quorum on number of seated members rather than total number of commissioners since oftentimes there are openings. Staff agreed to pass along the suggestion.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager