

## Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission June 3, 2015

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on June 3, 2015 5:30 - 7:10 p.m., at 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 31 East 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Cole Hickman, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Joaquin Rios, Christopher Ware.

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Scott Smas

**City Staff Present:** John Southard, Community Development, Senior Planner/Historic Preservation Officer, [john\\_southard@tempe.gov](mailto:john_southard@tempe.gov)/480-350-8870; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director

**Guests Present:** Sid Frede, Camelot Village Neighborhood Association Chair and Tempe Neighborhoods Together Member, Councilmember Kolby Granville

### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

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

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

Sid Frede, Camelot Village Neighborhood Association Chair and Tempe Neighborhoods Together Member introduced himself and briefly described the Tempe Neighborhoods Together organization's mission and current priorities they are working on. These current priorities include: Code Compliance and Neighborhood Parks. Sid requested the opportunity to come to a future meeting with a presentation, emphasizing neighborhood parks relationship to neighborhoods and the importance of funding them.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: April 1, 2015**

Vice Chair Munch made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4 – Historic Preservation Office and Commission Overview** - He narrated a presentation and provided commissioners handouts covering a range of topics. Some of the presentation highlights included:

- Differences between Designation and Classification

- Historic Designation creates a zoning overlay which allows for Historic Preservation Office / Commission jurisdiction over proposed alterations, redevelopment, etc.
- The two classifications available for recognition of Tempe's historic and cultural resources are Archaeologically Sensitive and Historic Eligible, each allows for less HPO / HPC oversight than full designation.
- Distinctions between Local versus National Historic Designation
- National Preservation Act of 1966 and National Register listing. National Register listing is honorific and does not create a local zoning overlay or trigger HPO / HPC review of proposals to alter, redevelop, demolish, etc.
- When Historic Overlay Zoning is in place and applied to a parcel (individual properties or historic districts), the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) or the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) must review proposed alterations, etc.
- A maximum 6-month stay of demolition can be imposed which allows for a potential compromise to make every effort to harness all resources to allow property to remain historic.
- Discussion of benefits of local Designation.
- The Historic Preservation Commission has nine members who take information from staff, review it and confer with applicants which in many cases results in a recommendation to Development Review Commission (DRC).
- Overview of the types of changes to designated properties that would trigger review.

Commissioners inquired how Planning and Economic Development relate to and/or include historic preservation. John emphasized that the direction outlined in General Plan 2040, the Character Areas planning process, the City's sustainability initiatives, Adaptive Reuse program, and many other efforts are all part of the mix. He is working to have historic preservation be more fully integrated and actively considered in the Community Development planning processes and other City operations. He explained that there are lots of misconceptions surrounding historic preservation and it's important to educate and build awareness of what it is and is not.

Staff and commissioners agreed to continue working together to identify a joint opportunity for both commissions to meet together to discuss some of their shared interests and concerns and potential opportunities for collaborative efforts. The Historic Preservation Commission has nine members who take information from staff, review it and confer with applicants which in many cases results in a recommendation to Development Review Commission (DRC).

#### **Agenda Item 5– 2015 State of the Neighborhoods/Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Wrap Up**

Staff reviewed results of the online survey emailed out to all event attendees who provided their email address and a total of thirty surveys were completed. Survey results indicated the majority of respondents who took the survey liked the venues (Tempe History Museum and Library Community Rooms), enjoyed the varied speakers and appreciated their expertise and the information and materials they provided (note: the majority of survey respondents attended one of the two offered Character Areas workshops), and found the 1.5 hour workshop length just about right.

Respondents had a variety of ideas for future workshops, some of the most popular listed below in alphabetical order include:

- Animal Issues
- ASU, the City and neighborhoods working together
- Community Building
- Community Gardens
- Dealing with Difficult People
- Going green in your neighborhood
- Local businesses as neighbors

Feedback from each of the Character Areas workshops revealed participants liked having the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow Tempe neighbors, speakers and staff and to work together to identify likes and dislikes in their neighborhood areas. The Q and A portion of every workshop session, including both the Pallet Gardening demonstration and the HOA and NA leaders' panel, was strongly praised. All presenters were also recognized for their patience and poise when fielding multiple and varied comments and questions.

Commissioner feedback about the event included:

- Need to ensure all award winner names are pronounced correctly. Staff agreed and will endeavor to obtain and provide phonetic pronunciation whenever possible to do so.
- It's helpful to know which NA or HOA (if applicable) the nominees live in. (Staff noted that this information is sometimes provided in the application when it is submitted by a NA or HOA but those applications that are from an individual(s) often do not contain this info.)
- Kudos to staff for handling some difficult people – well done!
- Praise for how the Apache Character Area and Character Area 5 workshop presentations and table topic feedback opportunities were handled was also offered by several commissioners.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – NAC Retreat Planning (August 22, 2015)**

Commissioners were advised that the Neighborhood Advisory Commission annual retreat has been confirmed for Saturday, August 22, 2015 from 8 am to 11 am at the Tempe History Museum in the community room. All commissioners were reminded to save the date on their calendars. Commissioners agreed to the following agenda items for the retreat: 1) Planned Development Impacts (including special events impacts, parking and traffic); 2) Neighborhoods and Parks (i.e. neighborhood parks rather than community parks) and 3) NAC Commission Member Roles and Responsibilities

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Streetcar Overview and Update**

In light of meeting time constraints, staff provided an abbreviated status update on the streetcar project. The Tempe Streetcar project continues to move forward, with a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to be ready soon for public review and input. The draft EA evaluates the potential impacts to the neighboring environment, including cultural and archaeological resources, and documents the project's purpose and need.

The approved streetcar route travels east-west on Rio Salado Parkway between the Marina Heights development (just west of Rural Road) and Mill Avenue; with a downtown one-directional loop northbound on Mill Avenue and southbound on Ash Avenue between Rio Salado Parkway and University Drive; north-south on Mill Avenue between University Drive and Apache Boulevard; and east-west on Apache between Mill Avenue and Dorsey Lane. Commissioners can visit [www.valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar](http://www.valleymetro.org/tempestreetcar) for more information.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Orbit Saturn Update**

A brief Orbit Saturn update was provided. Input is still being gathered on the four route options. Neighborhood Service staff is working with Transportation staff to arrange for them to come to the September NAC meeting if possible with the preferred route based on the public input process and to provide for commissioner feedback specific to that preferred route at that time.

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Tempe Arts Plan Update**

Commissioners were reminded of the Tempe Arts Plan public meeting for the review of the Draft Plan coming up on June 16 at 5:30 pm at Tempe Center for the Arts. Staff had previously forwarded out the invitation and will email out the link to the draft plan once it is released. Commissioner Kurooka, a member of the Arts Commission, offered that NAC commissioners are welcome to attend the June 17 meeting of the Municipal Arts Commission when they will be discussing commission scope and commissioner roles and responsibilities among other things.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Character Areas Update**

See also Agenda Item 5. The next public meetings for each Character Area are coming up in August. Recent Character Areas outreach efforts for Apache Character Area and Character Area 5 have included the first ever “Meet Ups” opportunities which were very well received and diversely attended by members of the public ranging from mothers of young children to students, seniors and small business owners.

#### **Proposed Agenda Items for August Retreat**

For August Retreat:

- Planned Development Impacts (including special events impacts, parking and traffic)
- Neighborhoods and Parks (i.e. neighborhood parks rather than community parks)
- NAC Commission Member Roles and Responsibilities

#### **For September or Future Meeting:**

- Park Renovations
- Historic Commission joint gathering

#### **Agenda Item 8 –Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist