
Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission November 4, 2015

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on November 4, 2015 from 5:30-6:55 p.m., at 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 31 East 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Cole Hickman, Josephine McNamara, Christopher Ware

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

Guests Present: Sid Frede and Judy Tapscott, Tempe Neighborhoods Together (TNT), rjtapscott@hotmail.com, 480-263-0688 or Sid Frede, sid.frede@cox.net, 602-692-2301

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Darlene Tussing, Chair of East Rio Neighborhood Association, spoke to commission members regarding her concerns about the parks prioritization process being focused on existing assets. She requested that all parks be “brought up to speed” prior to addressing assets at parks that have already had some attention receiving additional attention. She expressed concern that the prioritization process further creates and perpetuates inequity.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: October 7, 2015

Commissioner Korbeck made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Buell seconded the motion and it passed with three abstentions from Commissioners Munch, Smas and Ramsey due to absence from the October meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Park Renovations Discussion with Tempe Neighborhoods Together (TNT) Representatives

Judy Tapscott, Chair of Alta Mira Neighborhood Association and Sid Frede, Chair of Camelot Village Neighborhood Association, spoke to commission members about their involvement in Tempe Neighborhoods Together (TNT). TNT, founded in 2013, is an independent group made up of Neighborhood and Homeowner Association leaders dedicated to information sharing and the

identification of collective, common issues which can then be communicated to City Council and staff. Recent group efforts have been focused on strengthening code compliance, increasing awareness of the importance of neighborhood parks - their needs and funding challenges, adherence to and implementation of the Character Areas plans and supporting fellow associations to become stronger and more active.

Judy and Sid emphasized that the parks reinvestment target of \$32 Million every five years along with additional monies sourced from city owned property sales and Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) development funds will address public health and safety issues and existing assets within parks (rather than entire parks) only. This attention will help to “stop the bleeding” but seeking additional funding for parks remains an ongoing effort.

Parks compete for funding in the Capital Improvements Projects budget along with streets, lighting, facilities, equipment, etc. The budget is adopted as a five year plan with only the first year being funded. Commissioners were encouraged to read the Mayor/Council annual retreat minutes to learn more about the entire budget discussion and the varied, competing interests. The Parks Board has also had extensive discussion regarding these issues. Commissioners indicated their interest in continuing this discussion as TNT works to identify potential additional parks funding sources such as grants outside the city, neighborhood grants, bonds and consideration of a quality of life tax. Sid added that if residents want quality amenities, they should be prepared to pay for them.

Commissioner Munch moved and Commissioner Lesko seconded the following motion that was then approved unanimously: that a bond was passed by the voters several years ago prioritizing improvements to city of Tempe parks, and authorizing the City to utilize its bonding authority to fund said improvements. In addition, the Commission believes that improvements to City Parks remain a strong community priority and one that has not been implemented. Although the intent of the voters in the bond election referenced has not been carried out due to a variety of circumstances including the economic downturn and subsequent gradual recovery and the presence of a variety of competing interests, there needs to be a commitment made to follow through on this undertaking and to identify a means to do so. Therefore, the Commission hereby requests that Mayor and City Council take all necessary steps to secure funding sufficient to carry out significant and meaningful improvements to the City’s parks and to implement the will of the voters as reflected in their passage of the Parks Improvement bond authorization.

Agenda Item 5 – 2016 Neighbor of the Year Application and Process Discussion

The date for the 2016 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshop event has been set for Saturday, April 16, 2016. The Tempe History Museum community room will again be the location for the Mayor’s State of the Neighborhoods with Library community rooms being used as needed for workshops. Commission members agreed that one commission meeting in March is sufficient for discussion of and voting on all nominations and the minor changes to the application including the submission deadline were approved as presented. One additional edit was requested for the Property Beautification category, Chair Miller asked that owners or tenants be changed to residents so that the emphasis is on the improvement made and to more subtly recognize that improvements can be made by renters or owners.

Agenda Item 6 – 2016 Neighborhood Workshop Topics Ideas

The next character areas have not been announced. Workshop placeholders for two will be held should the scheduling and process lend themselves to this workshop timing. Commissioners reviewed 2015 event survey results regarding potential future topics. Additional suggestions for workshops from staff and commissioners included: Chicken Coops 101, Character Areas Now What? A look at the first two character areas and what has happened since the final plans were adopted for Corona/South Tempe and Kiwanis/The Lakes, Maintaining Your Home Proactively - Code Compliance, Solid Waste and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, a pop up music or art activity, Home improvement and enhancement grants – What’s Available?, Arts Master Plan implementation – public art and How to Book Libraries, Multi-generational panel on changing demographics of Tempe.

Agenda Item 7 – Joint meeting/gathering with Historic Preservation Commission Update

Neighborhood Services staff is working with Historic Preservation staff to arrange for a joint meeting/gathering potentially in December. If the Historic Preservation Commission confirms a December meeting, their meeting may be arranged to start one half early so that Neighborhood Advisory Commission members can meet Historic Preservation commission members informally prior to sitting in on the meeting. Staff will follow up with more information once available.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Agenda Items for December or Future Meeting

- Discussion of 2016 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning
- Character Areas Update
- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
- Recognition of any outgoing members
- New bike lanes update
- How city plans to address impacts of new development including parking, traffic flow, adjacent neighborhoods, quality of life, density issues

Agenda Item 9 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager