

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission April 6, 2016

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on April 6, 2016, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Julie Ramsey, James Wennlund

(MEMBERS) Absent: Isela Blanc, Jack Escobar, Carol Shixue Hu, Bill Munch, Scott Smas

City Staff Present: Robbie Aaron, Community Development – Planning, 480-350-8096, Robbie_Aaron@tempe.gov, Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager.

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

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: March 7, 2016

Elizabeth noted that the date of the meeting minutes for approval was incorrect on the agenda provided in the NAC members packet. The correct meeting date was March 7 not March 2 as initially listed. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the March 7 minutes, with the correction noted, Commissioner Lindsay seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Character Area 3 Update

Robbie Aaron, Community Development Planner, distributed Character Area 3 stakeholder maps and survey cards with the tempe.gov/3, brief survey link, and the Characterareas@tempe.gov website noted. Stakeholders in this diverse Character Area include: 14 Neighborhood Associations, 15 Homeowners Associations, four public schools, Downtown Tempe (DT), Rio Salado and Arizona State University.

Robbie emphasized that all are welcome to attend the public Kick-Off/Amenities + Gaps Workshop, one of the four workshop offerings at the State of the Neighborhoods event. The Kick-

Off will address both what the process is and what the process is not. Character Area 3 outreach efforts have included door hangers to all businesses and residents in single family and multi-family housing, a variety of social media (facebook postings and boosts) as well as multiple targeted emails.

Commissioners offered Meet Up location ideas - Tempe Sister Cities Hackett House, Community Christian Church and Pedal House Patio. Staff is visiting local restaurants to assess their suitability and interest in serving as Meet Up locations. As in past character area processes, local businesses have been eager to participate in this manner. Commissioners asked about participation by larger businesses noting that they have been largely absent at public meetings for prior Character Areas processes. Getting bigger companies to engage remains an ongoing effort and they are always included in outreach efforts.

Commissioners then inquired if Arizona State University is intending to have representation at the Kick Off Workshop in order to provide information and answer questions regarding their development plans. Robbie noted that the ASU Master Plan will be available as a resource document at the workshop but he was uncertain if there would be university representation. Commissioners strongly encouraged that ASU be represented and that staff share the request for their presence with ASU contacts. Staff added that communication with ASU on campus and off campus student housing representatives is strong and that those contacts are being kept in the loop and students are encouraged to participate in the process as well.

Agenda Item 5 – New Development and Impacts recommendations to Mayor/Council discussion

There was brief discussion regarding this agenda item. Commissioners noted their advisory role and the need to take more opportunities to offer recommendations to Mayor and City Council. Some commissioners asked how does Mayor and City Council want to hear from us? Staff noted that Council discussions taking place at their recent retreat are ongoing regarding the best ways to send and receive communication with boards and commissions. Commissioners suggested that until a decision is made, they will send information when there is a project or process to comment on and then await their response.

Agenda Item 6 – Neighborhood Award Nomination Form and Rater Form Discussion and Review

There was a significant amount of discussion regarding the neighborhood award nomination and rater forms and the process. Some of the comments made and input shared included:

- We don't want to discourage "average Joe" type nominations. If a neighbor or neighbors see fit to nominate someone for their good deeds, they should be considered and recognized with at least an honorable mention.
- Need to resist being too formulaic or rigid as it could be a disincentive to recognizing good people for good deeds.
- Some nominators and nominees have more and higher connections within the community and their nominations reflect that.
- Some nominees contribute greatly to the community but are unsung heroes or are working with populations less likely to think to nominate them.
- We do need to "tighten up" the information and direction provided to nominators.
- We can only consider the information provided to us. Nominations are only as strong as nominators.
- What about offering a pitch your nomination opportunity?

- A pitch opportunity might give some nominators pause as they might find that uncomfortable and the process might then favor those who are comfortable making pitches.
- What about a separate category with video entries to encourage participation by younger members of our community?
- Staff knows many members of our community and community leaders and activists, maybe staff should submit some nominations?

Staff noted that they wish to remain neutral and not participate in the nomination process. However, the idea of establishing a new category recognizing neighborly staff members could be considered.

Commission members were in agreement that the rater form needs retooling and that the nomination form could be edited to better highlight the criteria that commission members consider and rate when making decisions. After some additional discussion, it was agreed that staff will forward out the existing information and forms to commissioners well in advance of the May meeting and the forms and process will be the sole agenda item for the May 4 commission meeting making it a work study session.

Agenda Item 7 – State of the Neighborhoods Awards & Workshops Update

An overview of outreach efforts including emails, postcards, facebook posts and boosts, press releases and Tempe Today and Warner Wrangler articles was provided. Commissioners were reminded of the need to RSVP and to help promote the event to their Tempe neighbors, co-workers and friends. Event posters and flyers were provided.

Agenda Item 8 – Sign Code Reform Update

Staff agreed to forward the update via email. Commissioners inquired if the sign code pertains to criteria for electronic signs and neon signs.

Agenda Item 9 - Proposed Agenda Items for May or Future meeting

- Neighborhood Awards forms and process work study session

Agenda Item 10 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager