

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission June 1, 2016

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on June 1, 2016, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Isela Blanc, Nancy Buell, Jack Escobar, Carol Shixue Hu, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey

(MEMBERS) Absent: Nancy Lesko, Josephine McNamara, Scott Smas, James Wennlund

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

Guests Present: John Marsh, West 6th Building Resident (present for last half hour of the meeting.)

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: May 4, 2016

Staff pointed out a repetitive statement under Agenda Item 4, final bullet point, page 3. Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the May 4 minutes with the correction noted, Commissioner Escobar seconded the motion and it passed with 11 yea votes and one abstention due to absence from the May meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Neighborhood Award Nomination Form and Rater Form Discussion

Staff distributed Commissioner Kurooka's property beautification awards research and proposal for City of Tempe Property Beautification Award Criteria. Discussion followed and included the following questions, ideas and comments:

- Is there any desire to include an inspiration or inspired by criteria for the beautification awards? Some property or landscape improvements inspire others to follow.
- Adding an inspiration criteria will not impact or inspire landlords who do not care to upgrade their properties.
- We need better alignment with noted criteria and the rater forms – agreement on what we are looking for.
- Regarding proposed bullet about project being compatible with neighborhood or character area, what if the project is aesthetically pleasing but out of character with surrounding neighborhood?

- Character of the area may be unique and a different looking home could be a contemporary version of a prior design.
- Do not want anything in criteria that prevents someone from being nominated who is doing something substantive to their home that over time may catapult neighborhood to next level.
- What are we trying to encourage and what are we trying to avoid?
- Why limit beautification awards to residential properties?
- Because these are neighborhood awards.
- For commercial properties, there are codes that apply. We could recognize those that go above and beyond in terms of lighting and landscaping.
- Any ability to recognize unique apartment homes that enhance a predominantly single family neighborhood?
- Might be hard to find a neighborhood that regards them as an enhancement.
- There is nothing preventing that type of nomination but also nothing that specifically highlights that option.
- It is how you write and sell a nomination.
- Everyday people have no idea about the Neighborhood Awards and we need to encourage more awareness.
- Public art could be a separate category.
- Process needs to be simple enough and measurable enough. This should be a feel good, raise up your community opportunity.
- We need to minimize requirements and then just stick to them when evaluating nominations.

The commission unanimously agreed that the questions regarding the source or amount of funding is not needed and should be deleted. Staff agreed to review all comments and input to date and compile an updated draft nomination form and rater forms for review at the August retreat. Commissioner Korbeck requested staff provide a general event timeline with anticipated milestones and their deadlines for the 2017 State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshop event. Staff agreed.

Agenda Item 5 – 2016 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Wrap Up

The positive overall event feedback and comments about each of the four workshop sessions offered were noted. Commissioners inquired if contact information is available for various workshop attendees. This information is available if provided as part of the event rsvp. Typically staff endeavors to reach out further to meeting or event attendees only when they have provided permission to do so beyond the initial reason for the contact. Commissioners noted the high level of engagement in the Legislative Advocacy Session and suggested the session speakers reach out to session attendees about opportunities for future engagement and involvement. Staff agreed to pass this along.

Agenda Item 6 – NAC August 6, 2016 Retreat Planning

The retreat date is confirmed for the morning of Saturday, August 6 at the Tempe History Museum in the Community Room. Specific hours are to be determined based on the retreat topics and number of agenda items, the retreat will end by noon. Commissioners agreed to no July meeting. Commissioner Korbeck then made a motion to consider the August 6 meeting the regular August meeting seconded by Commissioner Munch and it passed with 11 yea votes and one abstention.

Possible retreat items discussed included:

- Revisions to Neighborhood Award nomination and rater forms
- Awards information editing
- Outreach efforts
- Project updates

Review of last year's goals and status

Goal setting for 2016-2017

Agenda Item 7 – Neighborhood Libraries

There was discussion and feedback regarding the Neighborhood Libraries proposed ordinance. Some of the questions and comments included:

- Plenty of residents have already created little libraries on their own, why are you now imposing all these criteria?
- What problem is being solved and what are we trying to fix?
- This is already happening organically.
- Literacy is the issue. Low income neighborhoods do not have \$300 available for upfront costs and those are the neighborhoods where books and literacy are lacking. Try a different approach like a scholarship incentive?
- By signing form, must you comply with all elements of ordinance?
- Do existing little libraries have to be retrofitted?
- Does Tempe Library still provide satellite locations in community centers?
- Maybe encourage a non-profit to make some little libraries and donate them to neighborhoods in need?
- If you make it more complicated and require monitoring by staff, you may unintentionally create lots of barriers.
- Design is pretty loose. Does not require that you have to spend \$300.
- If a little library is on private property, it's their land and the ordinance seems way too limiting regarding location and accessibility.
- Do we have to have an ordinance because money is attached?
- I'm not a fan of this pilot.

Commissioners inquired why those who are already creating little libraries had not been consulted first. Commissioner Korbeck made a motion seconded by Commissioner Adams that involved Councilmembers and staff consult with existing little libraries practitioners and any other interested parties regarding the proposed ordinance to determine if the proposed ordinance is an impediment to little libraries or an assist.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for August Retreat or Future Meeting

- Award nomination form and rater forms
- Goal setting (review of 2015-2016 goals/status and new/2016-2017 goals)
- Discussion regarding contents of NAC Annual Report to Mayor/Council
- City outreach efforts
- Character Areas, Streetcar and Sign Code Project Updates when available in August or future months

Agenda Item 9 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager