

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission February 1, 2017

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on February 1, 2017, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Jack Escobar, Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Emily Leppert, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Daniel Schugurensky

(MEMBERS) Absent:

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director Planning, 480-858-2393, ryan_levesque@tempe.gov

Guests Present:

None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: January 4, 2017

Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the January 4 minutes as presented, Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Development Project Updates and Discussion

Commissioners were joined by Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director Planning, for a brief overview of the distinct work areas in Community Development including Planning and its processes. Ryan emphasized NAC members' prior successful advocacy for the expanded Developer outreach requirements, property owner notifications have increased from 300' to 600' and communication to Neighborhood Association and Homeowners Association contacts now stretches out to a quarter mile from proposed project areas.

City of Tempe and ASU currently have a Joint Transportation study underway to look at the region of Tempe from Priest to 101 and 202 to Apache. The study will include traffic impact analysis of proposed projects as well as bike and pedestrian movements and is anticipated to be completed later this year.

Commissioners then had the opportunity to ask questions specific to the status of current projects. A lengthy discussion followed and the projects touched on included: The Local previously known as The Foundry, Vista del Largo, Arredondo Elementary School (identified by Commissioner Munch as more of a new build of the whole campus), Rhythm, Lake Country Village and The Pier.

Commissioners asked if the city ensures there are adequate Police Department and Fire Department staffing for all the new builds, especially all of the dense apartment housing. Ryan noted that public safety

and other new development impacts are evaluated and addressed as part of the Development Impacts Fees formula. Ryan shared that Code Compliance is bringing forward a simple code text amendment identified through a City Manager's working group, to the Development Review Commission and City Council. The amendment was to add a definition reference from the Tempe City Code into the Zoning and Development Code for maintenance enforcement purposes.

Ryan then clarified information that came up at the December 2016 NAC meeting. Currently, there are only a few areas in Tempe with Regional Commercial Center (RCC) District zoning designation including Tempe Marketplace area, Arizona Mills properties and the Tempe Emerald Center located NE of I-10 and Warner Road. The allowed density for Tempe Marketplace and for Emerald Center/IKEA as well as Discovery Center was confirmed to be 65 dwelling units per acre with 25 dwelling units per acre for Arizona Mills. Ryan added that Discovery Center is close to full build out and there are no plans for residential.

Commissioners had several inquiries regarding pedestrian activity in and around downtown, desirable routes of travel, use of alleys, open space plans, etc. Ryan encouraged NAC members to attend two upcoming meetings to learn more about downtown and surrounding area initiatives. On Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 6 p.m. there is a ASU Stadium District Neighborhood Meeting regarding a General Plan amendment for the creation of a stadium district. The next Character Area meeting is a NW Neighborhoods focused Character Area 3 Meet Up – Design Guidelines + Placemaking Principles, February 28, 2017 at Casey Moore's, 5:30 p.m. start time. Staff agreed to follow up via email to confirm both meeting start times and location addresses.

Agenda Item 5 – City of Tempe 2017 State Legislative Principles

Commissioners were provided a memo in their packets distributed to the nearly 35 Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature participants. Among those participants was Chair Lindsay, who attended for the first time. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear what the legislators are currently prioritizing and working on, how best to communicate with them and have your comments be included as part of the official record and to gain a better understanding of what City of Tempe issues and priorities are in order to best advocate for state funding.

The Tempe City Council has identified safety, strong community connections, quality of life, sustainability, and financial stability as priorities in the delivery of City services. The importance of state legislation is that it can impact the City's ability to deliver on its strategic priority commitments, including the provision of many local services such as police, fire, transit, roadways, libraries, and parks.

Agenda Item 6 – 2017 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning Update

Staff provided a brief event update. Commissioners were reminded that focus areas of the one central workshop will include home, neighborhood and community. "Spark" speakers are still being sought after and presentations will be brief, highly visual and intended to inspire ideas, imagination and action. Commissioners were reminded of the February 15 Neighborhood Award nomination deadline and encouraged to help get the word out and to consider submitting a nomination for Neighbor of the Year, Property Beautification, Alley Upkeep or Sustainability, a new category this year.

Agenda Item 7-Proposed Agenda Items for March or Future meeting

- Neighborhood Award Nominations Group Review and Voting
- 2017 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning Update
- NAC Meeting start time discussion
- Council Priorities Update when available

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist