

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission January 4, 2017

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on January 4, 2017, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

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

(MEMBERS) Absent: Karen Adams, Isela Blanc, Kiyomi Kurooka

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager, Craig Hayton, Public Works-Parks Maintenance, 480-350-5234, craig_hayton@tempe.gov; Braden Kay, Sustainability Program Manager, 480-350-8867, braden_kay@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: December 7, 2016

Commissioner Lesko made a motion to approve the December 7 minutes as presented, Commissioner Munch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Introduction of New Members

New Commission Members Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris, Emily Leppert and Daniel Schugurensky briefly introduced themselves and noted their interests in serving. Existing commission members also briefly introduced themselves and welcomed new appointees.

Agenda Item 5 – Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner McNamara nominated Vice Chair Korbeck for Chair. Vice Chair Korbeck expressed appreciation for the nomination and declined.

Commissioner Lesko made a motion to restate the nomination of Candyce Lindsay for Chair made at the December 2016 meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Escobar and passed unanimously. Commissioner Escobar made a motion for Commissioner Hu to be nominated for Vice Chair which was seconded by Commissioner Lesko and also passed unanimously. At this point in the meeting prior Vice

Chair Korbeck turned the meeting over to newly elected Vice Chair Hu as Chair Lindsay was participating via phone.

Agenda Item 6 – Overview of Parks Plan Recreational Value Capital Improvements Program Fund

Craig Hayton, Parks Manager, shared a brief overview of the Parks Plan existing Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Fund and prioritization methodology. The Recreational Value CIP is approved for \$1 million this fiscal year (passed with recent bond). Heavy focus and attention has been first given to the 1's-public health and safety items and 2's-existing assets as in taking care of what we already have in place. Given recent Council direction, there will also be some focus placed on further exploring 3's-customer enhancements and 4's-system expansion and new amenities.

There are a total of 53 parks in Tempe, approximately one per acre. This number is inclusive of both neighborhood parks and community parks. Is Birchett Park included in this number? If not, commissioners requested that it be added and considered. Part of the reason suggested for it not being overly used is confusion that it is indeed a city park space coupled with its lack of amenities.

Base amenities are defined as park amenities that ALL neighborhoods deserve regardless of their park size. Ideally and moving forward every park will need to be brought up to a base standard level before any park receives enhanced amenities. Base amenities will include items such as ramada, shade structure and 25 trees per acre (working towards 25% tree canopy coverage) where attainable. Examples of desired level base amenity furnishings are benches (1 per acre), 3-tier drinking fountain (1 for every 3 acres) and dog bag dispensers (one per 3 acres).

Enhanced amenities reflect neighborhood interest and input and are based on the size of the park. These amenities will involve neighborhood input and could possibly include some specialty treatments at specific parks like dog runs, splash playgrounds, pickleball courts, etc. Any improvements made will be accessible and ADA compliant in terms of parking, access, sidewalks and paths to amenities.

Commissioner Korbeck strongly emphasized that we should never have a park without a drinking fountain. Craig noted that the base inventory process is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed in the next month. He hopes to commence outreach on the enhanced amenities process in the next six months. It's important to understand that depending on how much money is required to address base amenities at all parks, which will determine what is left, if any, to address any enhanced improvements. Any new or replacement water fountains will be the three tier models allowing for ADA and dog users too. Craig noted that restrooms are a mixed bag attracting both good and bad elements and many neighborhood parks were not intended or designed to have them nor are many residents desiring of them there. A pilot project driven by residents concerned about soccer field users at the Indian Bend Park had a porta john with attractive screening placed. Commission members also expressed concern regarding the lack of public restroom facilities in and around downtown and added this could be a deterrent to visiting downtown.

Donated items and or sums donated to over and above items also require maintenance and a formal policy is being crafted to address this. At this time, these funds are not available for adding public art in parks. While desirable, public art is a separate funding source and process. Park designers are trying to be more innovative and less cookie cutter with design. Themes for some playground renovations will be offered to residents and park users for consideration. Commissioner Schugurensky noted his interest in outdoor gyms appropriate for different age levels and colorful exercise areas that produce solar energy. Staff will review his emailed links.

Agenda Item 7-Discussion of Sustainability Program with Braden Kay, Sustainability Program Manager

Braden joined the City of Tempe approximately three months ago and described his passion for education, sustainability and grass roots level resident involvement. He is busy looking at a number of current environmental and sustainability based program offerings to help determine awareness, usage and efficacy

as well as helping to research some new offerings being considered. He is studying how best to connect and develop more synergy between programs, ultimately providing more of a one stop shop for businesses and residents. Increased education and awareness to businesses customers and residents will be the cornerstone. Commissioner Leppert emphasized the importance of connecting to and offering rebates to both landlords and owners as they likely may need to be incentivized to do something such as install a more efficient toilet that will save the renter money on their water bill.

He also highlighted the need to ensure the city is leading by example and walking the talk – “show don’t tell.” Commissioners were particularly interested in his comments regarding the need to reduce the urban heat island given that there is a potential for 45 days over 120 degrees in the next 10 to 15 years. Commissioners also inquired if there could be an opportunity for them to participate (perhaps at the annual retreat) in a climate resiliency board game like the one that Wells Fargo recently made available to Mayor and Council and specific staff members. Staff agreed to inquire further.

Agenda Item 8-2017 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning Update

Braden described how staff is working collaboratively with some key internal and external resources to create one central workshop offering that will feature many “spark conversations” of 10 minutes or less. These initial sparks will be highly visual and focus on successful examples, encouraging specific actions that can be implemented quickly.

Speakers and specific topics are still being confirmed and may range from home gardens to chicken coops to innovative neighborhood gatherings and neighborly businesses. Areas of focus will include: in your home, on your property, in your neighborhood or city wide. After the main, central workshop, attendees will be encouraged to speak briefly with resident, staff and non-profit experts to generate their own next action steps and rapid implementation ideas. Information from speakers and participants will be assembled into the first Neighborhoods/Resident Action Guide which will be made available in pdf form to all attendees once completed, anticipated to be over summer 2017. This event is intended to serve as a baseline spark and the guide, a means of continuing to encourage creative, thoughtful and innovative communication and action measures.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Agenda Items for February or Future Meeting

Flyers for the upcoming Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature were distributed and all members were encouraged to attend if available.

- Current and Upcoming Residential
- Legislative Update
- Council Priorities Update
- 2017 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning Update

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