

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission June 7, 2017

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on June 7, 2017, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Jack Escobar, Jonathan Gelbart, Carol Shixue Hu, Matt Korbeck (via phone), Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch, Daniel Schugurensky

(MEMBERS) Absent: Barb Harris, Josephine McNamara, Julie Ramsey

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner Public Works, bonnie_richardson@tempe.gov, 480-350-8628

Guests Present: Adam Munch, Hara Kumar (potential future commission member)

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: May 3, 2017

Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the May 3 minutes as presented, Commissioner Schugurensky seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Urban Forest Update

Bonnie Richardson last came to the Neighborhood Advisory Commission in December 2015 to provide an overview of the Tempe Urban Forestry Master Plan and Action Plan. Understanding that some members were not here at that time, she began by offering that an Urban Forestry Master Plan was developed in order to identify and treat trees as assets as well as establishing stewardship of them. The Urban Forestry Master Plan implements the strategic economic, environmental and quality of life values of the General Plan 2040.

Tempe has established a goal of increasing the tree canopy from 13.4% to 25% by 2040. The city must lead by example and work is ongoing to increase tree canopy through the replacement of missing or diseased trees, updating of sparse landscape in right-of-way areas, parks and city properties. However, as the portion of city owned property represents only a small percentage of the existing tree canopy, it's vital to have residential and commercial sector buy in and support.

A significant component of the plan is education about the importance of trees and the proper selection to promote health and variety of species, planting, watering and later pruning of trees. Bonnie is helping to organize additional tree plantings in and around neighborhood parks and proper planting and care of tree classes. The guiding principles of an Urban Forest include: cultivate collective action, expand shade to maximize urban cooling, improve walkability evenly, use resources widely, enhance property values, promote a healthy community, enhance community beautification and livability and right tree, right place.

Commissioners inquired about program funding. Bonnie is continuing to apply for grants that do not require matching funds and that will help to promote additional safe, walkable, shaded neighborhood sidewalks and crossings. Businesses like Mountain Park Health Center are also leading by example. They have invited neighbors into their campus and provided attractive, shaded, comfortable environments including walking paths for surrounding neighborhoods. The neighborhood awards can celebrate and promote good business neighbors too. Bonnie will continue to keep the commission updated as plans progress and encouraged commission members to help serve as tree advocates advising their own neighbors about the importance of caring for and planting trees.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion regarding August Commission Retreat planning and agenda

Time to discuss potential retreat items was limited due to members needing to leave in order to attend the Streetcar presentation and Open House. The following topics were suggested as potential agenda items:

- An exercise or activity to help members get to know each other better
- City budget and priorities
- Mayor/City Council goals and priorities
- Utility Rate Study Update
- Code enforcement – lack of proactive measures

Staff advised that the retreat agenda will include a recap and review of the past year's commission meeting and discussion regarding the NAC Annual Report. Commissioners were encouraged to think about other potential retreat topics ideas and email them to staff who will look into timing and availability of any guest speakers.

Commissioner Munch suggested that the retreat meeting timeframe be noted as 8 a.m. to Noon to allow time for additional discussion - if additional time beyond 11-11:30 a.m. is needed. Chair Lindsay and other members present agreed.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

See also Agenda Item 5 above. If the timing of a suggested retreat item does not work, it can be listed as a future meeting item.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist