

# Minutes

## Neighborhood Advisory Commission

### December 6, 2017



**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Karen Adams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jonathan Gelbart (via phone), Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Daniel Schugurensky

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Mike D'Elena, Jack Escobar, Matt Korbeck, Nancy Lesko, Josephine McNamara

**City Staff Present:** Kim VanNimwegen, Homeless Solutions Coordinator, Kim\_VanNimwegen@tempe.gov, 480-350-8856; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

**Guests Present:** Lane Carraway

#### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

None.

#### **Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: November 1, 2017**

Commissioner Schugurensky made a motion to approve the November 1 minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Adams and passed unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Tempe's Response to Ending Homelessness**

Kim VanNimwegen, shared information about her social work and non-profit background that ultimately lead to her coming to the city of Tempe informing her current position as Homeless Solutions Coordinator. A number of different practices and measures reflecting varying philosophies have been tried over the years to combat homelessness both in Tempe and across the country. Some involving radical hospitality, however well intended, served only to perpetuate the problem. The housing ready-model demanded that housing be withheld until treatments for addictions (to medications, drugs and alcohol) were successfully underway prior to housing being made available. Many addictions are accompanied by mental illness and other presenting problems making it highly challenging to combat without stable housing.

Kim emphasized that homelessness is a social issue that encompasses almost every other issue from poverty to domestic violence to lack of family support and education. Current models, including the one Tempe is implementing, reflect the housing first philosophy which prioritizes stabilizing the housing situation first and then wrapping services around the homeless individual. Chronically homeless individuals represent 10% of the homeless population and are heavy users of expensive public resources including emergency medical services, psychiatric treatment, detox facilities, shelters and law enforcement. Often, they are the most vulnerable and have the most co-occurring conditions, consuming over 50% of the resources available and cycling from one provider to the next. This leaves fewer resources for the other

homeless groups needing assistance including families and children aging out of foster care and elderly adults. (Funding comes from the federal, state and local level and is based on the Homeless Street Count data.)

Real solutions are needed with a focus on ending homelessness versus helping people to remain homeless. Partners in this initiative to end homelessness include service providers, faith community, community members, volunteers, businesses, funders and other systems of care. Kim added that due to any number of circumstances, homelessness will never be completely eradicated. The hope is that Tempe's efforts will prevent some from becoming homeless at all and the timeframe to secure shelter and stable housing will lessen.

The 2017 count figures indicated 629 people were unsheltered in Tempe. Kim remarked that counting and interviewing homeless individuals is the first step toward better understanding the complex issues and helping to solve them. Commission members were provided information and registration forms for Tempe's 2018 Point-In-Time Homeless Street Count to be held on January 23, 2018 (between 5:30 a.m. and noon) in specific geographic areas around Tempe and encouraged to volunteer and to share the information.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – State of the Neighborhoods Awards & Workshops Planning**

Staff updated commission members regarding their meeting with Tempe Community Council Board Representatives. The Board wants to host a Care Fair connecting those in need with those who care. The timing of this endeavor dovetailed nicely with the 2018 State of the Neighborhoods planning. The thought is that having a thread of connections and caring will naturally tie the Mayor's State of the Neighborhoods address with the Neighborhood Awards followed by the Care Fair. The Care Fair may be in lieu of workshops or in addition to a couple related topic offerings. Commission members expressed support of the idea and "gave their blessing" to proceed in this direction.

#### **Agenda Item 6 –Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Adams nominated Chair Lindsay to again serve as Chair and Vice Chair Hu to again serve as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Schugurensky and secured with a unanimous vote. Both nominees indicated their willingness to serve a second term.

Additional nominations, if any, will be accepted at the first Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting of the year on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Staff reminded commission members that there will be no January meeting as it falls near the New Year holiday and staff will need time to meet with new commission member appointees prior to their first commission meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Recognition of outgoing members**

Staff and commission members recognized Commissioner Julie Ramsey for her thoughtful manner and excellent attendance record. She completed two full terms of service and the December meeting was her final meeting. Commissioner JoEllen McNamara was not present but was acknowledged and thanked for her long-term commission involvement and dedicated service including preparing golden shovels for Property Beautification Award winners.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

- State of the Neighborhoods Awards & Workshop Planning
- Affordable Housing Impact Statement
- Parks Improvements Update (tbd-when materials are ready)
- GP2040 Progress
- Code Compliance discussion and update – Landscape Referral Program (January or February)
- Short-term rentals and boarding (AirBNB)

Commission members were advised of the opportunity to attend Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature in January and provided flyers for the February 21, 2018 Public Budget Forum and Spring Elections Ballot by Mail.

**Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm

**Prepared by:** Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

**Reviewed by:** Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager