

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 3, 2018



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Mike D'Elena (first portion of meeting), Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris (via phone), Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch (latter portion of meeting), Daniel Schugurensky

(MEMBERS) Absent: Doreen Garlid, Hannah Moulton Belec, Stephanie Greenfield,

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Tony Belleau, Tempe Streetcar Project Manager, Public Works - Light Rail Operations, Tony_Belleau@tempe.gov, 480-858-2071

Guests Present: Andrea Wald, Tempe Leadership

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: September 5, 2018

Commissioner D'Elena made a motion to approve the September 5 minutes as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Hu and passed unanimously by the eight members participating with a 8-0 vote.

Commission Member Ayes: Mike D'Elena (first portion of meeting), Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris (via phone), Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Daniel Schugurensky

Commission Member Abstention: Karen Adams (absent for Sept. meeting)

Commission Members Absent: Doreen Garlid, Hannah Moulton Belec, Stephanie Greenfield, Bill Munch (absent at time vote was taken)

Agenda Item 4 – Streetcar Update

Tony Belleau, Tempe Streetcar Project Manager, Public Works provided a brief Streetcar project overview and update. Streetcar vehicles will mainly share the roadway with vehicle traffic and the design includes off-wire through the downtown/Mill Avenue section and at gateway intersections. The route travels over 3.4 miles with 14 stops and two light rail connections. Streetcar stops are similar to bus stops. Each stop is approximately 20' wide, all will have landscape and a public art component featuring the work of a number of local and national artists, and in some cases, the art will be incorporated into the shade structure.

Tony explained that among other things, the alignment was based on several studies, some dating back over ten years and that is why it does not include a stop closer to the Tempe Center for the Arts or to Tempe Marketplace. A new Mesa/Tempe Streetcar Feasibility Study will provide the opportunity to explore and address some of these potential, future connections. (The Neighborhood Advisory Commission is expected to receive a Valley Metro presentation regarding the feasibility study at the December commission meeting.)

Commissioners asked if the Streetcar will help with downtown area congestion. The Streetcar will offer another travel mode option to enhance and connect to existing offerings. Most riders will be using it for shorter trips, hopping on and off. Each vehicle can hold up to 125 people and Tempe has ordered six. There are no bike racks on Streetcar stops but they will be available in close-proximity to stops and bikes will be allowed on sections of the vehicles. Ridership will vary depending on the time of day and day of week with lots of students anticipated for the route portion that circles the ASU campus, morning and evening commuters and downtown area event attendees on week-ends and evenings.

The track is here, the vehicles are on order and the utilities work is underway with much of it completed. Formal construction is anticipated to start in November 2018. All trees removed as a result of construction will be replaced with additional trees added where possible resulting in a net gain of over 110 trees. One lane of travel will always be maintained during construction and much of the Mill Avenue work will be done in summer months when school is out to lessen impacts. Downtown area employers are being encouraged to offer flexible work hours to their employees to help decrease commuting time and congestion during peak travel times. A Business Assistance program will offer varied strategies including advertising and marketing to assist local businesses during the 2019-2020 construction timeframe. A Community Advisory Board (CAB) composed of 22 members appointed by Mayor Mark Mitchell and Valley Metro CEO Scott Smith will provide contractor oversight during construction. Tempe Streetcar is scheduled to open in 2021.

Agenda Item 5 – Consideration of the addition of an Arts and Culture Category to the Neighborhood Awards (Action)

The Arts and Culture Commission has requested that the Neighborhood Advisory Commission consider the addition of an Arts and Culture Category to the Neighborhood Awards much like the Sustainability Commission and Historic Preservation Award categories. Commissioner Kurooka, who is also a member of the Arts and Culture Commission, explained that they are still finalizing how they wish to proceed with nominations and award selections. They are considering having one award selected by their commission with perhaps a second award selected by public vote. Nominations would be open to all who have created impactful art, nominees would not have to live in Tempe. The awards given out could be similar to the glass awards used for both Neighborhood and Sustainability winners or something different. The Arts and Culture Commission will need to identify their award funding source.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to include the Arts and Culture Commission Awards in the State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshop event which was seconded by Commissioner Munch and approved by all present with a 8-0 vote.
Commission Member Ayes: Karen Adams, Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris (via phone), Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch, Daniel Schugurensky

Commission Members Absent: Hannah Moulton Belec, Mike D'Elena (absent at time vote was taken), Doreen Garlid, Stephanie Greenfield

Agenda Item 6 – Review and approval of the updated Neighborhood Award rater and nomination forms (Action)

Commission members reviewed the changes made by Commissioner Adams to the rater and nomination forms based on prior meeting dialogue and input. One additional edit for the Neighbor of the Year application was made changing the others supporting application wording to name of application supporter(s) and contact information. This same edit will also be made to the Property Beautification and Alley Upkeep nomination forms. In addition, the reminder to provide two current photos and one before photo will be repeated in the narrative section of the Property Beautification application.

There was significant additional discussion regarding whether the property beautification nomination form should note a time limit from when the improvements were made or not. Some commissioners expressed concern that this could be a deterrent when the goal is to encourage nominations and added that improvements can be made over a number of years. Others offered that improvements timeframe is part of the nomination review and selection discussion and does not need to be included on the nomination form. Commissioner Munch emphasized that beautification is a subjective term and staff added that nominations for beautification efforts done some years ago are uncommon. The decision was made to leave a timeframe off the nomination form.

The Alley Upkeep nomination form will include a question identifying the nominee as a property owner or a tenant. Commissioner Hu made a motion to accept the nomination and rater forms with the additional changes noted and giving Commissioner Adams the last look and final approval which was seconded by Commissioner Gelbart and approved by all present with a 8-0 vote.

Commission Member Ayes: Karen Adams, Jonathan Gelbart, Barb Harris (via phone), Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch, Daniel Schugurensky

Commission Members Absent: Hannah Moulton Belec, Mike D'Elena (absent at time vote was taken), Doreen Garlid, Stephanie Greenfield

Agenda Item 7 – State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops Planning

Due to meeting time constraints and not wanting to have a rushed discussion, this agenda item was delayed until the November meeting. If staff determines that input is needed prior, communication will be via email and commissioners will be asked to respond directly back to staff with their input and suggestions for event themes, workshop topics and speakers.

Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting schedule changes for December 2018 and January 2019

All Commissioners present except for one agreed that the December meeting date change from December 5 to December 12 worked for their schedules and that the January 2, 2019 meeting falling immediately after the holidays should be cancelled. The first meeting of the new year will be February and Chair and Co-chair elections will be held at that time.

Agenda Item 9 - Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study (December)
- Equity in Action Update (November)

- Climate Action Plan Update (November)
- Urban Core Masterplan (December)
- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair (December)

Commissioner Adams requested Safe Sidewalks as a future agenda item. She would like to hear more regarding how sidewalks are being considered in streets changes, project plans and designed to address and encourage safety for pedestrians.

Agenda Item 8 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas