

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission December 12, 2018



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jonathan Gelbart, Stephanie Greenfield, Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Candyce Lindsay, Bill Munch, Daniel Schugurensky, Jennifer Song, Maureen Utter

(MEMBERS) Absent: Mike D'Elena, Doreen Garlid, Kiyomi Kurooka

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Amanda Nelson, Public Works - Light Rail Project, 480-350-2707, Tempe Streetcar Project Manager, Public Works - Light Rail Operations, amanda_nelson@tempe.gov, Deron Lozano, Project Manager - Valley Metro, 602-495-8266, dlozano@valleymetro.org

Guests Present:
None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: November 7, 2018

Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the November 7 minutes as presented which was seconded by Commissioner Schugurensky and passed unanimously by the ten members present at that time in the meeting with a 10-0 vote.

Commission Member Ayes: Karen Adams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Jonathan Gelbart, Stephanie Greenfield, Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Bill Munch, Daniel Schugurensky, Jennifer Song, Maureen Utter

Commission Members Absent: Doreen Garlid, Kiyomi Kurooka and Candyce Lindsay/absent for the vote only

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study

Deron Lozano, Project Manager for Valley Metro, noted that the cities of Tempe and Mesa have partnered and co-funded a \$600,000 study to work with Valley Metro to evaluate streetcar extension(s) as a high-capacity transit option. The Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study will evaluate possible streetcar extensions to connect the Tempe Streetcar with key regional activity centers, employment destinations and emerging multi-unit residential developments in Tempe and Mesa. This study is an early,

technical phase to determine feasible routes. Later phases will involve additional research and strong community involvement components.

The Feasibility Study, anticipated to be completed in Spring 2020, is the first step and will evaluate streetcar extensions to serve Tempe and Mesa, their feasibility and potential next steps needed. The study area is bounded by Priest Drive on the west, Country Club Drive (Mesa) on the east, the south side of the Loop 202 on the north and Baseline Road on the south. The project team is providing updates to stakeholder groups, including boards and commissions like the Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

Commissioners commented that the study area is large and inquired how different areas will be evaluated such as Rio Salado versus the Library complex area. They also questioned how an elongated streetcar line would perform in terms of speed and viability for ridership given it operates in-street with multiple stops.

Mr. Lozano offered that several valley cities are conducting various feasibility studies and explained that this Tempe/Mesa Streetcar Feasibility Study evaluation criteria will be segmented into two tiers. Tier 1 involves qualitative, high-level analysis and will study ridership and economic development potential and transit-oriented land use. Some commissioners sought more detail in how the study area arterials were segmented for the Tier 1 analysis. Tier 2 will focus on quantitative, in-depth analysis of physical and engineering constraints and the transportation network integrity and functionality. There is no funding for a streetcar extension at this time; part of the Tier 2 portion of the study will include cost estimates and will help inform federal money potentially available.

Amanda Nelson stated that a fare structure has not been determined for the Streetcar at this time. Commission members were encouraged to contact Jordan Brackett, Valley Metro Communications, with any follow up questions (email: jbrackett@valleymetro.org phone: 602-251-2039.)

Agenda Item 5 – Chair and Vice Chair Nominations

Chair Lindsay announced that she intends to continue serving as a NAC member but would not be running for the Chair position due to a new job and work schedule. Commissioner Hu noted that she would consider remaining Vice Chair but was unsure about the Chair position due to her work commitments and schedule.

Commissioner Harris recommended Commissioner Garlid for Chair. Commissioner Munch suggested Commissioner Gelbart for Vice Chair. Staff agreed to follow up with Commissioner Garlid to find out if she is interested in serving. All commission members present agreed to give Chair and Vice Chair nominations more consideration before the February 2019 meeting when elections are scheduled. Nominations will be taken at that meeting as well.

Agenda Item 6 – State of the Neighborhoods Awards and Workshops Planning Update

Staff briefly described an internal meeting with Mayoral office staff regarding a general event theme of resident empowerment, recognition of the 25-year anniversary of the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant program, a possible public art project or exercise, grass roots initiatives, examples of innovation, creativity and community building in neighborhoods. Commission members expressed support for the overall

concept and were encouraged to email staff with any suggestions for topics or speakers. For print deadlines and by the February NAC meeting, much of the outreach and identification of speakers and topics will have already been identified. There will again be a topical materials table at the 2019 State of the Neighborhoods event which will include bags and a variety of frequently requested information and materials.

Agenda Item 7 – Park security measures

The Park Security frequently asked questions were included in the commission meeting packet as informational only, and as the email accompanying the packet noted, no Police Department or Parks staff were going to be present to answer questions at the December meeting. Commissioners affirmed they would like appropriate staff to come to the February NAC meeting to speak in more depth about Park Security and answer commissioner questions.

A number of questions and comments came up regarding how this initiative came about, the cost of the contract, which parks does it pertain to, specific issues happening in the parks, why armed guards and concerns regarding the company providing the security. Staff present explained they had no further information at this time. Commissioners were encouraged to email staff directly with any additional questions or comments so that the Police Department and Park staff can be prepared in advance of the February meeting to provide an update.

Agenda Item 8 – Recognition of outgoing members

Commissioners Adams and Munch were thanked for their lengthy and dedicated service to the commission. Both expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and for staff and other members. They will be missed.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Park Security Measures Update (February)
- Equity in Action RFP Update (February)
- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair (February)
- Urban Core Masterplan (February)

Commissioners were reminded no January meeting and that the first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, February 6, 2019.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner