

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission February 1, 2012

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on February 1, 2012 5:45 – 7:15 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Pete DeMott, Ann Lynn DiDomenico, Gary Johnson, Joochul Kim, Ira King, Robert Miller, Leonard Montenegro, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Scott Smas, Bill Wagner, Michael Wasko

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Angela Lopez, Josephine McNamara

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Nancy Buell, Britney Scott Kaufman

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Wasko called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: January 4, 2012

Commissioner Pospicil confirmed that he made the motion to approve the December 7, 2011 minutes.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes with the clarification noted above and Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Goals and Objectives Discussion

Goal 1 – Strengthen and grow Neighborhood Workshop and Awards

Goal 2 – Improve feeling of safety in neighborhoods

Goal 3 – Improve maintenance of private property in neighborhoods

Goal 4 – Improve quality of neighborhood parks

There was extensive discussion regarding all four of the identified Commission Goals, specifically the metrics and/or objectives (designated by bullets in the January 4, 2012 meeting minutes) established to achieve them. Some commissioners expressed that the bullet points were simply discussion points and ideas for how to reach Goals 1-4. One commissioner explained that in a way NAC is a committee of the whole and the group is just envisioning what members want to accomplish. Others noted they saw the bullets under each goal as adopted metrics.

After subsequent additional discussion, it was determined that one of the bullets or metrics under Goal 2 – Improve feeling of safety in neighborhoods was causing the concern. Specifically the bullet, Host a safety event with PD/FD to increase awareness of Block Watch opportunities and neighborhood safety related information such as using or adding outdoor lighting and pool safety best practices.

Elizabeth shared that following the January meeting, she contacted both Police Department and Fire Department to share the Commission's intent to host a safety event. Both Departments were very appreciative of the offer to assist in getting safety related information out to neighborhoods but were hesitant to commit to being able to participate due to their full existing schedule of community meetings, events, trainings and activities as well as the potential costs involved of staffing another event.

Their suggestion was to encourage commission members to help grow and promote an existing or already planned event rather than creating a new event. They added that commission members may not be aware of the significant amount of outreach about neighborhood related safety efforts already in place. For example, there are multiple meetings and activities scheduled at local preschools, elementary schools, senior centers, community centers, boys and girls clubs, civic groups, churches etc. In addition, they host and participate in numerous Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes and participate in the March Water Watchers Event and the April Senior Expo at Pyle. The Police Department Crime Prevention Unit regularly attends neighborhood meetings, Homeowners' association meetings, Block Watch meetings and Crime Free Multi-Housing meetings throughout the city to share crime prevention tips and information. Police Department also regularly hosts shredding events for fraud protection and assists with proper disposal of prescription drugs. PD and FD will also have booths at this year's Mill Avenue Merchants Festival.

Commissioner Wagner emphasized that the impetus to establish the host a safety event metric came out of the desire to identify a measurable way to work on Goal 2, Increase the feeling of safety in neighborhoods. This was anticipated to happen through increasing the number of Block Watches period as well as by increasing the number of active Block Watches. This action would then likely lead to increases in the number of neighborhoods who host a Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN) activity. (Officer Mike Fleming stated at the January meeting that there are 185 Block Watches in Tempe but only approximately 51 are considered active.) Commissioner Wagner added that he does not support hosting a stand-alone event without the participation of PD and FD. Commissioner Adams agreed and made a motion that the NAC look for ways to support, increase awareness of and piggyback on an existing event(s). Commissioner Roach seconded the motion and it passed with 10 yes votes and 3 opposed.

Elizabeth encouraged commissioners to think about starting in their own neighborhood area first and then working out, determining if there is a Block Watch or Watches, is it active or inactive, etc. Other positive contributors would be to encourage your neighborhood to create an email tree if they don't already have one and helping to motivate fellow neighborhood residents to participate in activities and trainings such as CERT that are offered. Commissioners requested staff ask PD for a map and list of Block Watches noting those that are active or inactive. Elizabeth agreed to follow up.

Agenda Item 5 – Potential Parks Partnerships Update

Vice Chair McNamara was not present at the meeting to share her findings. Commissioner Roach noted that Tempe Cares plans their work areas well in advance and they have already identified where they will be working for this year's March 5 event. Commissioners suggested that maybe since the planning is so detailed and takes a tremendous amount of coordination, the Commission should approach the idea of partnering shortly after this year's event and go from there. Commissioner Roach added that For Our City, the circle of Faith based organizations is moving in

many other directions of service and less of the one day mass group clean-up activities and more towards ongoing efforts.

Agenda Item 6 – Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning Update

Elizabeth provided a brief event update. As requested by some members, she distributed sample event sponsorship requests and emphasized that commissioners should only solicit event donations if they wish to do so. Any commissioners that proceed need to keep in contact with Elizabeth so that she is aware of any requests already out there and to whom. Event bottled water is likely already handled, asking for specific needs such as breakfast refreshments, coffee and condiments, raffle prizes or gift basket offerings is all helpful.

For this year's event, the decision has been made to offer three workshops each one time only rather than four workshops each offered twice. This is partly due to the limited number of classrooms available this year at this site but also to avoid hosting two workshop sessions with one having low or poor attendance. Each participant will be asked to select from the following three offerings:

What's happening in downtown Tempe? Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) Representatives will share what is new and up and coming in downtown and the surrounding area.

Building Community through Art – A hands-on activity for all ages.

72-Hour Disaster Preparedness – Build connections in your neighborhood and be better prepared for emergencies.

Commissioners were especially pleased with the 72-Hour Disaster Preparedness offering. There will be an opportunity during this class to emphasize the importance of connections including Neighborhood Associations, Homeowners' Associations and Block Watches. Class attendees will be encouraged to help maintain, start or reactivate existing associations or Block Watches.

Agenda Item 7 – Board and Commission Recruitment

No names for review were provided.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for March 7, 2012

- Tempe Elementary School District Facility Repurposing
- Tempe's Multi-Family Dwellings Plans and Policies

Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director