

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
August 10, 2019



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) Annual Retreat meeting held on Saturday, August 10 at Hatton Hall, 34 E. 7th Street, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Mike D'Elena, Doreen Garlid, Jana Lynn Granillo, Jonathan Gelbart, Stephanie Greenfield, Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky, Zoe Stein, Maureen Utter

(MEMBERS) Absent: Michael McLendon

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Dawn Ratcliffe, Public Works Program Coordinator, dawn_ratcliffe@tempe.gov; Kristin Gwinn, City Council Aide, kristin_gwinn@tempe.gov; Marge Zylla, Government Relations Officer, marge_zylla@tempe.gov

Guests Present: None.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Chair Garlid

Agenda Item 2 - Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 - Consideration of Minutes: June 5, 2019

Motion: Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the June 5, 2019 minutes.

Second: Commissioner Gelbart

Result: *The motion was passed by the 10 members present at that time in the meeting with a 10-0 vote.*

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Mike D'Elena, Doreen Garlid, Jana Lynn Granillo, Jonathan Gelbart, Stephanie Greenfield, Barb Harris, Carol Shixue Hu, Kiyomi Kurooka, Maureen Utter

Commission Members Absent:

At the time of the vote, Commissioners Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein were absent. All arrived at varying times later in the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 - Commissioner Ice Breaker Exercise, Chair Garlid

Chair Garlid led members through a getting to know you better exercise with each commission member noting their specific neighborhood, length of time they have lived there and the neighborhood and community involvement they lead or participate in. Each member then also selected from some random question offerings sharing a little more about themselves, their priorities and passions in the process.

Agenda Item 5 – Recycling Do’s and Dont’s, Public Works Program Coordinator Dawn Ratcliffe

Municipal Utilities encompasses both the Water Utility Services and Field Operations Divisions. Field Operations includes Solid Waste/Recycling and Fleet.

Dawn noted that in the midst of many changing global markets, some residents have questions regarding the status of recycling in Tempe and what is currently being accepted. She assured commission members that the city remains committed to recycling noting that recent initiatives are education focused and seek resident assistance to keep recycling bins free of contamination. Reducing contamination helps to keep the city of Tempe’s Solid Waste costs lower.

Prior to pick up, blue bins in various neighborhoods are being visually inspected, and when applicable, the residence tagged with a door hanger describing the source(s) of bin contamination. Unacceptable items include: plastic bags, bagged recyclables, styrofoam, electronics/scrap, metal/appliances, shredded paper (bagged or unbagged), greasy pizza boxes, food or food residue, fabric, paper towels, tissues, yard waste, air filters and construction materials.

Shredded paper or documents to be shredded can be taken to The Centers for Habilitation/ASDD Document Destruction headquarters (225 West Lodge Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Residents who want to watch their documents being shredded onsite at The Centers for Habilitation/ASDD Document Destruction (www.tch-az.com) can do so with a valid picture ID Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Additional suggestions or do’s shared included: ignore numbers and symbols on the bottoms of products as not all of them are acceptable items, keep caps on water bottles making them more likely to be recycled, clean cans, solo cups and standard square post-its are all fine, break cardboard boxes down and ensure the lid can close. If bins are overfilled, items can fall out and litter the street. Dawn also offered a number of additional resources for recycling unacceptable blue bin items, many are listed on the tempe.gov/smart portion of the website under the resources tab.

Agenda Item 6 – Recap of prior legislative session, Government Relations Officer Marge Zylla

Marge walked commission members through portions of the Government Relations website pages and encouraged them to sign up on the government relations list-serve if they have interest in government relations notifications. These notifications include updates from the Mayor when rapid action or response is needed on a specific issue. The annual Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature (typically in January, next date tbd) is an additional opportunity for residents to engage with their Tempe Mayor/Council and their state legislators during the session and learn more about which issues and bills are upcoming and how to track bills and register their opinion on legislative proposals. Last November, a Neighborhood focused Legislative Update Meeting was also held in Tempe.

State legislation is important and can be impactful in terms of the City’s ability to deliver on its strategic priority commitments, including the provision of many local services such as police, fire, transit, roadways, libraries, and parks. The City Council continued to emphasize and endorse the preservation of local decision making/autonomy and the preservation of existing revenue sources throughout the

2019 State Legislative Session.

Marge described the prior session which ran from January through May as good overall. Of 1,318 introduced bills, 331 were passed by legislators and the Governor ultimately signed 20 and vetoed 11 others. Marge added that sometimes legislators may be continuing work on statutes that passed years ago and are still being fine-tuned.

Marge went over main components of the state budget that was passed and highlighted portions to the rainy day fund, debt reduction, education, public safety and infrastructure. She also addressed the current state of the city's share of Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) dollars and the upcoming phase out of the Public Safety Fee.

During this 2019 session, much attention was paid to texting while driving, following a decade of failed prior bills. A state level law was passed to the effect that you cannot operate a motor vehicle when using a phone or holding a phone in your hand – hands free devices only. The legislature grandfathered in local, existing ordinances until the State Law goes into effect in January of 2020 so Tempe's existing ordinance will be in effect until then. Another bill addressing e-cigs/vaping was defeated.

In 2016, the legislature passed a bill not allowing municipalities or counties to regulate short-term rentals. Sedona challenged it and lost. The legislation that ultimately passed this past session allows cities to notify the State Department of Revenue when there is a verified violation at a short-term rental and owners can be subjected to escalating fines ranging from \$500-\$1,500. Marge noted that issues should still be channeled through the city to determine which city department or work area is the owner.

Mayor/Council will be identifying the next session's State Legislative Principals at a public meeting this winter and their strategic priorities and goals will be discussed at their September retreat. Significant issues that the city will need to remain vigilant on and that are likely to continue to be focal points next session include: the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), water management, taxation, affordable housing, the public safety retirement system and the need for online retailers with similar products to be taxed in a like manner regardless of distribution method.

Agenda Item 7 – Feral Cat Update, City Council Aide Kristin Gwinn

City Council Aide Kristin Gwinn began by emphasizing that feral cats are not a neighborhood specific, city, state or even nationwide problem. They are everywhere and Tempe resident ideas for addressing them range from removal of all cats to support through food and veterinary services. The Tempe City Council established a Tempe-specific fund in June 2015 with the Animal Defense League of Arizona (ADLA) which allowed for donations to be accepted and used to then cover Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) activities made available to Tempe residents through a hotline number. A handful of very committed residents made use of the fund. TNR offerings were significantly reduced when the clinic providing the majority of TNR services was purchased in 2019 and the new owners limited offerings.

Concerned residents reached out to the Council's Animal Welfare Working Group seeking alternatives. Discussions are ongoing with ADLA and Lost Our Home Pet Foundation exploring possibilities like mobile spay-neuter vans and partnerships with local veterinary hospitals perhaps allowing TNR surgeons to use their surgical space periodically.

Through additional discussions, the Animal Welfare Working Group determined that the issue of feral cats was even larger and more divisive to some neighborhoods than anticipated. The need to educate residents regarding cat colony best practices, along with how to mitigate any negative impacts of the cat's presence became clear and presented an opportunity for the City of Tempe to play a role. Working with feral cat experts, a pilot program concept with neighborhood educational meetings began to be considered. Responses to a June 2019 Tempe Forum survey helped to determine which neighborhoods had both a high level of responses and high interest in participating in such a program. The pilot is anticipated to launch in the next three to four weeks with Brentwood Cavalier, Kiwanis, Pepperwood and Tempe Gardens neighborhoods selected to participate.

Kristin noted that one of the organizations that has been helping with the pilot has familiarity and experience with homeowners associations and apartment complexes. Chair Garlid requested their contact information and inquired if there might be a possibility for funding to be considered to reimburse neighbors for efforts made to safely discourage feral cats from coming on their property like lights, sensors, sprinklers and motion detectors. Kristin agreed to provide information regarding pilot program related meetings when available and will come back to NAC and provide a pilot program update next Spring when hopefully there will have been some stabilization in these selected neighborhood areas.

Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Goals – review of prior goals and outcomes, new goal setting as appropriate

Commission members briefly reviewed their 2019 stated goals commenting that all were met except for the expanded partnerships with one or two other commissions goal. (It was mentioned that an Arts Awards category was added to this year's State of the Neighborhoods event joining the Sustainability and Historic Preservation categories which are ongoing.)

Multiple ideas for potential 2020 goals were offered by individual commission members and each was then categorized by the group as follows:

1. Community Outreach
2. Mayor and Council and Staff
3. Boards and Commissions

Proposed Community Outreach Related Goals

Involvement with community meetings
Awareness of various focus groups/city planning initiatives
Invite various representatives from zip codes
Outreach with neighborhood associations
Community outreach and representing NAC – educate the public on who we are
More informed and aware on new city items – or how process works for public knowledge
More education/community involvement by neighborhood HOA's
Community volunteer outreach opportunities
Office hours in community for better outreach
Learn about neighborhood associations
Assist more in planning and support of neighborhood awards event
Assist with the point in time count

Proposed Mayor and Council and Staff Related Goals

Outreach and collaboration with other Boards/Commissions and Mayor's office
More Council representation at meetings or general interaction as a major advisory board
City Council meeting attendance goals by members of NAC

Proposed Boards and Commissions Related Goals

More Council representation at meetings or general interaction as a major advisory board
Create shared objectives/goals with other commission
Collaborate with Census work and why important
Assist more in planning and support of neighborhood awards event

These suggested goals will be further reviewed, discussed and refined in Fall commission meetings. The final agreed upon 2020 goals will then become part of the 2019 Annual Report which will be submitted to City Clerk in December 2019.

Agenda Item 9 – NAC Meetings Calendar

Commissioners agreed to adding the Solid Waste Rate Study as a September agenda item to allow commissioners the opportunity to provide input. Staff noted that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be ready for review in November. The date for the next NAC Social was discussed and Sunday, December 8 was chosen. The timeframe will be from 5 to 7 pm or 5 to 8 pm, the location will be determined.

Agenda Item 10 – Census 2020 Update

Commissioner Granillo serves on the Business Subcommittee of Tempe's Complete Count Committee and briefly walked commission members through portions of the tempe.gov/census website highlighting the demographic mapping by census tract and detailed data available. Tempe wants to encourage a complete count of those living in the city as the results determine how much federal funding Tempe will receive for important needs like transportation, housing assistance and more.

The 2020 U.S. Census Day is April 1, 2020 with heavier outreach efforts anticipated to begin by November 2019. Complete Count committee members are serving on a variety of subcommittees including education, business, faith and non-profit helping to identify ways to reach groups that have historically been harder to reach. Messaging will emphasize that it is ok to be counted and encourage participation. Ninety-five percent of all households will receive the census by mail and for the first time, residents can fill it out online if desired. Other options are by mail or by phone. The Census Bureau will be performing some **address verification only** from the end of August into October. Once Census outreach hand-outs are available, NAC members will be provided with some for sharing with their neighbors.

Agenda Item 11 – Summary of Current Events by Zip Code Areas

Updates included:

85281-Downtown Brunch Crawl taking place August 10 from 7 am to 2:30 pm

85284-Construction of Fire Station 7 located along McClintock, just north of Warner, is coming along well. NAC members will be invited to the Grand Opening anticipated by late September or early October.

Agenda Item 12 – Proposed Future Agenda Items – Opportunity for Commission members to raise potential future agenda items.

September – Solid Waste Rates

November – Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Update on Affordable Housing Strategy (perhaps to include Tiny Micro Houses/NewTown Model)

General Streetcar project update

Overall map/levels of service, plus any additional development planned for this year and how that will impact congestion and what plans are.

Agenda Item 13 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas