

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
June 3, 2020



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, Virtual Meeting #2 using Microsoft Teams Platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Doreen Garlid, Diane Harden, Jana Lynn Granillo (late arrival), Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Maureen Eastty, Stephanie Greenfield, Carol Shixue Hu, Christopher McCabe and Richelle Miller

City Staff Present: Craig Hayton, Parks Manager, phone #, craig_hayton@tempe.gov; Elizabeth Higgins, Chief of Staff, elizabeth_higgins@tempe.gov; Wydale Holmes, Strategic Management Analyst, Wydale_holmes@tempe.gov; Rosa Inchausti, Strategic Management and Diversity Director, rosa_inchausti@tempe.gov; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

Guests Present:
None.

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Belec

Agenda Item 2 - Attendance Roll Call

Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Doreen Garlid, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein.

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo (arrived late), Stephanie Greenfield, Carol Shixue Hu, McCabe and Richelle Miller

Agenda Item 3 - Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 - Consideration of Minutes: May 6, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Garlid made a motion to approve the May 6, 2020 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Larimer

Result: *The motion passed with a 9-0 vote*

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Doreen Garlid, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein

Commission Members Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo (arrived late) Stephanie Greenfield, Carol Shixue Hu, McCabe and Richelle Miller

Agenda Item 5 – Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, Craig Hayton, Parks Manager

Parks Manager, Craig Hayton reminded commission members that he agreed to come back with a Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update when he last visited in November 2019 not long after the community survey and initial launch of this planning process. Since then, work has progressed on a number of fronts from the level of service analysis to refinement of the park classifications criteria. The level of service analysis is the mechanism for identifying city parks amenities by ratio of population while evaluating capacity to meet future needs. This analysis allows for an opportunity to look at how we are doing now and to identify how do we keep up the level of service with the next ten years of projected population growth? This information will the help guide new infrastructure investments and potential expenses as well as help support and determine programming priorities. Options that may be explored for maintaining or surpassing levels of service range from potential shared use opportunities to private development amenities with access for the public to multi-purpose opportunities.

Consultant recommendations for the next ten years include the addition of one dog park, six additional playgrounds, a dozen parks ramadas and a community center. Rather than a stand along community center, there may be an option to partner with an existing use or even a private development project. It was noted that community pools were not included as part of the level of service recommendations and Craig agreed to look further into how those are being addressed.

Commissioners remarked on the innovative playground designs and concepts they have seen in other cities across the world such as Copenhagen. Craig remarked that a regional park location with more ample space might work for a more dynamic and creative playground option. Commissioners also inquired about the usage agreements with schools and how the public can get greater access to these shared spaces. Craig noted that some agreements exist but they are not consistent, adding that the city strives to be proactive and address any noted issues when they arise best possible.

Parks classification is a system of defining and organizing parks determined by facilities, amenities and service area and size. A park's classification can impact maintenance standards (i.e. more frequent and significant usage would necessitate more maintenance), programming and service areas. Craig noted that both Selleh and Hollis Parks have restrooms which opens up the potential for them to be classified as community parks rather than neighborhood parks. Commissioners commented that restrooms are very helpful, particularly when small children are in tow and allow all users the potential to remain at the park longer. Commissioner Garlid emphasized that any park with a restroom should have more frequent maintenance and should be classified correctly to allow for that.

Craig inquired how commission members felt about the possibility of reclassifying any neighborhood parks to community parks. Commissioner Granillo, Chair of her Meyer Park neighborhood and frequent visitor to Meyer Park, predicted that the reaction would be mixed with some embracing the increase in usage and others who likely would have concerns regarding homelessness and creating a more attractive environment for outsiders.

Commissioners also remarked on opportunities for innovation in parks such as large shaded areas for exercise classes and for adults to use outdoor exercise equipment. Craig noted that Ehrhardt and Esquer Parks have adult exercise equipment that has been well received. Other shared uses can be Pickleball and Tennis courts.

Next process steps include development of the draft and final master plan documents, looking at costs, funding and financing, identifying priorities and beginning implementation. Craig anticipates coming back to Boards and Commissions sometime in Fall 2020.

Agenda Item 6 – Wastewater Biomarkers Update, Wydale Holmes, Strategic Management Analyst and Rosa Inchausti, Strategic Management and Diversity Director

The City of Tempe and Arizona State University established a partnership back in May of 2018 to study city wastewater to advance community health. This partnership was originally centered around the opioid epidemic and has pivoted at this time to focus on fighting Covid-19.

Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) is the science of studying community sewage for public health information. Working with scientists from Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute, Tempe is committed to using data to understand challenges, inform strategies and evaluate outcomes for community impacts.

Five geographic areas were identified for sampling. These five areas were determined by accessibility and where samples were already being collected. In the future, additional areas maybe be added, all at the 10,000 foot level with no personal identifying information. Building and maintaining trust and transparency are critical elements to the continued success of this endeavor.

Sample results are sent to the scientists at ASU where they are analyzed and the data comes back to the city on a weekly basis to aid in decision making processes. The website has a dashboard located at covid19.tempe.gov which is updated with the average weekly results similar to a weather report. Story maps are also located here and they provide context and visualization and are available in Spanish and can be translated to over 260 different languages. This data can help provide early warning signals and identify trends and is used to inform decision making in terms of emergency operations, education, services being offered through the city of Tempe and reopening plans. The CDC has been in communication and is considering modeling and using this same type of technology as a disease surveillance tool.

Commission members expressed much enthusiasm for this initiative describing it as groundbreaking, exciting and encouraging.

Agenda Item 7 – Transition Plans, Elizabeth Higgins, Chief of Staff

Elizabeth Higgins, Chief of Staff, confirmed that the Swearing In Ceremony for Mayor Elect Corey Woods and new Councilmember Doreen Garlid is on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 6 pm. This will also be the final, formal recognition of service for Mayor Mark Mitchell and Councilmember Arlene Chin. Staff is continuing to work on ceremony logistics in light of all CDC recommendations and does not yet know if the ceremony will be entirely virtual or will have a limited in person component. The City Council Chambers is not one of the city facilities planned for reopening on June 15 due to the public nature of the facility. Both the Mayor elect and Councilmember elect are being kept updated on current city information and happenings with lots of Microsoft Teams meetings and council orientation materials and are on the same page for transition planning.

Agenda Item 8 – State of the Neighborhoods Update

Honorees have been very receptive to the idea of a mini-parade/caravan celebrating their contributions to connecting Tempe. Eighteen deliveries on three separate routes are anticipated for Saturday, June 6. Caravan participants including Mayor/Councilmembers, Boards and Commission members and nominators are asked to meet at the library complex under the parking lot shade structures at 8 am. They can help load supplies and finalize decorating their vehicles with balloons and signage and select the route they wish to travel on if they are helping honor a specific nominee or

volunteer for a route that needs them. Fliers with save the date reminders for the Saturday, June 27 State of the Neighborhoods & Awards virtual event will be distributed and each honoree will receive a framed certificate, personal yard sign, State of the Neighborhoods & Awards mug, gift bag and donuts. The two to three honorees that were unavailable for deliveries on Saturday will receive their award via separate staff member deliveries.

Commission member Steinn and Chair Belec inquired about the status of commission member name tags. Staff agreed to follow up on status and report back.

Agenda Item 9 – Covid-19 Update

Very brief Covid-19 update and mention of the Reopening survey on Tempe Forum. Commissioner Stein asked if any goal had been set such as no covid-19 cases in city facilities. Staff have not heard of any goals like that but agreed to share the input.

Agenda Item 10 Commission business - August 2020 Retreat Planning identification of potential agenda items and date selection

Staff offered to send out a google poll to get consensus regarding the retreat date. Typically, the retreat is on a Saturday morning in August and lasts about three hours and is an opportunity for vision setting for the coming year. This retreat may be virtual or may have a virtual component even if an in-person meeting is allowed by August.

Agenda Item 10 – Census 2020 Update

Commission members suggested looking at opportunities to collaborate with other cities such as a University Town challenge with Tucson. They inquired if Tucson or Flagstaff have a Neighborhood Advisory Commission that they could connect with on this suggestion and other ideas.

Agenda Item 12 - Proposed Future Agenda Items -

Commission members thanked Doreen Garlid for her Neighborhood Advisory Commission service and suggested the following future agenda items:

- Communication
- Opportunities to collaborate (i.e. Human Relations Commission community healing activity)
- Meeting location (user friendly, welcoming, accessible)

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner