

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
November 4, 2020



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, Virtual Meeting #7 using Microsoft Teams Platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Stephanie Greenfield, Diane Harden, Matt Heil, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Kevin Sweeney.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Barb Harris, Christopher McCabe, Richelle Miller (on leave), Zoe Stein

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

Guests: Gary Brennan, Ron Tapscott

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Belec

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call

Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Stephanie Greenfield, Diane Harden, Matt Heil, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky and Kevin Sweeney.

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Barb Harris, Christopher McCabe, Richelle Miller (on leave), Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Schugurensky

Second: Commissioner Larimer

Result: *The motion passed with a unanimous vote of those present 9-0.*

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Stephanie Greenfield, Diane Harden, Matt Heil, Kiyomi Kurooka, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Kevin Sweeney.

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Barb Harris, Christopher McCabe, Richelle Miller (on leave), Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 5 – 2021 State of the Neighborhoods Planning – ideas for possible themes, presentations and activities

Due to the Covid-19 circumstances around the timing of the original April 2020 event, the event successfully transitioned to virtual for the first time ever and was well received. The 2021 event will likely need to be virtual as well or perhaps a hybrid event if any in-person activities are possible at that time. Staff referenced and briefly reviewed the prior years' event themes and workshop offerings memo in the meeting packet. Members were then asked for their thoughts on possible themes, presentations and activities for the 2021 event and offered the following:

- As originally discussed for 2020, revisit encouraging new connections with some type of “speed dating” activity for fellow commission members or neighbor attendees
- Select one or two workshops that can happen day of and be recorded and shown at a later date
- NAC member presence and provide introductions to each workshop session
- Climate Action Plan related workshop describing plan and how neighborhoods and hoas can engage, participate, contribute and help
- Neighborhood Grants
- Racial Justice
- Homelessness
- On your own time type activity such as a sustainability, public art or art funded by grants walk with map provided
- Mini speeches could be given by award winners describing what they did and why?
- NAC members offered to write a sentence or two for the script or provide a sound bite for a recording helping to frame why an Award Winner was selected
- Possible joint award with Sustainability Commission? Sustainability Commission selects their own award recipients. Staff reminder that sustainability is being added as an additional criteria to the Property Beautification Award nomination form

The 2020 Event Caravans were noted as being special and celebratory. However, there were three different routes preventing caravan participants from celebrating everyone. Participants can also get lost trying to follow a route or have challenges keeping up. Possible alternatives to a vehicle caravan or parade include selecting two city parks and celebrating half of all honorees in each. Or, setting up an in-person event in the exterior courtyard area of Tempe History Museum with music and activities like the safely distanced set up during recent voting. The in-person event could be taped and played later.

Commissioner Harden suggested a “test run” of the different zip code areas. Each member can ask around and gather event theme and workshop ideas from residents and bring back their results to the December Commission meeting. Chair Moulton Belec and other members agreed with this suggestion.

Agenda Item 6 – Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grants History and Overview

Staff provided a neighborhood grants overview presentation detailing the overall history of the program which was created in 1994 and including pictured examples of a variety of past successful projects. Eligible applicants are neighborhood and homeowners' associations and Crime Free Multi-housing communities. A match of at least 25% of the requested funds is required for HOAs and Crime Free Multi-Housing Communities. (The powerpoint shared was also contained in the meeting packet.)

Staff noted that the 2021-2022 grant cycle is launching soon so any approved changes to the program will not be implemented until Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grants are conceived and initiated by each of the neighborhoods that apply. Neighborhood involvement in the selection of a project to move forward with and throughout the process is a key component of any successful application.

NAC members wondered whether it would be helpful to request more funding from Mayor and Council, encourage an increased number of applications or work to raise awareness of funding opportunities? Staff offered that the total funding available has changed through the years due to general financial conditions within the city. Mayor and Council have been steadfast in their support of the grant program, even in leaner times, currently allocating \$275,000 annually, which is supplemented by an additional \$30,000 from the city's Water Conservation Program and new this year, one half of the fees collected for small cell sites. For the 2021-2022 grant cycle, the maximum grant amount will increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The number and variety of applications varies every year. The process is always competitive but fewer applications are denied in recent years due to lack of available funding. More often, they do not meet provided criteria or have fatal flaws. Each applicant receives an approval letter with next steps or a denial letter explaining the reason for the denial and offering guidance. A few originally denied projects have been retooled and resubmitted and achieved success the next grant cycle.

Commissioner Sweeney remarked that he has been hearing talk about projects that could benefit multiple neighborhoods such as traffic calming in the area of Warner and McClintock. Collaborative applications that combine resources are welcomed, however if the size and scope of the project gets bigger than the neighborhood level, the neighborhood grants program is likely not the appropriate funding source. HOAs can secure grants for entryway signage provided it is deemed a beautification and enhancement rather than a basic replacement. Trees planted in neighborhood parks are an eligible application as are trees planted in front yards provided they are located to shade the sidewalk. Staff agreed to provide the link to the updated grants website where the new application will be available as well as links to prior successful grant applications.

Agenda Item 7 – Initial review of DRAFT NAC Annual Report

Once agreed upon, members will be adding their 2021 goals to the NAC Annual Report. The final report is due to City Clerk in early December following the December NAC meeting which will be the last look. Members did not have any additional comments on the document as presented at this time.

Agenda Item 8 – Continuation of NAC 2021 Goals and strategies discussion and refinement

Chair Moulton Belec commented on the good initial discussion at the October 17 Annual Retreat meeting and she reiterated the common themes that Aaron Peterson/Facilitator identified from the pre-retreat meeting homework and shared at the Retreat. These common themes included:

- Better neighborhood input
- Neighborhood organizations
- Impact
- Influence decision making

- Measurable results
- Affect change
- Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grants
- Increase resident engagement
- Engage with other commissions
- Provide advice to Mayor and Council
- Engage minorities

Chair Moulton Belec advised members of her desire to be more protective and intentional of NAC member time. She shared some ideas for consideration including a theme for some of the monthly meetings, rotating topics to take action on, writing a quarterly memo, reintroducing neighborhoods and hoas to NAC, canvassing and helping update the Directory list, tabling at existing city meetings and events, neighborhood grants and working with other commissions and promoting next steps of the Climate Action plan. Commissioner Harden suggested that Aaron Peterson/Facilitator provide additional information on what he saw and observed through the pre-retreat homework and at the retreat. Staff offered that he is willing to make himself available for additional Commission or Working Group meetings.

Commissioner Schugurensky expressed concern regarding too many goals and actions and not enough time. He proposed one clear, high impact, memorable goal. Commissioner Greenfield suggested an action item having to do with Neighborhood Grants. Ideas mentioned included suggesting something new, writing a memo, raising money towards grants, storytelling around the grants and the award winners to share with the Public Information staff and to help amplify the messaging.

Commissioner Schugurensky asked staff to share their thoughts about main challenges with neighborhood grants. Staff offered that funding is disbursed throughout Tempe, however there are ineligible pockets - areas without a neighborhood association or without a traditionally active one. They may be connected but more through Facebook or NextDoor platforms than in-person gatherings. Commissioner Larimer shared that her neighborhood is very neighborly but not officially registered nor organized. Commissioner Schugurensky inquired how many residents do not have a neighborhood affiliation and how might members help get the word out to residents who live in areas that do not have a neighborhood affiliation? He suggested that maybe the group can develop a higher level plan for how to close the gap and better include these people adding that the data can be useful for other things besides neighborhood grants.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Legislative Principles (December meeting)

Recreational Marijuana (January 2020 meeting)

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas