

DRAFT Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
January 6, 2021



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky, Zoe Stein

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director - Planning, ryan_levesque@tempe.gov

Guests: Mitchell, Marlborough Park Estates HOA resident

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, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Absent: Christopher McCabe (during roll call vote), Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky, Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: December 2, 2020

Motion: Commissioner Larimer made a motion to approve the December 2 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Harden

Result: Approved by a unanimous vote of 11 to 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Absent: Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky, Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 5 – Chair and Vice Chair Final Nominations and Election

Staff provided a quick overview noting that up to three consecutive terms in the roles of Chair or Vice Chair are allowed per commission ordinance. Chair Moulton Belec completed her first term as Chair effective December 31, 2020. At the December 2,

2020 meeting she was nominated for 2021 Chair and indicated her willingness to continue in this role, as well as encouraging other potential candidates.

No additional nominations for Chair were received. Chair Belec called for a vote.

Result: Approved by a unanimous vote of 11 to 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Members Absent: Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein

There was brief discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of Vice Chair including the need to run the meeting in the event of the Chair's absence. There are also plans for the Chair to run one working group/subcommittee while the Vice Chair facilitates the other. Commissioner Larimer offered to serve as Vice Chair.

Motion: Self-nomination for Commissioner Larimer to serve as 2021 Vice Chair

Second: Commissioner Harris

Result: Unanimously approved with a 11-0 vote.

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Members Absent: Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 6 – Welcome of New Members

New commission members Joel Stern and Nicholas Weller were welcomed to the group. Joel shared that he lives in Dromedary Neighborhood Association which he helped to found and that he has some familiarity with the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant program as a past, successful grant recipient. He loves living and working in Tempe and last year NAC awarded him a Neighbor of the Year Award for his community building efforts.

Nich is a new homeowner in the Borden Homes Neighborhood area by McClintock and Apache. Prior to that he lived in Maple Ash. He has a deep interest in the community and is looking forward to serving on the Commission. Each NAC member in turn briefly described their neighborhood area, their interest in serving and what they hope to contribute to the group.

Agenda Item 7 – Marijuana Initiative (Prop 207) Proposed Tempe Regulations

In response to the passing of Proposition 207, on the November 3, 2020 ballot, the City is bringing forward a draft ordinance for the Marijuana initiative for consideration of adoption by the City Council. This ordinance addresses location and operation requirements. Prop. 207 allows for one Marijuana Establishment license for every 10 pharmacies and a dual licensee for lawfully registered dispensaries to also sell as a Marijuana Establishment. The Social Equity Ownership Program will issue 26 additional licenses throughout the state to ensure accessibility to all Arizona residents.

At their December 3 Council meeting, staff was provided direction including:

1. Maintain current separation standards for new Marijuana Establishments and existing Dispensaries
2. Restrict use on city property, parks, sidewalks
3. Marijuana Testing Facilities (allow in Industrial Districts, and when accessory to a Marijuana Establishment)
4. Solicit feedback from medical marijuana representatives, Tempe Chamber, public

Under Prop. 207, Tempe may not enact regulations more restrictive than comparable regulations pertaining to medical marijuana; nor regulations that make the operations of a Marijuana Establishment or Marijuana Testing Facility unduly burdensome; or regulations that conflict with regulations contained in the Proposition.

Ryan Levesque reviewed the current Medical Marijuana Dispensary and proposed Marijuana Establishment requirements. Several NAC members expressed concern that the sale of alcohol separation requirements are not as restrictive. Ryan shared that the alcohol distance requirements, such as for Series 6 Bars, are established and regulated by the state but acknowledged the difference. Members suggested that the marijuana separation requirements should more closely match the alcohol separation requirements. Commissioner Heil asked if there are any ways to bypass the separation requirements. Ryan explained that a Marijuana Establishment could make an application for a “variance” of separation requirements before the Board of Adjustment and make an argument. No Commission action was taken nor any approval of proposed ordinance offered.

Next steps include a Development Review Commission (recommendation hearing) on January 12 followed by the first City Council public hearing on January 28 and the second City Council public hearing on February 11.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Due to meeting time constraints and the need to proceed to the joint meeting with the Sustainability Commission, no time was dedicated to discussion of future agenda items.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas