

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission May 5, 2021



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo (had to depart early), Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Nicholas Weller and Zoe Stein.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney, (Note: Richelle Miller/85281 tendered her resignation on May 5, 2021)

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Terry Piekartz, Municipal Utilities Director; Cathy Hollow, Traffic Engineering – Principal Civil Engineer, cathy_hollow@tempe.gov

Guests: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call

Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Nicholas Weller and Zoe Stein.

Absent: Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Granillo made a motion to approve the April 7 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Harris

Result: Approved by a unanimous vote of 10 to 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Nicholas Weller and Zoe Stein.

Absent: Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney

Agenda Item 5 – Solid Waste Rate Study

Terry Piekartz, Municipal Utilities Director, emphasized that solid waste services are funded through a self-supporting, business-like enterprise fund. This means that services are funded through rates, fees and charges paid by the customers who use those

services. This structure ensures the long-term financial viability and sustainability of the solid waste utility.

The city retains the services of a third-party financial consultant every other year to assist staff in conducting a comprehensive study of the cost to provide solid waste services to the Tempe Community. The study evaluates the costs of providing services, determines the revenue requirements necessary to maintain the financial health of the utility and recommends any needed adjustments to rates, fees and charges.

Tempe's Solid Waste Services are designed to reflect community values with source reduction, reuse/repair and recycle/compost efforts all greatly encouraged over landfill usage. The city is divided into four areas, each with specific days of week assigned for garbage and recycling pick up. Fridays are set aside for vehicle maintenance and special pick-ups. Residential Service offerings include:

- ❖ Garbage and recycling, each 1x weekly
- ❖ Volume-based container pricing (available to non-alley residents)
- ❖ Green organics program
- ❖ Uncontained garbage and green organics (bi-monthly service)
- ❖ Household Products Collection Center
- ❖ Zero Waste Day Events
- ❖ Self-haul to transfer station

The composting program is an official pilot with council approval and the rate study will encompass comprehensive review of this offering. Considerations will include what cost recovery would look like, moving it from a pilot program to a regular program and operationalizing compost for long term use.

Three key elements of the Solid Waste Rate Study are revenue requirements, cost allocation and rate design. Revenue requirements encompass operating costs, capital costs, financial policies and level of service. Cost allocation analysis entails evaluation of available data, service delivery model, billing units and comparison of results to current revenue. Lastly, rate design evaluates objectives, identifies structures and customer impacts.

Commission member comments and questions included:

? – When you gather this feedback, what is the true cost of providing services, what is relative priority of services? Where is the gap? Where is help needed?

A – Financial analysis not completed/available at this time. Unknown if there is a gap and where until concluded.

? – Current rate for monthly residential/single family home service is \$29.57. What kind of increase do you expect?

A – Cannot say at this time. Costs do tend to rise due to inflation, new programs or unanticipated costs. Not expecting massive rate hikes but at least a nominal rate change is expected.

? – What is the status of the recycling market? What changes?

A – Tempe prioritized and chose to continue the recycling program even when some of our neighboring cities discontinued theirs. This reflects the values of the community and the City Council.

? – Where does Tempe’s trash go? A – Waste Management Transfer Station, from there off to various landfills. Terry would have to check if further detail is desired.

Love the Zero Waste Days! We should have more of them!

Would like to see an increase in bulk trash collection too.

Public involvement and community engagement is sought throughout the process. The public comment survey opened April 8, 2021 and Utility Rate Study public meetings were held virtually on April 20 both at noon and 6 pm. NAC members were encouraged to complete the rate study survey at tempe.gov/utilityratestudy before May 8, 2021 when it closes in addition to any comments provided through this meeting. Additional public comment will be sought in August through September along with another public survey regarding rate study recommendations. Rate adoption is anticipated to be considered at an October 2021 Council Meeting. If adopted, there would be additional public outreach communicating the new rates which would then become effective January 2022.

Agenda Item 6 – Streetscape and Transportation Enhancement Program (STEP) Manual Update, Cathy Hollow, Traffic Engineering – Principal Civil Engineer

Cathy Hollow, Traffic Engineering – Principal Civil Engineer, offered that the existing STEP manual was finalized back in 2008 and traditionally speed cushions have been the most common request. More varied requests and feedback from September 2020 meetings of the Transportation Commission and Tempe City Council prompted a revision.

Manual content:

- ❖ Description of wide range of traffic problems that may be addressed (i.e. speeding, high volume traffic, pedestrian and bike safety, cut-through traffic, site distance issues, other on-going traffic violations)
- ❖ Robust toolbox of solutions that may be implemented (i.e. traffic circles, road closures, diverters, speed cushions, cul-de-sacs, speed tables, chokers, raised crosswalks, chicanes)
- ❖ Process outline for reviewing concerns and gaining consensus – **needs to be updated**

Staff’s focus is working with a consultant and Stakeholder Advisory Group on improving and updating the process used to approve or deny a request. Forms intended to kick off process are not being used and online submissions are being explored. Programs and processes for several peer cities with Universities (locally and out of state) are also being reviewed. Process elements being studied include: non-response, rental response, funding criteria, consensus requirements, speed threshold (400 cars on street/15% of vehicles must be traveling 6 miles over speed limit) and alternate communication/automation.

NAC Member comments and questions included:

- Can be sunk by very few homeowners – bar is too high
- School Zone Areas and Bike Boulevards as designated should be given extra points A: Bike Boulevards can be tricky, sometimes not conducive to avid bike riders
- What is required for devices at intersections?

- Re: idea of ownership of an intersection, don't know that it's necessary to get all 4 homeowners opinions
- Lack of awareness - didn't know the manual or process existed
- Add a "how to campaign"
- Should individual homeowners be able to change plan? A: The 100% would mean the device could not go in front of "that" house, doesn't mean it would shoot down the whole thing.
- What about apartment complexes? How treated? A: Needs clarification as well as gated communities
- Lowering bar of consensus, consider sweetening the deal by offering shade trees
- Do painted bike lanes and stop boxes require STEP process? A: Likely fall under general markings so would not.
- Re: 6 miles over threshold, what if people are going 10 miles over? Add a super speeder category.
- What about Rio Salado Parkway? We are a neighborhood too, Rio Salado is both an arterial and a neighborhood street and are facing car racing and speeding (speeding along Southern around College also noted)
- Overlap of funding - Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Program and separate pot of money specific to speed humps, success with getting funded through grants can lessen the timeframe to get traffic calming measures in place

Note: Jana Lynn Granillo departed meeting but quorum was retained.

Chair Moulton Belec participated in the March/April Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings and the STEP Manual update is anticipated to conclude by October 2021 following another advisory group meeting, another round of October Commission meetings (including NAC) and the City Council Work Study Session.

Agenda Item 7 – 2021 State of the Neighborhoods & Awards – Event Recap

Note: Michael McLendon departed from meeting but quorum was retained.

A few NAC members were on the April 17 State of the Neighborhoods & Awards live event which was hybrid with a small in-person component of Award Winners, Mayor/Council and involved staff and a live stream virtual component via facebook and Channel 11 link. The meeting packet included a summary of all outreach and engagement rates for the event. (See 4/17 – Live event bulleted information in the provided document for the reach/impressions, views, engagements and comments information)

Member feedback included:

- ❖ Liked it better last year, took too long this year
- ❖ Liked format of last year's virtual event better
- ❖ Agenda and flow kind of confusing
- ❖ Rethinking that maybe we shouldn't honor every honoree – winners only?
- ❖ Like that we recognize all nominees
- ❖ Too much storytelling
- ❖ Consider one slide listing all honorable mentions
- ❖ There were some watch parties and neighborhood-centric celebrations
- ❖ Segments were too long
- ❖ Need to refocus on neighborhood connection
- ❖ Maybe revisit pre-covid ideas like speed dating and NA/HOA panels
- ❖ So many different awards and awards categories

- ❖ Cut out Council commercials – event used as opportunity to get on their platform, would you have done this if live in-person?
- ❖ Need neighborhood/community focused programming
- ❖ Our neighborhood awards were very last – Neighbor of the Year should be first

Vice Chair Larimer requested NAC members have opportunity to provide input on the event budget. Staff agreed noting that this year Salt River Project contributed \$1,200. and some nominal city funds were used. Important to remember that due to the small scale in-person event, breakfast refreshment costs were considerably less than usual. Staff offered to provide timeline with time sensitive dates working backwards from next April – event date tbd. The event video is available at tempe.gov/stateoftheneighborhoods and members were encouraged to watch it.

Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Communication and Grants Working Group Updates

Chair Moulton Belec provided an update on the status of the list. She participated in a recent meeting with Shauna, Shelly Seyer, Interim Community Development Director and Deputy City Manager Steven Methvin. NAC will provide an invitation to participate, staff can then forward out and NA and HOA contacts will have the option to OPT IN.

One of the Grants Working Group asks was to allow for a NAC member to sit in on Grants Review Committee. Shauna will look into that. Chair Moulton Belec noted that she has a conflict of interest due to being a current applicant.

Grants Working Group members are collecting more data about who is applying for grants and not chosen as a source of feedback. Suggested consideration of rolling deadlines rather than all at once perhaps allowing varied staff to take time away from their regular responsibilities to focus more on potential incoming grant applications. Grant applicants could be deterred from applying if they do not hear back from listed staff contacts for specific project type.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Meeting packet included a proposed future agenda items memo mapping known items for the coming meeting months. No meeting will be held in July. Dates for the August Retreat (replaces August 4th regular meeting) were briefly discussed. Members agreed that Saturday, August 7 or Saturday, August 14 work best for the majority present. Start time is anticipated to be 8 or 8:30 a.m. Unknown if retreat will be virtual or in-person at this time. Staff will identify room location options.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas