

Minutes

Sustainability & Resilience Commission and Neighborhood Advisory Commission Joint Meeting January 10, 2022

Minutes of the Tempe Sustainability & Resilience Commission and Neighborhood Advisory Commission joint, virtual meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2022, 4:30 p.m., MS Teams platform.

Sustainability & Resilience Commission Members Present:

Kendon Jung (Chair)	Natalie Mendoza
Barbie Burke (Vice-Chair)	Krystal Brown
Stephanie Milam-Edwards	Katja Brundiars
Jake Swanson	Meaghan Coon
Shawn Swisher	

Sustainability & Resilience Commission Members Absent:

Ryan Mores

Neighborhood Advisory Commission Members Present:

Hannah Moulton Belec (Chair)	Diane Harden
Joel Stern (Vice-Chair)	Linda Knutson
Brandon Abrahams	Melanie Larimer
Maureen Easty	Nancy Puffer
Annette Fields	Mark Rude
Jana Lynn Granillo	Nicholas Weller

Neighborhood Advisory Commission Members Absent:

Barb Harris, Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky

City Staff Present:

Braden Kay
Grace DelMonte Kelly
Henry Pearson
Elizabeth Thomas
Brianna Fisher
Bonnie Richardson
Shauna Warner
Laura Kajfez

Guests Present:

Joyce Vesper
Councilmembers Doreen Garlid and Lauren Kuby

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order and Attendance Roll Call

Sustainability & Resilience Commission Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Commissioners in attendance noted that they were on the virtual meeting. Neighborhood Advisory

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Commission Chair Belec conducted an attendance roll call. A couple members arrived later and were then noted as present.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

Chair Jung asked guests to introduce themselves. No public comments were made.

Agenda Item 3 – Adaptive Streets Project

Principal Planner, Bonnie Richardson, provided an overview of the Adaptive Streets Project. During the June 2020 Transportation Commission meeting, an Open Streets presentation was provided, highlighting the need for exploration of temporary solutions to COVID-19 related issues, specifically the increased need for open space to allow for social distancing.

Community Needs:

- Room to walk and bike
- Safer streets
- More room to dine and gather
- Placemaking

Project Purpose:

- Create a guidebook (visual design guide) that changes the use of right-of-way (ROW) for new demands
- Low cost and easy to implement strategies
- Internal (city) and external (public) processes

What Are Adaptive Streets?

- An application to change the public ROW
- Temporary implementation
- New feature that changes how the street is used
- Implemented in response to a specific need
- Examples:
 - Bring attention to features or configuration at an intersection to improve safety
 - Implement changes to circulation/mobility
 - Can include landscapes/art
 - Support temporary/seasonal needs for the community and travelers

Project Process:

- Currently between the discovery and development phases
- Seeking feedback on the definition

Project Activities:

Discover:

- Review of city plans and documents to identify opportunities for adaptive streets
- Completed 2 focus groups - One with city staff and one with businesses and residents

Define:

- Refining definition and use case for adaptive streets
- Discussions around developing internal processes

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Public Engagement Phase 1:

- Online meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 @ 12 pm
- In person public open house: Saturday, January 29, 2022 @ 9 am
- Online digital engagement activity: Active January 19 - February 13, 2022
- Collaboration with Cul-de-sac
- Fine tune the definition of adaptive streets with public input and determine which strategies are useful in Tempe

Some commissioner questions and comments about the Adaptive Streets Project:

Who contacted the city to start the request and how was the work approved so far?

The Transportation Commission was looking for a safe way to use streets during covid.

Why do they not have means for getting paint in intersections?

Tempe Traffic Engineers take a conservative stance about not interfering with markings on the street. Visual examples of other cities who have successfully used paint in these locations were included in the presentation.

These could offer further engagement with the community by having them create art for intersections.

How can adaptive streets advance climate action goals?

Bonnie shared that Tempe is looking for ways to cool the streets, reduce traffic, and make them safe. These are overlapping goals found within the 20-minute city, the Transportation Plan, and the Sustainability Plan. The Transportation Commission is interested in adaptive bus lanes. Tempe Traffic Engineers would need to be on board with such proposals. A large movable planter containing canopy trees has been created and can be used to block streets and provide shade/cooling/seating during events.

Can a neighborhood request/access temporary traffic calming? Is there an intersection with the neighborhood traffic calming murals?

Various options and possibilities are being considered. The needs of the community need as well as anticipated duration needed for solutions will be part of that. Possibly, some temporary solutions could become permanent.

Why are the neighborhood traffic calming manual and this guide two separate resources?

Traffic calming is very precise and is done with the intent of having formal permanent solutions. This is a process in which we can try out ideas on a temporary basis, which can later be considered for permanent implementation, if needed.

Regarding public input, is there a way to filter neighborhood feedback vs commuters?

Adaptive Streets is a more hands on process between city staff and local businesses and neighborhoods. Because it is temporary, it can be implemented without input beyond the local/adjacent community. Permanent approaches require input from everyone, this likely will not.

Chair Jung thanked Bonnie for her time and noted the additional questions in the chat which Bonnie offered to answer via email.

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Agenda Item 4 – Climate Action Plan Update

Sustainability Director Braden Kay provided a Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update. First approved in 2019, the CAP aligns with Council performance measures for Sustainable Growth and Development:

4.18 - Community Carbon Neutrality by 2050

4.19 - Municipal Operations Carbon Neutrality by 2050, 100% of energy renewable by 2035

This is an update (not a new plan) that prioritizes actions and cost-effective solutions to:

- Reduce contribution to global climate change through reduction of GHG. 99% of our emissions come from energy and transportation

- Address how climate change is already affecting the city - Tempe decided to pick one 'shock' to build resilience to extreme heat. Heat does not have an existing governance system as with problems like flooding or drought

CAP Progress:

Listening Phase: June -December 2020

Planning Phase: Jan-Oct 2021

Review and Approval: Oct 2021-Feb 2022

Four Agendas:

Tempe **Business** (Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Local First Arizona)

Tempe **Youth** and students

Climate Justice (target neighborhoods to address the inequitable effects of climate change and climate injustices)

Tempe **Neighborhoods/residents**

Each agenda identifies: actions, partnerships and highlight actions

Next Steps:

January: Virtual Meeting/Open House

February: Update GHG emissions and recommendations

March: Final Approval

April: Review and consider proposed budget supplementals

Ongoing: Adopt policy, support programs, invest.

Braden emphasized that the CAP Update is important, however the budget and the adoption of policy and investments is even more critical.

Commissioner's questions and comments regarding the CAP update:

Do you have a council person who advocates for you?

Braden stated that all council members voted for this work.

What is being asked of the Council?

Braden reviewed the previous slides to illustrate the investments requested.

What is the expense and how do you plan to move forward to budgeting mobility hubs?

Bonnie noted that the requests will come from the Transportation Department. The Culdesac project is a real example but is still in the development phase. Braden added that we need and are seeking clarity on the type of help needed for living spaces such as weatherization programs which could include changing out of HVAC units, windows and home retrofits.

What is the expected outcome of land stewardship and expand the definition?

Planting native trees and vegetation returns the land to a state of helping people and is supportive of the way that O'otham people treated the land. Not many people are willing to return land to the indigenous communities. How can we respect and honor the land if we do not return it? Responsible stewardship and indigenous land practices can help. This is a tough issue with a lot of ideas and problems. There is a lot of work to be done with engagement and listening to move forward.

What is the timeline for battery storage for EnVision Tempe?

Dependent on what is approved in the budget. A consultant is helping with a wedge analysis, data will then be available for budgeting decisions. Regarding funding positions, it's important to make the council understand the scope of the work of sustainability. There are other smaller cities with far larger sustainability offices.

Chair Jung then brought up the draft letter to Council supporting the CAP Update. Both commission Chairs had reviewed the letter and were asking for their respective members input and support. A preliminary poll of Sustainability and Resilience Commissioners and Neighborhood Advisory Commissioners was conducted to gauge how many would support the letter as written. NAC had sufficient votes for the letter to proceed as did Sustainability & Resilience, but some members requested more time to review and provide comments. There were concerns about the letter text being too vague with no specific call to action and no clarification of aspirational vision versus actionable items.

Chairs Jung and Belec agreed and continued the formal vote for the approval of the letter to their next Commission meetings. Commissioners can send comments and edits to staff who will forward them on to the Chairs for compiling of a revised draft letter.

Agenda Item 5 – State of the Neighborhoods Planning Update

Neighborhood Advisory Commission Chair Moulton Belec provided an overview of this year's re-imagined Neighborhoods event. The 2022 Neighborhood Celebration, formerly known as the State of the Neighborhoods event, is coming up on Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 to 10:30 at Kiwanis Park in the Fiesta Ramada area. Nominations for all awards categories (including the new neighborhood award categories of event, business, and association of the year) are open now through February 15 at tempe.gov/neighborhood-celebration.

Pre-covid, NAC discussed how to make the gathering more inspirational and interactive from connecting community leaders to fostering leadership skills, providing mingling opportunities and working with commissions to drive engagement in commission work. Mayor Woods will emcee this year's celebration. There will be live music, a brief awards ceremony, and opportunities to connect and engage with Neighborhood and HOA leaders and event organizers, Boards and Commission members, prior and

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current honorees, small, local businesses and more. The Arts and Culture and Human Relations Commissions have already agreed to participate, and NAC would like Sustainability & Resilience members to join in too – both by soliciting nominations for all categories and attending the day of event and participating in activities.

Following the awards ceremony, Mayor Woods will direct attendees to the ramada area where a few neighborhood leaders will be sharing information and answering questions about their successful neighborhood and community events. NAC Vice Chair Joel Stern confirmed that the following three events are being highlighted:

- Ditch music sessions
- Tempe Neighborhoods Together (TNT) food drive
- Neighborhood Olympics

Also, following the awards and perhaps prior to, some Boards and Commission representatives will be tabling together. Each will be representing their respective commission and making themselves available to answer questions and promote the work they are doing around topics like grants, climate action and neighborhood engagement.

Neighborhood Program Manager, Shauna Warner, placed the event website link in the meeting chat. Chair Jung requested each Sustainability and Resilience Commission member submit at least one nomination for sustainable business and one for sustainable resident consideration. Various awards applications and event information can be found at:

<https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-development/neighborhood-services/neighborhood-celebration>

Sustainability and Resilience Commission Vice-Chair Burke added that she attended Ditch music and it was a great event. She confirmed she would be at the Neighborhood Celebration and will help provide representation and table coverage for the Sustainability and Resilience Commission as did Chair Jung. All members were again encouraged to come.

Agenda Item 6 – NAC Grants and Communication Working Groups Overview

Chair Moulton Belec provided an overview of NAC's communication and grants working groups. Both were created in 2021 and typically meeting one times monthly outside the regular NAC meeting. Nearly all members participate and are proud of the accomplishments made over the past year.

The goal of the communication working group is to increase and bolster communication in both directions - from residents and commissions to Council and from Council to commissions and residents. Members sought to create their own opt-in list of Neighborhood and Homeowners Association Chairs, now numbering 91 contacts, who they can reach directly. Members also worked with Communication and Media Relations staff to add a neighborhood news email subscription option to the www.tempe.gov/enews section of the city website and prepared an editorial calendar with storytelling and public information outreach suggestions for each month of the year. They have increased awareness of the commission's work including two media mentions and a Kiwanis Club speaking engagement.

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The grants working group is focused on supporting and building awareness of the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant program (tempe.gov/neighborhoodgrants). Goals include helping to increase participation, the diversity of neighborhoods applying, and address the need for additional funding. Members gathered research on which NAs and HOAs received funding in the last five years and the types of projects funded. They learned that often the most engaged neighborhoods apply, and many are repeat, successful applicants. NAC's opt-in list will be used to reach out to some of the under-resourced neighborhoods encouraging them to apply and offering support. An online grants survey is now open to help determine familiarity with the grants program and identify obstacles.

Chair Moulton Belec offered that joint commission goals could be set to encourage resiliency and shade canopy type projects and commission members are welcome to email NAC or staff with their thoughts. Chair Jung expressed appreciation for NAC's camaraderie, particularly on shade and mobility issues, adding that there is a potential pilot program focused on energy efficiency and renewable energy for low-income homeowners that might tie-in to some joint commission goals.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Prepared by: Henry Pearson, Grace DelMonte Kelly & Elizabeth Thomas
Reviewed by: Grace DelMonte Kelly & Elizabeth Thomas