

**DRAFT** Minutes  
Neighborhood Advisory Commission  
February 2, 2022



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, first hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer,

**City Staff:** Cathy Hollow, Principal Civil Engineer, catherine\_hollow@tempe.gov; Eric Iwersen, Transit Manager, eric\_iwersen@tempe.gov; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager

**Guests:** Christine Buchanan, Kelli Marie Cholieu, Randy Dittberner (consultant)

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Hannah Moulton Belec

**Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call**

**Present:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Annette Fields (arrived following), Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer

**Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment**

North Tempe resident Kelli Marie Cholieu described a number of homelessness and safety related concerns along the Indian Bend Wash multi-use path and in the park area at Miller and Curry. Christine Buchanan expressed her support for Kelli and shares these concerns. Chair Moulton Belec offered to explore these topics further as future NAC agenda items offering that the April 6 regular NAC meeting agenda is planned to include the topics of Crime Prevention and Housing affordability/Homelessness/Hotel conversions

**Agenda Item 4 – Review and approval of meeting minutes: January 5, 2022**

**Motion:** Commissioner Granillo made a motion to approve the January 5 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Commissioner Harris

**Commission Member Ayes:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer

**Result:** Approved by a unanimous vote of those present 12-0

**Agenda Item 5 – Review and approval of NAC and Sustainability and Resilience Commission joint meeting minutes: January 10, 2022**

**Motion:** Commissioner Rude made a motion to approve the January 10 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Commissioner Weller

**Commission Member Ayes:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Absent:** Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer

**Result:** Approved by a unanimous vote of those present 12-0

**Agenda Item 6 – STEP Manual/Neighborhood Traffic Calming Update**

Tempe City Traffic Engineer, Cathy Hollow, and project consultant Randy Dittberner with Lee Engineering, affirmed that larger overall neighborhood mitigation projects are now being proposed requiring different project criteria and approvals. Tempe's STEP Manual will be renamed as the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Guide and focus on the neighborhood approval process to install different traffic calming devices including, but not limited to:

- ✓ Approval thresholds
- ✓ Non-responsive property owners
- ✓ Management of the outreach process
- ✓ Policies related to owner and renter voting

Throughout Fall of 2021 multiple Stakeholder Advisory Group and Board and Commission meetings have taken place, along with additional peer agencies review and City Council direction - all elements contributing to further refinement of the Guide. Specific proposed updates at this time include:

- Process for the approval of projects run by the city with no requirement for resident petitioning nor a response rate
- Percentage threshold requirements for small and large scale projects
  - Small scale projects that do not require traffic movement (i.e. cushions and chicanes) will require 100% approval from immediately adjacent properties and 70% approval from the project area.
  - Large scale projects that restrict traffic movement (i.e. closures and diverters) will require 60% approval from the project area.
- Everyone in the study area may vote, including renters and owners. All votes are equally weighted.

Member questions and feedback included:

**One vote per household or one vote per person? Is there a minimum age?**

Each person in household could cast a vote. No minimum age established at this time.

**How would six units/households on a parcel be handled?**

All units/households would be mailed information regarding voting. They can choose to participate or not. If someone does not cast a vote, they are not counted.

That's kind of crazy, makes more sense by household, not numbers of occupants.

**If owners and renters vote and both are considered equally, if in conflict could nullify?**

Yes.

Extremely pleased with recommendations and appreciative of all your work and willingness to consider feedback and go back and make further refinements to this document!

Long-time renters contribute to the economy and the neighborhoods and have a stake. Agreement that renters be considered and able to vote too.

Lots of folks have roommates, adults from different families living together who might have different feelings.

Still hoping you clarify an appeal process with a sentence or bullet.

Are you meaning - If a device could not be installed?

Yes, whatever decision is. Citizen avenue to be heard.

The STEP Manual update is expected to conclude by February 17, 2022 following the Council Work Study Session. Staff will continue to monitor the performance of the new manual and ensure its effectiveness with the community in upcoming neighborhood traffic calming efforts. NAC members were asked to provide direction and support on the proposed document changes.

**Motion:** Commissioner Weller made a motion to approve this version of the manual update.

**Second:** Commissioner Knutson

**Commission Member Ayes:** Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Barb Harris, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**Abstention:** Jana Lynn Granillo

**No:** Diane Harden

**Absent:** Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer

**Result:** Approved by a vote of 10-1 -1

## Agenda Item 7 – NAC & SRC Joint Letter to Council in support of Climate Action Plan Update

Commissioners discussed the version two of the joint letter provided in their meeting packets. This letter was also drafted by Sustainability and Resilience Chair Kendon Jung and reviewed by Chair Moulton Belec.

Lengthy discussion ensued with commissioner questions and comments including: What are we being asked to provide support on?

When will there be a Climate Action Plan Update document, what are the next steps? (anticipated to be on Feb. 17 Council Work Study Session and from there and depending on outcome, potentially on to March Council meeting)

Is NAC being asked to sign the letter to acknowledge the good work done in gathering the input and ideas? Perhaps the letter should replace the word “support” with acknowledge?

Lofty level letter - reads like a laundry list of good ideas. No specific priorities, what are the budget numbers and what is the ask?

Sustainability and Resilience Commission broadly supports Climate Action Plan work and is seeking funding of this work.

Put your money where your mouth is, not just asking Mayor/Council to approve update but to identify what is priority and where money goes.

This is urgent, touches public health and safety, many impacts.

Support for extreme heat, energy, transportation. Activities for each, twelve prescribed actions in total. There is frustration that the Climate Action Plan passed but need funding for programs and priorities.

Need specificity, to drill down further.

Can see both ways. Feel urgency but no measurable ask. So big and broad, need specifics.

After some continued discussion and agreement that follow up and more specifics regarding priorities and actions will be needed, a motion was made.

**Motion:** Commissioner Rude made a motion to approve this version (V2) of the joint letter of support

**Second:** Commissioner Stern

**Commission Member Ayes:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty\*, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Linda Knutson, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Nicholas Weller

**\*Staff Note:** Commissioner Maureen Eastty experienced technical difficulties during the meeting but affirmed her support following the meeting.

**No:** Brandon Abrahams, Diane Harden, Barb Harris

**Absent:** Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nancy Puffer

**Result:** Approved by a vote of 9-3

### **Agenda Item 8 – Equity in Action Update**

Shauna Warner provided brief background and timing of Equity in Action, a collaboration between Tempe's Office of Sustainability and Resilience, Neighborhood Services, Strategic Management and Diversity, the Vitalyst Health Foundation and community partners which began in 2018. Equity in Action seeks to achieve justice in city policy, planning and decision-making processes, with equity defined as just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Equity in Action is currently testing the equity engagement framework through implementation projects. Mayor and Council will receive an update on the program at the March 24, 2022 Work Study Session. Staff agreed to provide a link to the meeting with a time stamp of when in the meeting this agenda topic will be addressed.

Tangible results related to some of the study and work of Equity in Action include:

- ❖ Offering more accessibility - moving the public comment period from the end portion of the City Council agenda to the start of the meeting
- ❖ Increasing Diversity on city boards and commissions
- ❖ Helping to foster grass roots level of engagement - such as reframing Diversity Dialogues approach and transitioning to Belonging Dialogues (in-person sessions are going to be rescheduled when covid numbers decrease)

Commissioner Granillo offered that she is also a member of the Human Relations Commission where much time and effort has been put towards seeking to ensure health and equity in all policies. Commissioner Schugurensky noted the opportunity to tie in best policies principles further with the neighborhood grant program. Chair Moulton Belec suggested a future joint meeting with Human Relations Commission.

### **Agenda Item 9 – 2022 Neighborhood Celebration Update**

The neighborhood event speakers and event order (Ditchmas, Neighborhood Olympics, TNT Food Drive) have been confirmed by Commissioner Stern. Tabling, including neighborhood speakers, will take place in the 9:30ish to 10:30 window following the awards.

The event site tour helped inform and clarify location of various elements for the day of event. Chair Moulton Belec thanked members for their call for nominations social media posts and reminded everyone to keep up the event outreach and continue highlighting newer award categories through the February 15 nominations deadline. (The push will then transition to promoting the Neighborhood Celebration event on March 26.)

Recent city social media posts have featured neighborhood award winners like Commissioner Stern, the 2020 Neighbor of the Year Award Winner. Commissioner Harris was thanked for providing the parade photos of Joel and encouraging Communications and Media Relations to spotlight neighborhood award winners.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Neighborhood Award nominations rating process**

Staff provided a rating process memo and example rater form in the meeting packet. Members were reminded to join the meeting with their rater sheets completed and

prepared for initial voting followed by discussion. The February 23 special NAC meeting agenda will center on the selection of the neighborhood award winners. Should they be unable to attend, members were asked to provide their rater forms to staff in advance of the meeting for sharing at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 11 – Communication and Grants Working Group Updates**

Due to competing meetings in January and February, there were no working group meetings held in January. Chair Moulton Belec is stretched with numerous commitments and has no capacity for organizing the working groups until after the March 26 event. Commissioner Weller agreed to organize a Grants Working Group meeting. There has been a pause on the NAC list gathering to focus on promoting nominations and the Neighborhood Celebration event.

**Agenda Item 12 Proposed Future Agenda Items**

Memo provided in meeting packet with dates and known agenda items through April 6 regular meeting. Nothing additional was proposed at this meeting save for the consideration of the public comments.

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas