

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission February 23, 2022



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

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

(MEMBERS) Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

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

Guests: None

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 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, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

Agenda Item 3 - Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 - Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 2, 2022

Motion: Commissioner Schugurensky made a motion to approve the February 2 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Knutson

Result: Approved by a 11-0 vote

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

Agenda Item 5 - Neighborhood Award Nominations Group Review and Voting

Nine total nominations were received. The breakdown by category is as follows:
(4) Neighbor of the Year

- (1) Chuck Malpede
- (3) Neighborhood Event of the Year
- (1) Neighborhood-Friendly Business of the Year

Each member present in turn provided their initial ratings for all nominees. **Note:** Staff had previously entered the provided initial ratings from Commissioners Harris and Stern, who were unable to attend the virtual meeting.

Nominee Belkis' nomination detailing all of her activities throughout covid was noted as robust, meeting all noted criteria and positioning her as a stand-out candidate for the Neighbor of the Year.

There was brief discussion re: whether to honor the other candidates as honorable mentions or to forego having any honorable mentions as discussed last year. Commissioner Schugurensky expressed concern that all honorable mentions/their nominators be encouraged to nominate again a future year. There was general consensus to recognize all candidates, inclusive of honorable mentions, for the Neighbor of the Year Award category only. This included agreement to recognize the nominee also nominated for a Sustainability Award. All neighborhood nominees for every NAC category will be invited to the event through Neighborhood Services staff messaging and other staff liaisons will be encouraged to be inclusive as well.

Motion: Commissioner Weller made a motion to recognize Judy Belkis as the 2022 Neighbor of the Year Award Winner and recognize the other three candidates as honorable mentions.

Second: Commissioner Puffer

Result: Approved by a unanimous 11-0 vote

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

Commissioners then discussed the sole Chuck Malpede nominee emphasizing the strength of the nomination.

Motion: Commissioner Puffer made a motion to recognize Bike Saviours as the 2022 Chuck Malpede Award Winner

Second: Commissioner Rude

Result: Approved by a 10-1-0 vote

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky

Abstention: Nicholas Weller (primary nominator)

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

Commissioners then discussed the three Neighborhood Event nominations. Two were particularly strong in demonstrated community building, impact and support for those nominations. After additional group discussion, the decision was made to move the Warner Ranch G.A.I.N. event into Neighborhood of the Year consideration.

Motion: Commissioner Weller made a motion to recognize Warner Ranch G.A.I.N. Event as the 2022 **Neighborhood** of the Year Award Winner and to recognize Sunday Feeds as the 2022 **Neighborhood Event** of the Year Award Winner.

Second: Commissioner Abrahams

Result: Approved by a unanimous 11-0 vote

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

The nomination for the Neighborhood-Friendly Business was then discussed. Members were taken with the inclusive and welcoming business model. It was noted that the business was started during covid so longevity is unknown but it is committed to providing a space for the recovery community as well. The nomination form for this category noted a preference for small, local businesses.

Motion: Weller

Second: Abrahams

Result: Approved by a unanimous 11-0 vote

Commission Member Ayes: Brandon Abrahams, Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Linda Knutson, Nancy Puffer, Mark Rude, Daniel Schugurensky, Nicholas Weller

Absent: Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern

All Neighborhood Award categories and nomination and rater forms and criteria will be discussed at a future NAC meeting. Edits and tweaking can then be addressed as needed before the next cycle.

Agenda Item 6 – 2022 Neighborhood Celebration Update

Staff provided a brief update regarding participating Boards and Commissions participation, neighborhood event speakers, City of Tempe tabling and various outreach efforts. Members were reminded to be sure to save the Saturday, March 26 date on their calendars and to plan to arrive a little bit early for set up activities if able to participate. NAC members will be helping to welcome all attendees as they arrive. Leading up to the event date, members were also tasked with continuing to invite community contacts in their circles and to encourage awareness, participation and engagement with the reimagined event.

Agenda Item 7 - Communication and Grants Working Group Updates

No meetings were held over the last month. Commissioner Weller will work on setting up a Grants meeting in next month or so before the April 25 grants application deadline.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Future Agenda Items

Request from Municipal Utilities staff to come in April regarding Water Rate Study criteria was mentioned. The April agenda is already quite full of previously requested items, staff will inquire further about what the ask is going to be prior to a decision being made.

Post Neighborhood Celebration event follow up will be on the April or May agenda. Members were encouraged to jot down observations and thoughts while the nominations and event experience is still fresh.

Agenda Item 9- Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas