

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Neighborhood Advisory Commission**  
**May 3, 2023**



Draft minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, hybrid meeting with in-person attendance option and a virtual component using Microsoft Teams platform

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, Kriste Melcher, Stacy Novis, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Duane Washkowiak

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, John Kozel, Nancy Puffer, Nicholas Weller

**City Staff:** Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner Neighborhood Services Specialist; Jacob Payne, Community Development - Planning; Maegan Pardue, Communication/Marketing - Public Information Officer

**Guests:** Haylee Dawna-Rae Mills and Jennifer Song, Arts and Culture Commission Members (TACC)

**Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Stern

**Agenda Item 2 - Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda Item 3 - Review and approval of meeting minutes: April 5, 2023 NAC Meeting**

**Motion:** Commissioner Washkowiak made a motion to approve the April 5 minutes as presented.

**Second:** Vice Chair Hagen seconded the motion

**Result:** Minutes were approved by a vote of 10 - 0

**Commission Member Ayes:** Hannah Moulton Belec, Lane Carraway, Martha Carter, Annette Fields, Jana Lynn Granillo, Gabe Hagen, Stacy Novis, Joel Stern, Suri Wall, Duane Washkowiak

**Absent:** Brandon Abrahams, John Kozel, Kriste Melcher (absent at the time of this vote) Nancy Puffer, Nicholas Weller

**Agenda Item 4 - Tempe Tomorrow General Plan 2050 DRAFT Plan Presentation**

Jacob Payne, Community Development - Planner, emphasized that State law mandates a new or updated General Plan be adopted and voter-approved every ten years. The General Plan is an overarching policy document for the City of Tempe reflecting the community's vision for the future and helping to guide how the community wants to grow and change over the next 30 years in terms of land use; infrastructure; economic development; historic preservation; art; cultural amenities; environment; and services.

Beginning with reference to Tempe's previous General Plans, outreach for the GP2050 began in February and March of 2022. Both a 17-member Community Working Group and 70-member Technical Advisory Group were created to provide input and guidance. Input through conversations, public and specialized meetings, four different surveys and numerous, neighborhood and special events has also been sought out from:

- the community at large and stakeholders

- surrounding communities (Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix)
- Tempe City Council
- Tempe Boards and Commissions
- Nonprofits
- Businesses

Jacob touched on a number of common themes which emerged, a few of which included:

- ⇒ Access and accessibility
- ⇒ Mixed-use spaces and districts (NEW-Industrial Mixed Use with residential, commercial and light industrial uses)
- ⇒ mix of housing types and prices
- ⇒ Drone technologies
- ⇒ Local agriculture/food
- ⇒ Public art
- ⇒ Walkability

The DRAFT General Plan 2050 document contains seven distinct chapters and appendices covering twenty Arizona mandated elements plus six additional ones. The Land Use & Development Chapter is frequently referenced and addresses forward thinking and future designation types of land use and zoning. This chapter now contains one comprehensive map with land use and residential density depicted together, a more common and user-friendly approach than having to compare two different maps. Jacob added that the General Plan Use designation does not change zoning on a particular site. However, the designations provide a basis for decision on future rezoning applications. This chapter also encompasses Community Design, Historic Preservation, Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization, Redevelopment and Housing.

### Next Steps

Following the DRAFT Plan early May public release -

- Continuing presentations at Boards and Commissions through June
- Two community opportunities scheduled for May 17 - a noon Zoom session with a 5:30 p.m. Open House Format at Tempe History Museum
- Development Review Commission meeting on June 27 and July 25
- Council meetings on August 10 and August 24 (with September 7 held as a back up date)
- Ultimately going by Tempe voters in 2024

Member comments and questions included:

? - Does this plan address percentage of EV chargers in a particular development?

A - That's one step down but it starts here. Requires a change to the Zoning and Development Code

? - How are the changes on the map designated?

A - See the areas outlined in black.

? - How can the plan be amended?

A - There are both major and minor plan amendments with criteria and process for each. Based on past ten years averages, amendments are made maybe 3 times per year usually related to a particular development's request.

? - Any additional contact from Parks participants?

A - Survey periods were timed to align with January and February 2023 Arts in the Parks events, each event had onsite tabling with a General Plan interactive art activity and information resulting in interactions with over 1,000 residents of all ages. All survey respondents for any of our surveys could then opt in to receive ongoing information about GP2050.

? - What does drone technology reference?

A - This is one of the common themes noted in the Land Use Chapter and leaves open new technologies and possibilities that may come into play by the year 2050

Loved the hands-on Legoland Public Workshop! It was engaging and a fun way to learn about GP2050! (153 attendees with 115 surveys completed)

Suggestion to provide mailers to neighborhoods with very plain language of how GP2050 impacts them. Postcards went out to all households in English and Spanish with general information including the [tempe.gov/2050](http://tempe.gov/2050) website and encouragement to engage.

### **Agenda Item 5 - Tempe Arts and Culture Connection**

Comprised of eleven members, Tempe Arts and Culture Commission (TACC) advises city staff and Mayor and Council on arts and culture programs, projects, policies, and initiatives and helps to amplify programming and event messaging.

TACC members Haylee Dawna-Rae Mills and Jennifer Song joined NAC members expressing appreciation for Chair Stern's visit to TACC (in advance of the 2023 Neighborhood Celebration event) and sharing ideas and opportunities for additional commission synergy, connections and collaboration.

Some suggestions included:

- ⇒ Share information and opportunities about different types of awards and grants
- ⇒ Serve on panels for arts grants (for example Wavemaker grants are for different types of visual and performing arts)
- ⇒ Encourage more Tempe artists to apply
- ⇒ Use art for neighborhood connectivity and activation
- ⇒ Temporary or permanent art installations
- ⇒ Arts in the Parks
- ⇒ Plan a joint commission game night to get to know each other better and build relationships
- ⇒ Art under Mill Avenue Bridge possibilities
- ⇒ March or April 2024 Arts and Culture Signature Event (and possibly a month of related tributary events) promotion and participation
- ⇒ Synergy with 2024 Neighborhood Celebration promotion and participation

Members also briefly discussed possibly plugging into G.A.I.N. night to create awareness and share information about upcoming events and more. G.A.I.N. will be on a Saturday in October when there is not an ASU home game, date to be determined.

Discussion comments and questions included:

What about activation within school system? Peachjar fliers (fees apply) were mentioned along with the suggestion to reach out specifically to school art and drama teachers.

Many talented kids out there as well, it would be very cool to plug them in.

NAC's email distribution list can also help spread the word.

Commissioner Novis shared that she has a great, engaging chalk artist contact and they can work with themes or "neighborhood vibe" creation.

Do artists have to be on the approved public art list? Yes, for public art projects and initiatives not involving an RFP process. Some of these other grants may be open to all including more alternative type artists and non-grant writer types.

Anything for small businesses who want art in their space? Maybe interior to their building should be on the business? Encourage opportunities to get more murals on exterior business plaza spaces?

#### **Agenda Item 6 – City of Tempe Podcast Information**

Members were provided May podcast dates, topics and guests in their meeting packet. Local bands, local food, fun events and interesting people are featured. Each podcast drops on a Friday, runs approximately 30 minutes and can be accessed at [www.tempe.gov/TempeThisWeek](http://www.tempe.gov/TempeThisWeek), through Spotify or Apple. Members expressed interest in getting on a 2024 podcast to promote Neighborhood Celebration.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Summary of 2023 Neighborhood Celebration outreach and promotion efforts and post event follow up**

Public Information Officer Maegan Pardue shared a presentation highlighting the varied methods and tools used to plan, promote and brand the 2023 Neighborhood Celebration. Social media posts included use of Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and Twitter. Day of coverage included a professional photographer (over 400 photos taken), a live walk-thru video and an awards video. Links to all are on [www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodcelebration](http://www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodcelebration)

Post-event follow up and promotion was also key and included names and awards of all honorees and shoutouts for local business participants with links to their respective websites. Chair Stern noted prior NAC member Barb Harris' work with Communications Team on increasing event publicity. Members inquired how they can help with publicity more. Maegan would welcome commission member photos and video from the 2024 event. This would provide her even more options for publicity purposes and storytelling.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Start discussion of potential Fall NA & HOA Panel or Workshop Ideas**

Staff shared that working with our neighboring cities, virtual HOA classes are offered throughout the year through a local law firm specializing in HOA law. These classes are open to all residents and board members and cover a wide range of HOA-centric topics.

Prior State of the Neighborhoods events featured workshop offerings following the event breakfast and awards. Topics varied widely from frequently requested ones to doing an art activity together or container gardening. Now that State of the Neighborhoods events have been completely reimagined (now known as The Neighborhood Celebration) and are all outdoors in a park setting, they lend themselves better to offering opportunities to engage, connect or do an activity together over workshops.

Commission members have previously expressed a desire to explore workshop offerings separate from the annual event. What do we want to accomplish? What do we want to share? Number, timing, location and format will also need to be considered and discussed.

Members shared the following thoughts:

- Workshop might be better fit than panel
- Could solicit feedback first – what does NA mean to you? What does NAC mean? What does successful neighborhood engagement look like?
- What public art can be and how it can be incorporated in neighborhoods
- Wall murals on personal property and more wall art in neighborhoods
- Help with neighborhood grants (Neighborhood Services offers a workshop annually timed in Fall near the release of the application for the new cycle)
- Using art to create engaging events for your neighborhood

- How to host an amazing Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) event
- How successful neighborhood associations operate (pointers, tips, what works, what doesn't)
- Starting or restarting a neighborhood association
- Maybe a tangible activity followed by seeking feedback on what participants are interested in learning more about, identify common themes
- Crowdsource ideas?
- Every neighborhood is different and handled differently, size of neighborhood impacts how and where you are going to meet

Communication and outreach for neighborhoods without associations was also noted. A couple members briefly discussed using Neighborhood Watches/PD Crime Prevention formation as a possibility for reaching neighborhoods lacking associations or as a draw to neighborhood meetings in general. It was also noted that Police Department presence can be alienating to others.

#### **Agenda Item 9 - Proposed Future Agenda Items**

How to expand NAC's list of NA and HOA contacts (cannot contact those who did not opt in)

How to connect and include those not living in a neighborhood association or HOA perhaps by choice?

#### **Agenda Item 14 - Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner