

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission March 6, 2013

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on March 6, 2013 5:30 p.m. – 7:35 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Jon Mulford, Russ Plieseis, Julie Ramsey, Mary Robinson, John Sanborn, Scott Smas, Bill Wagner, Christopher Ware.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: John Chester, Ann Lynn DiDomenico

City Staff Present: Tanya Chavez, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shelly Seyler, Deputy Public Works Director - Traffic Engineering (shelly_seyler@tempe.gov); John Osgood, Deputy Public Works Director - Field Operations (john_osgood@tempe.gov)

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: January 2, 2013

Commissioner Plieseis made a motion to approve the January 2, 2013 minutes and Commissioner Munch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with 15 ayes.

Agenda Item 4 –Discussion of the establishment of a Residential No Parking Program Policy

Shelly explained that a new No Parking signs in residential areas policy and procedure is being implemented to allow for broader community input and notification. Previously, these requests were processed by staff on an operational case by case basis. She emphasized that the No Parking Program is completely separate from the Residential Permit Parking Program.

No official commission position was taken on the Residential No Parking Policy. NAC members had many questions and comments including:

- Who handles enforcement of these no parking signs?

Enforcement is handled by the Police Department. Typically this is on an as requested basis through businesses or residents once the signs have been posted.

- Can one house opt out? How much good does it really do?
At the time the request is put in, staff informs the resident or residents of the potential consequences of installing the no parking signs. Having signs installed does not address every potential timeframe or scenario. In some instances, signs have specific times for example reflecting only school drop off or dismissal times if that is the root of the problem.
- What if a resident has guests and does not have enough parking on their property to accommodate them?
Again residents are encouraged at the time of the requests to consider these type of issues. If they have insufficient parking, they could reach out to adjacent residents to see if they were willing to accommodate parking for these instances. Or, if they have regular gatherings with insufficient parking available, they may need to reconsider whether no parking signage would be appropriate. Staff wants to avoid creating situations where the parking problem simply just gets pushed down the street.
- What if parking due to parties is the issue? Also, what if the neighborhood is full of rentals and it is hard to get the owners to sign off?
If there are issues resulting due to loud parties, it's not really a no parking signage situation, probably best that the Police Department is notified and can follow up. The No Parking is intended to address frequent or daily quality of life issues rather than episodic issues. Also, typically there wouldn't be signs in front of a single residence rather the resident would be encouraged to reach out to neighbors and encourage them to be neighborly.
- I live in a HOA which declares that there is no overnight parking but there is also no signage for same. What does the city do to enforce these instances?
The city does not enforce parking in HOA areas with private streets. Shelly offered to double check with City Attorney to verify this is still the case.
- What percentage of these no parking sign requests come from residents and what percentage from businesses?
Probably 50/50, businesses that request no parking signage are typically located in industrial areas and the signage has not proved problematic for the other area businesses. Usually, it is implemented to address issues with delivery trucks.
- Aren't there instances where the permit parking program might be a better fit?
That program is more for residents with parking issues from those who come from outside the area. Sometimes particularly around schools, the problem can be as much from residents who live in the general area but want to drive and park closer to access the school site. Residential requests are varied, many with school related concerns but not all. Parking enforcement is also not very quick. The problem may be for a short duration and over by the time they are able to arrive. Again, tonight's discussion is specific to no parking signage rather than permit parking. No parking signage can provide visual cues to

discourage parking around mailboxes, alleys and driveways and to serve as a reminder to be neighborly.

- Is it appropriate to expect residents to gather input or signatures?
As this is a resident initiated process, we feel it is appropriate for them to communicate with each other regarding why one resident or residents might desire no parking signage. If other residents are uncomfortable with this direct communication, they always have the option of communicating their feedback directly to city staff.
- What if there are conflicts with the desire of owners or renters or even amongst renters in one house?
It's an ongoing challenge to get responses from some owners who live out of the neighborhood or out of state. Renters are impacted and can be involved in the decision making process. However, when the owner of the property is involved, their input would trump that of the renter.
- Do you also partner with and communicate with neighborhood schools?
Yes, we always work with and collaborate with local schools to try to help make their drop off and pick up processes as safe as they can be and less impactful to surrounding neighborhoods. With open enrollment and other factors, more children are being driven to school these days. Schools do not have sufficient onsite parking to accommodate their staff along with all of these visitors who are there for a short duration (drop off and pick up). For the remainder of the school day, there is generally plenty of parking available.
- Can I contact the city to have my curb painted red if there are people frequently parking by and potentially blocking the fire hydrant?
Yes, you can call 480-350-4311 and report the situation.

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed Changes to the Solid Waste Ordinance

(This Agenda Item should have been more accurately titled as Bulky Item and brush Uncontained Program Schedule Changes.) John Osgood explained that the current monthly solid waste bill of approximately \$19.98 currently covers one time weekly trash and recycling pick up and one time monthly uncontained trash pick-up. If rates are not changed, there will be the potential for a projected annual operating deficit of \$1.8 million in the Solid Waste Fund.

A cost of service survey was conducted to identify potential areas of improvement and adjustment. This included an examination of the cost of the services the city is providing as well as looking at what our peer cities are doing. Of the nearly twenty dollars per month bill, the uncontained trash portion is approximately \$7-8.00 or one third of the bill.

This uncontained trash portion of pick-up service experiences more and larger loads during certain times of the year, such as weeks after significant frost damage or following a growing season, particularly in flood irrigated areas. The cost of service survey also looked at set out rates, some months only 25-30% of homes put out clippings or materials for pick up. This service is popular with residents and rates high in satisfaction on city surveys but any given month it is difficult to predict which homes will be using this service and the current program allows for unlimited volume when they do.

Some of the primary identified goals are: trying to achieve a competitive rate with valley cities, ensuring a sustainable program and providing a value in terms of community satisfaction. Rather than raising rates, Mayor and Council provided staff policy direction to move from 12 uncontained collections per year to six. Residents will also be asked to limit the amount of material placed out and to pile it nicely. The six collections may not be every other month but rather timed to capture green waste and peak demand periods. Four will be specific to green waste and two will be mixed collections. This solution will help reduce mileage on trucks, decrease use of diesel fuel and allow the purchase of fewer trucks (perhaps by as many as 6).

Staff from Public Works, Community Relations and Neighborhood Services is working on a communication and implementation plan for the proposed changes. NAC members were asked to provide their feedback, the following comments and questions were noted:

- How much is a rear loader piece of equipment?
They can run upwards of a quarter million dollars.
- Everyone places their uncontained trash on my side of the alley and our current set up works fine. Will we have to change it and also will we be granted more than 10 cubic yards?
If you have a system in place that is neat and tidy and indeed working, we will do what we can to accommodate you and your neighbors.
- How will these changes get communicated?
That's why we are here seeking your input. There will be lots of varied messaging and communication in the coming months to help educate residents on the coming changes. Your suggestions to help us get the word out are welcomed and encouraged.
- What are your stats on illegal dumping?
We recognize that it is a problem for many areas with alleys but it can be difficult to prove who is doing the dumping. If you do see this occurring and can provide the police department and/or our solid waste inspector a license plate, time and location, we will follow up.
- Have you done an analysis regarding using alleys versus streets for pick ups?
Alleys are more efficient in terms of allowing pick up from both sides at the same time but there are dust issues and property damage considerations too. This is something we are continuing to examine and we are open if there are areas that would like to try a pilot where the alley is temporarily closed off and the pick up is done from the street only.
- I have concerns about my neighborhood and alley looking even worse with fewer pick ups of uncontained trash and people leaving things out whenever they please.
We want you to be happy and feel pride in the appearance of your neighborhood. We will work with those areas that experience problems due to the changes in terms of education and encouragement of neighborhood clean ups, etc.
- Any comparison with city using private service rather than city provided?
Chandler is private and their rates are lower. Policy wise we have not been asked to privatize. It's important to us that residents continue to express high satisfaction with the service.
- High satisfaction with the service could also be accomplished with a private company doing it.
This is true.
- Do you receive revenue for recycling? Yes. Is it a money maker? It saves the city money

by avoiding placing more materials in the landfill. Recycling is very market driven, last year we brought in close to \$600,000 through recycling efforts.

- We have continual problems with rental homes in our neighborhood. It's a real challenge for the city to communicate with renters and to get them on board. I am concerned it will deteriorate further.
- What you are trying to do seems largely designed to keep rates consistent. I applaud what you are trying to do. Your projections show trend line going up, are you anticipating higher volumes of trash. No, it's the cost of the actual service. We can improve the provided chart if confusing. We are anticipating having more green waste to compost opportunities and additional recycling encouragement. The potential savings will help offset fees.
- What would be the cost to keep one time monthly uncontained trash pick up?
I don't have the number readily available but can get it to you. Options could be having additional service available on an on call basis for a fee as well as the option for households to purchase an extra refuse container. We are also increasing the number of free monthly drop offs and adding a South Tempe drop off location.
- When is this going to happen?
Effective July 1, 2013.

Agenda Item 6 – General Plan 2040 Community Working Group Update

Commissioner Ramsey explained that the first meeting of the group was very preliminary. There were volumes of material to get through at the second meeting of the group and it was too much. The third and most recent meeting of the group introduced a new format which allowed for the working group members to be divided into five groups and then to spend time with a staff expert from each of the identified areas such as parks, neighborhoods, community services, etc. Each member was then provided ___ stickers to use to identify their highest priorities. She likes the new format and will know more about which priorities scored most highly for the next meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Neighborhood Workshop and Awards

Elizabeth distributed smaller versions of the event brochures, reminded all commissioners to register and encouraged them to take extra brochures to help publicize the event and get the word out. She added that panel members have been identified for the Neighborhood Leadership and Community Building workshop so there are now four options from which to choose.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Change to the Zoning and Development Code

Some members expressed concern about where fraternities and sororities are supposed to go with the fraternity houses now gone. Concern was also expressed that this proposed ordinance wording change creates the impression that fraternities and sororities are being singled out. They inquired if other clubs or organizations such as athletic groups will also going be required to get use permits if they live together in one multi-family development?

The specific wording of Section 3-428 was also criticized as some members felt it implies that in a multi-family development site with at least (5) units, if there are 3 or more fraternity or sorority members each from different Greek organizations, each will be required to get a use permit. No official commission position was taken. A few members indicated they plan to attend the March 12 Development Review Commission to learn more.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Agenda Items for April 3, 2013 Meeting

Due to the meeting running over time, this item was not discussed. The chair agreed to confer with staff on next month's agenda items.

These could include:

- Commission Goals
- Neighborhood Grant Program
- Overview of Tempe 311 Mobile App
- 2013 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Update
- General Plan 2040 Community Working Group Update

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Tanya Chavez, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director