

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission December 4, 2013

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on December 4, 2013 5:38 p.m. – 6:35: p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

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

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Nancy Buell, Josephine McNamara,

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

Guests Present: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: November 6, 2013

Commissioner Lesko stated that the final bullet of Agenda Item 4 (found on page two), has an error. Freshman needs to change to freshmen. Commissioner Ware made a motion to approve the November 6, 2013 minutes with the above noted change and Commissioner Lesko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Per code, the Neighborhood Advisory Commission is to have an election for Chair and Vice Chair each January. Staff is still waiting to receive an update regarding re-appointments for those four members who had initial or partial terms which ended in December but have indicated a desire to continue serving. There is a possibility that there will not be a January 8, 2014 NAC meeting if these appointments have yet to be made. There is also the possibility that one of the nominees for either role may not be reappointed and therefore not able to be elected.

Members agreed to take nominations as planned. Additional nominations (if any) will be taken at the first 2014 meeting when the voting will take place. Commissioner Mulford made a motion to

nominate Vice Chair Miller for Chair, Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. Commissioner Lesko made a motion to nominate Commissioner Plieseis for Vice Chair, Commissioner Ware seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 5 - Public Right-of-Way Code Update

Staff provided copies of the Public Right-of-Way Code Update revisions which had also been emailed to commissioners. The revisions, some of which resulted from NAC input and feedback provided at the annual retreat are expected to be on the January 9 City Council Agenda for final approval.

Commissioners had the following comments and questions:

- Is thoroughfare defined somewhere in city code? (i.e. a commonly understood meaning)
- Boundaries is spelled incorrectly on page 2, Sec.29-25. USE OF ALLEYS AS THOROUGHFARES, sentence 1.
- If a neighborhood area resident sees or wants to confirm a dangerous situation such as an open gate leading to a pool area and they drive down the alley, will they be in violation?
- Don't residents own the alley? If no, why are they held responsible for maintenance from back wall or fence to center of the alley?
- What is the width of an alley?
- Will alleys be posted with signage?
- What about the trash pickers or those who come by to get things left outside the barrels?

Staff will follow up with City Attorney's office to determine if the term thoroughfare is defined. The change in code allows them to enforce noted prohibited uses of the alleys. The alleys are not owned by residents, they are public rights-of-way and are intended for those residents of properties who abut an alley. The Police Department will use officer discretion when stopping persons in the alley.

Residents are responsible for the care and maintenance of the alley from their back wall or fence or property line to the center of the alley. The width of alleys can vary. Once an item is placed in or adjacent to the trash barrel, it is intended for removal by solid waste staff.

Agenda Item 6 – Commissioner Priorities and Goals Update

Staff reminded commissioners this agenda item is a standing item. Previously commissioners expressed a desire to learn more about Mayor and Council priorities prior to identifying commission priorities and setting goals. The Committee of the Whole (COW) concept rather than separate Council Committees has only recently been in effect. Commissioners were provided a copy of the November 18 COW agenda to see which items have been identified for City Council Direction and which are being looked at or identified for further exploration.

Commissioners noted it would be helpful to have new appointments and reappointments in place prior to goal setting. The recommendation that NAC be reduced from twenty one members to fifteen members is anticipated to go before the Committee of the Whole at their Monday, December 9 meeting. This change in total size of the group would reduce the quorum from the current 11 to eight and would prompt an ordinance change with updated language which would also include how many members per each zip code.

Agenda Item 7 – 2014 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning Update

As noted at the October and November NAC meetings, the Escalante Multi-generational Center has been reserved for Saturday, April 5 for the 2014 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards. A theme has been identified with workshops focused on Neighborhood Revitalization and Reinvestment. In

addition to presentation of awards by Mayor and Council, the Mayor will provide a State of the Neighborhoods themed address. More event details will be shared as they become available. Neighborhood Awards applications are available online at www.tempe.gov/neighborhoodworkshop and the opportunity and encouragement to submit nominations has been promoted at recent neighborhood meetings, in Tempe Today and through the Neighborhoods Listserve. The deadline is January 17, 2014, commissioners were encouraged to help spread the word and to submit nominations.

Agenda Item 8 – Recognition of any outgoing members

Outgoing commission member John Sanborn was recognized for his years of service. He shared the frustrations he had experienced regarding the loss of subcommittees and the challenges of getting much accomplished with one commission meeting per month. He expressed optimism with the direction the group is moving forward in and added that he may continue to attend meetings as a guest.

Commissioners Buel, Miller Plieseis and Smas are all up for reappointment as of December 31, 2013. They were all thanked for their service as well as the reappointments have yet to be made. Commissioners noted the importance of Mayor and Council recognizing outgoing members in some fashion and offered suggestions for thank you gifts could include framed certificates, portfolios or polo shirts with commission logos. Staff noted that creating a recognition program of some type is being looked at but no decisions have been made.

Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Agenda Items for January 8 or Future Meeting

- Continuation of Nominations and/or Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- 2014 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning Update
- Commission Priorities and Goals
- Open Meeting Law Presentation and Discussion
- Overview of the Budget?

Commissioners were reminded that in light of the regular commission meeting falling on January 1, 2014, commissioners previously agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday, January 8, 2014. This will be the January meeting date assuming there is a January meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager