

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission December 2, 2015

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on December 2, 2015 from 5:30-7:00 p.m., at 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall, 31 East 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas, Christopher Ware.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Cole Hickman

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Bonnie Richardson, Public Works-Planning and Project Review, bonnie_richardson@tempe.gov, 480-350-8628; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director-Planning, ryan_levesque@tempe.gov, 480-858-2393; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager.

Guests Present: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

No members of the public present.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: November 4, 2015

The following edits to the minutes were noted: Agenda Item 4, first sentence, Tempe Neighbors Tomorrow should read Tempe Neighbors Together. Also under Agenda Item 4, final paragraph, first sentence, Commissioner Lesko was the commissioner who seconded the motion. Lastly, Agenda Item 9 was noted as Agenda Item 7 in error. Commissioner Korbeck made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted, Commissioner McNamara seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Urban Tree Forest Master Plan Presentation and Discussion

Bonnie Richardson provided an overview of the Tempe Urban Forestry Master Plan and Action Plan. She emphasized that it is important to identify and treat trees as assets and the development of a Master Plan will help establish the stewardship of the City of Tempe's trees.

Staff across varied departments are communicating and working collaboratively to ensure that existing practices make sense and complement each other as much as possible.

Public outreach processes including an online survey and public workshop are being planned to work towards implementation of the strategic economic, environmental, and quality of life values of a walkable city identified in the General Plan. Primary process goals have been established along with a number of principles for creating a healthy urban forest in Tempe. The first goal is to increase tree canopy through the replacement of missing or diseased trees, updating of sparse landscape in right-of-way areas, parks and city properties. Additionally, we want to identify best practices pertaining to water resources, low impact development, economic return on investment and heat island.

Working with Arizona State University's Global Sustainability Solutions Services, an assessment of Tempe's Tree Canopy Coverage (13.4%) has been created. In addition, the entire tree canopy has been benchmarked across city limits by census tract, right-of-way, character areas and irrigated areas using 2010 census data.

The emphasis has now shifted to the promotion of programs and events which support tree planting and care and which will include residents, businesses and school children in practical, incremental actions to quickly initiate planting. As the publicly owned portion of the tree canopy (includes right-of-way and parks properties), is dwarfed by the portion of land owned by private residents and businesses, it's critical that all stakeholders are made aware of the importance of trees and encouraged to do more planting and care of trees. Bonnie will keep the commission updated as plans progress and emphasized her willingness to speak to any interested groups.

Agenda Item 5 – Sign Code Reform Overview

The city is planning to comprehensively look at existing sign regulations. Ryan Levesque offered commissioners the opportunity to participate in the process as stakeholders looking at the sign code and opportunities for reform, along with local business owners and other interested residents. Tempe is perceived by some business owners to be more challenging than other local cities to obtain sign permits through, part of this may be due to sign packages at commercial centers that have not been updated by owners (some of whom are out of state and difficult to contact) since their origination. Specific information about an early 2016 public meeting will be shared with commissioners once available.

Agenda Item 6 – Character Areas Update

Draft Apache and Alameda Character Area plans were included in commissioner meeting packets. The final draft plans will be made available at the Family Fun Factory event on Friday, December 4. Commissioners and their families were encouraged to attend. Commissioners strongly praised the quality, content, professionalism and creativity of both plan design presentations which exceeded all expectations. Ryan agreed to pass the comments along to Hunter Hansen, Project Manager. Next steps include a December 8 Development Review Commission meeting and then on to City Council in January for final review and anticipated acceptance. The next character area scheduled for planning is Character Area 3 - Rio Salado/Downtown/ASU.

Agenda Item 7 – Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Miller indicated his willingness to serve a third term as Chair and the willingness of Commissioner Korbeck to serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner McNamara made a motion to nominate Chair Miller as Chair and Commissioner Korbeck as Vice Chair which was seconded by Commissioner Munch and passed unanimously. Additional nominations may be taken at the January commission meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Recognition of outgoing members

Chris Ware was thanked for his years of service to the commission.

Agenda Item 9 – Joint meeting/gathering with Historic Preservation Commission Update

Neighborhood Advisory Commission members were invited to attend the Thursday, December 10 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the Don Cassano Room of the Tempe Transportation Center. Prior to the meeting a 5:30-6 p.m. meet and greet opportunity is planned. Staff agreed to forward a reminder along with the meeting agenda once available.

Agenda Item 10 - Proposed Agenda Items for January or Future Meeting

- Discussion of 2016 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning
- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- New Development and impacts discussion
- Broadway Redesign Update
- Lake Country Village Update

Agenda Item 10 –Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager