

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 5, 2016

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on October 5, 2016, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Isela Blanc, Nancy Buell, Jack Escobar, Matt Korbeck, Nancy Lesko, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas

(MEMBERS) Absent: Kiyomi Kurooka, Carol Shixue Hu, James Wennlund

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director Planning, 480-858-2392, ryan_levesque@tempe.gov; Jeff Tamulevich, Interim Community Development Director and Code Enforcement Manager, 480-350-8441, jeff_tamulevich@tempe.gov, Drew Yocom, Community Development Residential Code Compliance

Guests Present: Shiann Maine, ASU Student, Amber Manson, ASU Student, Adam Munch, Tempe Academy of International Studies Student

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

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

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: August 6, 2016

Commissioner McNamara made a motion to approve the August 6 minutes as presented, Commissioner Munch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Chair Miller noted that the August meeting minutes could not be approved at the September meeting due to lack of quorum causing cancellation of the meeting. He emphasized the importance of commission member attendance at monthly meetings.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and approval of updated Neighborhood Award Nomination and Rater Forms

Commissioner Munch made a motion to approve the updated Neighborhood Award Nomination and Rater Forms as presented, Commissioner Lesko seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Commission Goal Setting

Commissioners briefly reviewed the following preliminary Neighborhood Advisory Commission 2016-2017 goals which were identified and discussed at the August 6 retreat meeting:

1. Increase participation in State of the Neighborhoods Workshops.
2. Communicate with and seek out more synergies between commissions – incorporate sustainability and historic preservation into the State of the Neighborhoods event, attend

- one of their boards and commission meetings and report back about what priorities and goals they are working on, look for areas of mutual interest.
3. Conduct communications (2) with Mayor/City Council annually ranging from written memo to speaking at a City Council meeting to an informal lunch for an exchange of ideas.
 4. Extend a round robin personal invitation to a different Council Member each month to attend NAC meeting.
 5. Connect with Tempe residents “Touch Our Community” through volunteering to organize and staff a NAC table at Tempe and community events up to six times per year.
 6. Become informed regarding homeless issues inside our neighborhoods. (Commissioner McNamara agreed to report back to the commission regarding the Saturday, August 13 Solutions-Oriented Town Hall on Homelessness).
 7. Learn about drug issues impacting neighborhoods. Commissioner Escobar noted the Shot in the Dark program.

Commissioner McNamara made a motion to approve the commission goals as noted, Commissioner Escobar seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Neighborhood Advisory Commission Annual Report

Commissioner Lesko made a motion to approve the annual report as drafted with updated member attendance reflecting the October and/or most current meeting, Commissioner Korbeck seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – Lake Country Village Update

Chair Miller attended the August 18 City Council meeting where the Lake Country Village was an agenda item. He noted that verbal comments from him on behalf of NAC were not permitted to be read aloud at the meeting. However, the written comments NAC provided were included as a part of the development plan review public record.

Agenda Item 8 – Neighborhood Libraries Update

Members discussed the August 4 passage of the Ordinance for Neighborhood Libraries Rebate Program. The pilot program allows for an up to \$300 rebate for the cost expended to purchase materials, install and register a Neighborhood Library with a maximum total funding amount of \$10,000 available. Staff added that it is being overseen by the Library/Community Services Department and encourages residents and non-profits to build and place boxes filled with books in their neighborhoods. Members had the following questions and comments:

- Is the city referencing the Read On website which highlights schools where literacy is lagging to encourage placement of libraries in those neighborhood locations?
- Can schools like Frank or Nevitt somehow opt in to the program and have access?
- Is the city coordinating with programs like Thrive to 5 to build momentum and create synergy?
- Southwest Human Development and AARP Experience Corp. are other potential partners.
- Once more neighborhood libraries are established, maybe we can add another awards category – the Golden Book or Golden Bookmark Award.

Once the pilot program is further along, an update and exchange of ideas with Community Services staff can be arranged for a future NAC meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Sign Code Reform Update

The Supreme Court’s judgement in the Reed versus Gilbert case resulted in all municipalities needing to review and make changes, if necessary, to their sign codes. The judgement means a municipality’s

sign code cannot impose more stringent limitations on signs based on content. Sign laws utilizing content in their justifications are now unconstitutional and all criteria based on content in sign code had to be removed. Prior to Reed vs. Gilbert, two Council working groups were formed to address commercial and non-commercial concerns.

The **Commercial Signs Working Group** recommended that comprehensive sign packages requiring only a simple modification, with the authorization of the property owner, be approved at a staff level and not be required to seek Development Review Commission (DRC) approval. This recommendation was made to keep the DRC focus on review of the complex cases and to pull out the simpler projects and better encourage property owners to bring their sign packages up to date.

A second recommendation made by the group was to change freestanding signs at centers with more than four tenants, on a parcel less than five acres, from 24 to a 40 square foot sign. All parcels over five acres maintain their 40 square foot sign and all centers less than 5 acres with less than 4 tenants receive a 24 square foot sign.

The **Non Commercial/Political Signs Working Group** recommended that political signage be allowed to be located in the right-of-way during the 100 days prior to an election date and ending 15 days after the general election. All other signs are not in the right of way. For political signs, the city must comply with state law.

A newly created sign chart was included in the packet identifying the new sign types. The sign chart also provides location/use and size specification information and notes whether sign or structural permits are required.

Agenda Item 10 – Separation Distance Requirements

As a result of neighborhood concerns regarding a use permit request for a proposed pawn shop and firearms reseller, Council decided to take a closer look at the city's separation distance requirements for secondary effect businesses such as pawn shops, gold buying stores and auto title loan offices. The working group that was formed proposed the following standards: 1320 feet distance between like businesses and 500' distance between residential districts, schools and daycare facilities. Staff is currently working on a draft ordinance to address public safety concerns and preparing needed reports prior to public hearings with the Development Review Commission followed by City Council for adoption.

Agenda Item 11 – Homeless Town Hall Update

No update was provided at this time. Commissioner McNamara will provide one at the November meeting.

Agenda Item 12- Proposed Agenda Items for October or Future Meeting

- Character Areas Update
- Streetcar Update
- Approval of Neighborhood Advisory Commission Annual Report
- Discussion of Neighborhood Workshop Topics

Agenda Item 13 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.