

## **Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission November 2, 2016**

**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on November 2, 2016, at the City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Karen Adams, Nancy Buell, Jack Escobar, Carol Shixue Hu, Matt Korbeck, Kiyomi Kurooka, Nancy Lesko, Robert Miller, Bill Munch, Julie Ramsey, Scott Smas

**(MEMBERS) Absent:** Isela Blanc, Candyce Lindsay, Josephine McNamara

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

**Guests Present:** James Neal, Orchidhouse Board Member

### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

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

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

None.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: October 5, 2016**

Commissioner Smas made a motion to approve the October 5 minutes as presented, Commissioner Lesko seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Potential Neighborhood Workshop Topics**

The Saturday, April 22, 2017 State of the Neighborhoods event falls on Earth Day. Staff emphasized that this provides an opportunity to include and/or focus on a sustainability theme. The City recently hired Brayden Kay to serve as Sustainability Program Manager. Brayden has offered to work with Neighborhood Services staff and the Neighborhood Advisory Commission to identify some potential event ideas, speakers and topics based on his expertise and experience with other sustainability events.

Commissioners praised the Urban Forest event and featured guest speakers suggesting those elements may also work well for this next State of the Neighborhoods event. Last year's Legislative Advocacy workshop was also mentioned as being well attended and received. Staff added that the HOA fall October class schedule also included a legislative advocacy session tailored for HOA's. The Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature event in early 2017 will offer a more optimum time frame when the legislature is at the start of the session.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Goals and City Council Strategic Priorities –**

### **Opportunities to Align**

Staff explained that the Council's Strategic Priorities haven't changed since the Council Retreat. They are continuing their discussions and are still in the process of identifying measurable criteria. The existing priorities can be used as a reference point from which to align Commission goals.

The seven agreed upon Commission goals (copied again below) fit under Quality of Life and Strong Community Connections Strategic Priorities. Commission members briefly discussed and agreed that for this initial annual report year, a wait and see approach will be taken with a goal of increased alignment next year.

Neighborhood Advisory Commission 2016-2017 goals 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.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Character Areas Update**

Members were provided a Character Area 3 flyer. The [tempe.gov/3](http://tempe.gov/3) website has a character area overview, online surveys and information regarding past and future meetings and events. The next Meet Up invitation was emailed previously to NAC members. Staff reminded commissioners that this November 9 Meet Up will be an Open House format with ASU students and faculty accompanied by City of Tempe Planners and will take place from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Tempe Transportation Center in the Don Cassano Room. All are welcome.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Streetcar Update**

Commissioner meeting packets contained a Tempe Streetcar October 2016 Project Update. In February 2016, Tempe Streetcar reached a funding milestone with \$75 million included as a recommendation in President Obama's budget for Fiscal Year 2017. Congress will review and must ultimately approve the funding this fall. A "touch base" public meeting was held on October 26. Competitive procurements for streetcar vehicles and design, construction and artist contractors have begun.

## **Agenda Item 8 – Homeless Town Hall Update**

Meeting packets also included a Homeless Town Hall Update. These next steps to work together to address homelessness were identified by various staff following an October 13 City Council Work Study Session. Commissioners requested additional updates regarding the status of these initiatives as they progress. They also plan to have further discussions as a commission regarding what is the minimum level of service or continuum of services that these impacted individuals require (i.e. drinking water? bathrooms? showers?) and what efforts are being made to make these services available, where and when.

**Agenda Item 9 – Proposed Agenda Items for December or Future Meeting**

- Discussion of 2017 State of the Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Planning
- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
- Recognition of outgoing members
- Meet and greet with new Community Development Director Chad Weaver
- Meet new Sustainability Manager and discuss State of the Neighborhoods sustainability theme and workshop/speaker and activity ideas (if available in Dec. - preferred)
- Flood irrigation update (Dec. or Jan./Feb.)

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager