

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission April 7, 2021



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney (had to depart at 6:30 p.m.), Nicholas Weller and Zoe Stein.

(MEMBERS) Absent: Matt Heil, Richelle Miller

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager; Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director - Parks & Recreation, craig_hayton@tempe.gov; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Community Development Director - Planning, ryan_levesque@tempe.gov

Guests: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Moulton Belec

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call

Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Absent: Matt Heil, Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, Daniel Schugurensky and Zoe Stein

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

None.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2021

Motion: Commissioner Larimer made a motion to approve the March 3 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Harris

Result: Approved by a unanimous vote of 11 to 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller

Absent: Matt Heil, Michael McLendon, Richelle Miller, and Zoe Stein (Zoe arrived right after vote)

Agenda Item 5 – Neighborhood Advisory Commission Communication and Grants Working Group Updates

Discussion items included:

- Raising awareness about NAC is a primary objective
- Options/discussion points re: gaining access to list
 - Could reach out today through Neighborhood Services to NA and HOA contacts to see if they want to “opt in” to a communication list
 - Even if permission is secured and granted through Mayor and Council, existing contacts would still need to choose to opt in
 - Why would somebody not opt in?
 - Are they in witness protection program? Makes no sense. What is rationale?
- Potential objections and comments
 - Privacy concerns
 - Identify theft considerations
 - Signed up for original list with Neighborhood Services with specific understanding
 - Concern regarding spam emails
 - Possibility of creating confusion or concern – difference between getting something directly from the city versus a group of concerned citizens
 - If someone does not opt in, they should not be allowed to serve on their voluntary neighborhood association or hoa board
 - They did not sign up for this NAC communication as a known
 - We don't know if list is accurate.

Shauna Warner clarified that no ask has yet been made to individuals on the Neighborhood Services list of voluntary neighborhood association and hoa contacts. This commission member discussion is about the need for these contacts to buy in before their contact information can be shared with NAC members. The discussion then continued.

Staff noted that the list is updated frequently as changes come in and asks go out to contacts to affirm their contact info. annually. There is also a form for changes on the website but contacts do not always remember to share when they have a new email, phone #, change carriers, hoa election/primary contact results, move out of neighborhood, go off board, change property management firms, disconnect home number, etc. Much like any list, info. can and does change and it can be challenging to then get needed updates.

Chair Moulton Belec shared her screen and pulled up her ask/opt in draft letter. She emphasized that folks can also be asked to opt in at the time they create a new voluntary neighborhood association or register with Neighborhood Services. A letter could be sent out seeking their permission. The website could have the opt in ask as well with a disclaimer blurb emphasizing that the information will be shared if contacts opt in. After additional discussion, the general consensus was to send letter out, see what happens and let contacts react.

Commissioner Stein then shared “the hub” which is an alternative to a shared drive allowing for document storage and sharing. Each section of the hub is labelled and headers include Commission Working Groups, Facebook Groups, Maps by Zip Code, NAC

meeting minutes, City resources, social media and email scripts and more. Chair Moulton Belec added that another initiative is to create a NAC alumni group, maybe starting by reaching out to the past five years of now former members to invite them to participate and stay connected. She is in the process of reviewing prior member rosters.

Through Neighborhood Services, the grants working group emailed out a message on behalf of NAC to voluntary neighborhood and hoa contacts with encouragement to apply for a 2021-2022 grant, potential project ideas such as shade trees for neighborhood front yards and including links to the grants website and a number of grant related resources. This year's grant deadline is April 27, 2021 by 5 p.m. Earlier applications are always encouraged.

The next meeting for the Grants Working Group is anticipated to be on April 12 and the Communications Working Group is set for April 21. RSVPs are requested so as to avoid breaching quorum. Chair Moulton Belec will forward out invitations and meeting start times through staff.

Agenda Item 6 – Presentation of DRAFT Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Craig Hayton, Deputy Community Services Director, emphasized that an updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan will become the division's comprehensive planning document, utilizing multiple public outreach efforts and ensuring that Tempe's Parks and recreation systems continue to meet the needs of our community and visitors. The last Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2001 and much has changed in Tempe and in the field of park and recreation since that time. An innovative format known as a StoryMap is being utilized for the new plan, providing a 10-year user friendly, visually attractive and engaging roadmap with key guiding principles being inclusion, resilience, strategic and sustainability.

The new plan –

- evaluates and recommends
- shapes delivery of services
- provides guidance and policy direction
- identifies short-term strategies to achieve long-term success

Commissioner comments and questions included:

- Are there many people using golf courses?
Slight uptick noted during Covid-19 – relatively safe activity and likely due to other indoor options being unavailable
- Are any new parks being built/added?
We are looking at everything and identifying shortfalls. There are 52 different parks in Tempe and we currently have more parks than square miles in the city, but not a park in neighborhood. There are potential development agreement possibilities – public access to private spaces.
- Any room additions or room rental opportunities and gathering spaces being added to parks?
Some discussion regarding Ken McDonald Clubhouse as a possible gathering space, not sure if funds available, possibilities for partnering to be explored
- Do you know about the informal app used for gathering at park? (i.e. meet up to play basketball, etc.)
Staff could look into this.
- Where is Pickleball expanding to?
Indian Bend Park will have multi-use courts added

- Love the sustainability and equity elements of plan
- Love Idea of water parks for dogs too!

Chair Moulton Belec put the link to StoryMap in meeting chat for fellow NAC members.

Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Changes with draft ordinance for Section 3-409 of Tempe Zoning Code, Group Homes for Adult Care, Persons with Disabilities and Child Shelters

Commission members thanked Ryan Levesque for all the information he provided in advance of the meeting including a comprehensive Group Home Regulations memo for NAC members outlining group home proposed ordinance changes, timeline, background information, current procedures and community resident concerns dating back to early 2020 in addition to a powerpoint. Ryan noted that this section of code has not been updated since 1996.

He highlighted a comparison of other local municipality group home regulations chart and draft ordinance changes. Tempe’s current separation requirements are 1,200 feet from group home to group home in keeping with cities like Scottsdale and Mesa with 10 maximum occupancy however there are a wide variety of rules and regulations in our neighboring cities. He emphasized that Developmentally Disabled Group Homes are a different category/classification entirely and are fully regulated by the State.

Questions and comments included:

- What happens to the five residents who will be displaced when the occupancy limit changes from 10 to five?
If ordinance change is approved, homes with 10 occupancy can keep that as their maximum occupancy, in effect grandfathered in. No new ones will be added and if the existing ones close for one year or more, they will no longer be permitted to have that occupancy.
- What is this new reasonable accommodation waiver?
Federal fair housing laws must be addressed, this allows a path to permit additional residents beyond five but involves additional requirements and guidelines.
- How do we improve public awareness of these homes and classifications and proposed changes such as mandatory parking onsite and approval of 90 days, requiring evidence of state license?
We are currently in the process of updating application forms. The city is not responsible for requiring adherence to any required covenants, codes and restrictions but does require applicant to acknowledge awareness or have satisfied. The Zoning and Development Code Section 3-409 will have a new website with materials like Group Homes FAQs and detailed application procedures.
- Any group homes in HOAs?
Yes, but no specific count offhand.
- Where are these group homes located?
Spread throughout Tempe
- Would public know what type of group home is being proposed? (i.e. sober living home or other?)
State publishes information, however there are some uses that are protected for privacy.
- How many of the 74 group homes in Tempe currently have more than five residents? Not sure, perhaps 20 or so. The Fire Department keeps a list as they are required to do Fire Inspections for those with 6 to 10 occupants.

- The suggestion was made to reach out to these owners with over five occupants and advise them of occupancy changes and what that means for them.
- The suggestion was made to increase education and awareness of group homes and what that classification covers as there is confusion with sober living and other categories

Ryan emphasized that the 1,200' separation from group home to group home will be maintained as well as the current administrative review process, which does not include a public notice (consistent with all processes). He added that Boarding House category (allowing a number of unrelated individuals and individual rental of bedrooms) was considered but is not recommended at this time due to Proposition 207 considerations and other concerns related to enforcement of unrelated occupants, etc. He then briefly shared process next steps which were included in provided materials.

Agenda Item 8 – State of the Neighborhoods and Awards Planning Update

Chair Moulton Belec apologized for not being able to coordinate a group wave or photo opportunity. Elizabeth provided a quick update regarding day of event plans for the hybrid event which will feature a small in-person component with awardees, Mayor and Council and needed staff only with a maximum of 20-25 being permitted in the Tempe History Museum Community Room. All will be safely distanced, wearing masks and have their temperatures taken upon entry. This event is different from last year and from all prior years. Communication with and outreach to award winners, honorable mentions and nominators is ongoing with professional photo shoots for all award winners planned for next week Thursday and Friday and home delivery of framed certificates and award signs for all Neighbor of the Year honorable mentions and the one to two award winners who cannot attend the Saturday, April 17 State of the Neighborhoods & Awards event being handled by staff. Event marketing and social media and neighborhood services email list serve outreach is ongoing. Event join options will be emailed out to all NAC members with encouragement to keep helping to promote the event.

Some new names were noted in this year's nomination forms. The suggestion was made for NAC members to reach out and ask award winners and nominators if they want to "opt in" to the list.

Agenda Item 9 – Check in regarding 2021 NAC Goals

Members engaged in brief group review of the 2021 year goals identified in the 2020 Annual Report to Mayor and Council. There was agreement to stay working on grants for now as many of the ideas are aimed at the next grant cycle – year 2022-2023. As those applications will be available sometime in Fall, there is a limited window to research, consider and implement changes and commission members voiced the desire to do a thorough job and see it through to the next round of applications.

Agenda Item 10 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

Solid Waste Rate Study presentation – May meeting
 Drag racing item (PD grant) – need to check in with PD regarding timing and have them help identify the appropriate speaker and month

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas