

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission April 4, 2012

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on April 4, 2012 5:35 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Joe Agins, Nancy Buell, Ann Lynn DiDomenico, Gary Johnson, Britney Scott Kaufman, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Russ Plieseis, Joe Pospicil, Julie Ramsey, Lisa Roach, Scott Smas, Bill Wagner, Michael Wasko

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Pete DeMott, Joochul Kim, Angela Lopez, John Sanborn

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences:

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

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Wasko called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: March 7, 2012

Commissioner McNamara made a motion to approve the March 7, 2012 minutes and Commissioner Buell seconded the motion. The motion passed with 12 yes votes and three abstentions due to absence from the March meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Selection of Neighbor of the Year and Residential Beautification Award Winners

This year, there was one nomination designated by the nominator as a Chuck Malpede nomination, seven Neighbor of the Year nominations, eight Residential Beautification nominations and one Alley Upkeep nomination. All nominees will receive a letter from the Mayor including an invitation to attend the 2012 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards and be photographed with Mayor and Council along with a copy of their nomination in the mail.

Those nominees selected to be honored with an award will be invited to attend the 2012 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards where they will be presented with the award from the Mayor and Council.

There was significant discussion regarding this year's Neighbor of the Year application and possible unintended consequences due to some changes made to it. This is the first year the nomination forms listed the Chuck Malpede Award separately from Neighbor of the Year

nominations. This particular change in the form was implemented by commissioners in an effort to verify the nominator indeed wanted the nominee to be considered for the Chuck Malpede Award. Some commission members believe this change on the form may have resulted in confusion for the nominators, some of whom may have assumed their Neighbor of the Year nominee would be considered for the Chuck Malpede Award automatically as it was in past years. Chair Wasko encouraged discussion of and evaluation of all nominees. After much additional discussion, it was decided that the nominees would only be considered for the type of award their nominator selected by checking the Chuck Malpede, Neighbor of the Year, Residential Beautification or Clean and Alley Upkeep box.

Commission members shared their individual scores for each nominee and the scores were then tallied. Chair Wasko suggested that all Neighbor of the Year nominees with a score of 15 or greater be considered to receive awards.

Commissioner Miller made a motion that absent a qualified applicant per criteria listed in application and provided judging criteria, to not give out a Chuck Malpede Award this year. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was defeated with 12 no votes and three yes votes. When asked, staff stated that in previous years there was always a Chuck Malpede Award given out and numerous (depending on number of and quality of applications) Neighbor of the Year Awards. Commissioner Smas expressed concern that the sole nominee not be penalized.

After further discussion, there was agreement to select a Chuck Malpede winner. Commissioner Agins made a motion to give the Chuck Malpede Award to Chris Rowley. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and the motion passed with nine votes in favor and six opposed.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to give the Neighbor of the Year Award to Russ Courney and no one else, Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion which was defeated with ten no votes and five yes votes. Commissioner McNamara emphasized that the awards serve to recognize neighbors and to encourage positive behaviors such as being watchful of and helpful to your neighbors, cleaning up your home and neighborhood. She added that the event serves a marketing purpose in that by growing the number of nominees and awards given, you get more people involved and inspired to act. Commissioner McNamara then made a motion to honor all of the remaining nominees as Neighbor of the Year Award winners, Commissioner Buell seconded the motion. It was defeated with three yes votes, eight no votes and 3 abstentions.

Commissioner Pospicil made a motion to honor the top three candidates based on points as co-Neighbor of the year Award winners, Commissioner Kaufman seconded the motion and it was defeated with seven no votes, five yes votes and three abstentions. Commissioner Roach made a motion to honor the top scoring Neighbor of the Year candidate, Russ Courtney, with a Neighbor of the Year Award and honorable mention for all of the other nominees. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it passed with 12 yes votes and three no votes.

Commissioner Roach then made a motion to honor the Funke and Martinez Residence, the Zaworski Residence and the Maple Ash Standpipes with Golden Shovel Awards and the remaining five nominees with honorable mention. Commissioner Pospicil seconded the motion and it passed with ten yes votes, 3 no votes and two abstentions. Commissioner McNamara agreed to provide the three Golden Shovel Awards.

Commissioner Pospicil made a motion to recognize Joanne Johnson and John Sanborn with the Alley Upkeep Award. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed with 13 yes votes and 1 abstention. Staff confirmed that Solid Waste will be providing some type of physical award for that category, perhaps a Golden Rake.

Commission members agreed they would like to again review the nomination forms and the evaluation forms to suggest some revisions (perhaps at the June retreat) while their observations of this process are still fresh. The intent will be to make the nominations clearer for nominators and more effective for reviewers to review. The suggestion was also made to consider adding a category that better fits non-profits and/or business nominations. Some members feel that current criteria are not as applicable to those nominations. Another possibility would be to add a Spirit of Tempe Award(s) similar to Portland's Spirit of Portland Award. This Award could go to a resident, business or non-profit that is a friend to the Tempe community.

Agenda Item 5 – 2012 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning Update

Staff reminded commission members they are key to helping market this event and encouraged everyone to take event brochures and posters to their workplaces, and local businesses to help further publicize the event. Commissioners were also encouraged to sign up for one of the workshops and to bring along a friend or neighbor.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Goals and Objectives Discussion

Chair Wasko inquired if anyone had identified a code violation and reported it or moved forward with a park improvement suggestion. Commissioner Johnson has noticed the lack of shade around the picnic tables at Optimist Park. He agreed to submit his suggestion to plant trees by the picnic tables with Parks and Recreation. Commissioner Adams shared that she had reported both an unsecured pool and a refrigerator with open doors in a front yard to Code Compliance. She did not know the outcome. Commissioner Plieseis reported cars parked in a neighbor's front yard, which have since been taken care of.

Agenda Item 7 – 6th Street Park Clean Up Plans

Chair Wasko and Vice Chair McNamara confirmed that they will be spearheading a clean-up of the 6th Street Park (which the NAC previously adopted) on Saturday, April 14 beginning at 8 a.m. Commissioners Johnson, Plieseis and Smas agreed to participate. Commissioners Buell and Agins are tentative. Chair Wasko and Vice Chair McNamara are in contact with Edith Ross who will work with Shane Mueller the Parks Supervisor to provide a list of tasks and duties needed at the park. Once they have the list, they will reach out to all NAC members with this information and a last call for participants.

Agenda Item 8 – Commission Retreat Location and Date Options

Commissioners agreed that the Tempe History Museum location is their preferred location and that Saturday, June 9 is the desired date of the provided options. Staff noted that the Retreat agenda can be determined at the May 2nd meeting.

Agenda Item 9 - Proposed Agenda Items for May 2, 2012 Meeting

- Discussion of June Retreat items
- 2012 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Wrap Up
- Tempe's Multi-Family Dwellings Plans and Policies
- Alley Ordinance (time sensitive)

Agenda Item 10 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director