

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission September 1, 2021



Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern

(MEMBERS) Absent: Christopher McCabe, Nicholas Weller, Justine Yates

City Staff: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Robbie Aaron, Community Development-Planner, robbie_aaron@tempe.gov; Ambika Adhikari, Community Development-Principal Planner, ambika_adhikari@tempe.gov; Jonae Harrison, Equity and Inclusion Manager, jonae_harrison@tempe.gov

Guests: Rob Moore/Brentwood Cavalier NA resident, Julie Hettermann

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 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, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern

Absent: Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Nicholas Weller, Justine Yates

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment

Guest Rob Moore spoke briefly regarding the history and future of Danelle Plaza, a neighborhood plaza located at Southern and Mill Avenues, including the arts and music scene and preservation efforts underway. He provided the website of <https://thedanelleproject.org> and encouraged members to contact him directly if any questions or if they are interested in organizing a site tour. Chair Moulton Belec and Commissioners Harris and Granillo expressed a desire to coordinate a visit.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 14, 2021

Motion: Vice Chair Larimer made a motion to approve the August 14 minutes as presented.

Second: Commissioner Schugurensky

Result: Approved by a 9-1 vote of those present – Commissioner Granillo was the sole abstention due to her absence from the August 14 Retreat meeting.

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Maureen Eastty, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Melanie Larimer, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern

Abstention: Jana Lynn Granillo

Absent: Matt Heil (arrived to mtg. after vote), Christopher McCabe, Nicholas Weller, Justine Yates

Agenda Item 5 – Equity Discussion, Jonae Harrison, Equity and Inclusion Manager

The mission of the Diversity Office is defined as follows: To advance an inclusive, innovative, transparent, and data driven organization while creating a world class city for our community and our region.

Equity and Inclusion Manager Jonae Harrison emphasized the importance of Boards and Commission members serving as a touch point to residents, highlighting resident, neighborhood and community needs as well as the privilege inherent in voluntary service and the responsibilities that come with it. Members have the privilege and the ability to help inform decision making and to place focus, money, support and resources for people who likely will never be able to serve on a commission.

Jonae noted that simply looking at policies and decision making often gets fuzzy and somewhat nebulous results. Individuals need to work at and practice being aware. Get to know yourself first and then you are in a better position to communicate and dialogue about the hard words and terms. Questions are always welcomed.

She shared and discussed the Johari Window, a technique designed by psychologists Joseph Luft and Harrington Ingraham to help people better understand their relationship with themselves and others. The window consists of four quadrants - open, hidden, blind and unknown. Participants are encouraged to increase the size of the open area and to decrease the size of the hidden and unknown areas (the unknown part of ourselves being the part that neither we, nor the others can see) improving self-awareness and mutual understanding between individuals within a group.

Maslow's Hierarchy of needs and motivation was also discussed along with a video clip vividly illustrating the head start provided to people of privilege in terms of education, economic status and familial circumstance. Though equity and equality are often used interchangeably, they are not synonymous. Equality references when everyone is given the same thing. Equity is when people are provided the resource(s) to access what is on the other side of the fence - all can dial into the experience. Liberation then being that all barriers are removed.

Jonae spent her remaining time providing a brief overview of Tempe Equity Data and the map layers that show poverty rates, income levels, disability community, ages, genders, access to technology or lack thereof, etc. Under-resourced neighborhoods may not be organized (no NA or HOA) or have no one applying for things like neighborhood grant funding. Commissioner Schugurensky asked if the existing data can show the relationship between a NA or HOA being present and the income levels of that neighborhood? Jonae said the mapping layers can do so.

Jonae added that Stephanie Dietrick, Enterprise GIS Manager (stephanie_dietrick@tempe.gov) and her team are the GIS mapping experts. She added that the data can be layered, analyzed and used to create awareness, build

connections and help share information about available programs and resources. There is no need to guess or speculate, the data layers work together and can help target and inform outreach. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the presentation information. The NAC Working Groups have been discussing these types of issues and how best to encourage and mentor residents in those “void” areas.

Agenda Item 6 - Papago/North Tempe Character Area Plan Presentation, Ambika Adhikari and Robbie Aaron, Community Development

Since March 2021, city staff have conducted extensive public outreach including kick-off meetings, public survey, focus group meetings, dot.ocracy surveys, extensive social media and presentations to ten different boards and commissions. This is NAC’s second visit.

Outreach efforts have been designed to collect input from the North Tempe community to create a cohesive vision for the future of Papago/North Tempe. The draft plan was made available online for review and comment beginning on August 27 with online comments and feedback being taken through September 19, 2021.

Eight total Character Areas have been identified, five of which now have Mayor and Council approved Character Area Plans. A Character Area Plan is a policy-level advisory document that provides guidance for the design and planning in a designated area. It includes a description of the character of the area and provides design and development principles and strategies so that new development is consistent with the existing character and is sustainable. It’s important to remember that a *Character Area Plan is aspirational and does not prescribe any regulatory requirements.*

Character Area Papago/North Tempe includes the County Island and consists of approximately 3.35 square miles of geographical area. According to the data from the 2020 Census, the population was estimated at 9,920. Most social indicators for this area are similar to those found city-wide in Tempe. One exception being that the median income of \$ 52,371 (2019) in Character Area-1 is only about 90 percent of the city-wide average median income of \$57,994 (2019). Another difference is the CA-1 unemployment rate is slightly higher at 4% while city-wide it is closer to 3.4%.

The first public survey responses indicated a strong desire for amenities like canalside trails/multi-use paths, park enhancements, enhanced streetscapes and support for Historic Preservation and the Arts. The biggest desired land uses were for open space first followed by single-family residential. Dot.ocracy where participants were each given ten dots to identify their priorities generated a number of votes for shade, extreme heat management, landscape, climate change, mobility, open space, housing, passive natural systems and aging in place.

In the CA1 Plan, Fifteen Design Principles – Elements with visual representations of each were prioritized:

1. Papago/North Tempe Sub-Areas
2. Historic Preservation
3. Preserving Neighborhood Character
4. Neighborhood Standards for Walkability
5. Open Space/Public Gathering Spaces
6. Landscape and Shade
7. Mobility and Connectivity
8. Canal-Oriented Design

9. Quality Design
10. Public Art
11. Housing Affordability and Aging-in-Place
12. Green Infrastructure and Construction, and On-site water management
13. Energy Conservation
14. Climate Change and Extreme Heat Management
15. Public Health-Friendly Planning (experiences with Covid brought this to the forefront)

Mayor and City Council received a presentation of the CA1 Draft Plan at their August 30 Council Work Study Session. Next steps include two public meeting on September 13 to review the draft plan and answer questions. All input received will be considered and the final plan is expected to go to Mayor and Council late this year or early next year.

Member questions and comments were brief and included:
What do you expect will happen?

We expect that Mayor and Council would approve the plan. This would then become the 6th Character Area plan to be approved of the eight total. It would then be used by the community, staff, developers and designers while making improvements and planning new developments in the area as a resource and a reference document.

What about Tempe's issue of density and being land locked?

The General Plan is the regulatory document that defines densities and heights of buildings. This Character Area plan speaks more to the aesthetics and looks of new development.

Agenda Item 7 - City of Tempe Sesquicentennial Update

NAC members were provided a summary of planned activities and events from Brenda Abney, Tempe History Museum Manager, in their meeting packet. Staff shared communication from Brenda regarding individual or group volunteering opportunities. If NAC has something interesting to share and can tie it to Tempe History, the commission can work together with Brenda to arrange for a table at the Tempe 150 Festival on Sunday, November 7. Other options include volunteering to help with hands-on art and history projects, directing attendees to amenities and parking or monitoring the kids recreation area. Chair Moulton Belec added that the Tales from Double Butte Cemetery highlighting people's past might be a fun group outing or a group volunteer opportunity.

Agenda Item 8 - Draft 2021 Annual Report - brief discussion of 2022 goals

The latest draft contained in the meeting packet had attendance through the August 14 Retreat and a couple of meeting subject items added. Chair Moulton Belec is going to upload the working document to "the hub" website so that members can make edits and additions, such as more detail regarding the Working Groups formation, scope and projects. Goals for the 2022 year will also have to be defined and included in this 2021 Annual Report due to City Clerk in December.

Agenda Item 8 - NAC Meeting Location Options

Meetings are expected to remain virtual for the foreseeable future. When NAC is able to resume in-person meetings, the ability to participate virtually (a hybrid meeting) will need to remain an option for both NAC members and for guests and public. Prior to the onset of covid, NAC was most recently meeting in Hatton Hall. The acoustics in that room were less than ideal for member participation and for minutes taking.

The Engineering Conference Room on the atrium level (west side) of City Hall is a potential option for NAC meetings once the room technology is reconfigured and updated. The Don Cassano Room on the second floor of the Tempe Transportation Center (east of City Hall on the north side of 5th Street) is also an option. This is where Events Task Force and Transportation Commission meet. The meeting room has a large screen at the front of the room which could allow for Teams meetings and for in person and virtual participants to see each other. Meeting room location options discussion will continue as more information is available and members can provide their input about the available options.

Agenda Item 10 – Proposed Future Agenda Items

- State of the Neighborhoods Event – ways to improve and change it up
- Neighborhood Traffic Manual (STEP) Update with the recommended changes for review
- Rob Moore – Future of Danelle Plaza
- Debrief GAIN 2021 – maybe at November meeting after Oct. 23 GAIN 2021
- Code Compliance – what are they looking for, how to stay in compliance
- See also neighborhood concern items noted during Retreat meeting Ice Breaker

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner