



Minutes Tempe Family Justice Commission June 21, 2022

Minutes of the TEMPE FAMILY JUSTICE COMMISSION held on Tuesday, June 21, 4:00 PM., via Microsoft Teams

(MEMBERS) Present:

Mary O'Grady, Chair
Anastasia Stinchfield
Jeanette Costa
Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley
Jill Oliver
Josie Montenegro
Robin Nelson
Bjorg LeSueur
Ilene Dode, Vice Chair
Mark Perkovich

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Patricia Riggs

City Staff Present:

Paul Bentley, Deputy Human Services Director
Jorge Benavente, Administrative Assistant II+

Public Appearances

Guest Appearances

Maria Laughner
Andrea Alley
Lorenzo Perez
Heidi Kimball

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Mary O'Grady called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Commissioner Riggs was unable to attend; Commissioner Perkovich had to step out of the meeting at 4:38 PM

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

The guest made no public comments.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of May 17, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Jeanette Costa moved to APPROVE on May 17, 2022, Minutes

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley; Motion passed unanimously

AYES: Chair Mary O'Grady, Vice-Chair Ilene Dode, Commissioners Mark Perkovich, Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley, Josie Montenegro, Anastasia Stinchfield, Robin Nelson, and Bjorg LeSueur

ABSENT: Patricia Riggs

Agenda Item 5 – Chair Remarks

Chair O'Grady did not have any remarks at the moment.

Agenda Item 6 – Economic Development, Introducing the Hayden Flour Mill Redevelopment

The Commission welcomed Maria Laughner from the COT's Economic Development department, Andrea Alley and Lorenzo Perez from Venus Projects, and Heidi Kimball from Sunbelt Holdings. They join the meeting to discuss plans for the redevelopment of the Hayden Flour Mill.

Heidi and Lorenzo discussed at-length different projects found across the country that could serve as inspiration for the redevelopment of the site. They also mentioned the need to respect the original site's history, the butte's cultural significance, and the importance of the location providing private and public space for individuals visiting the site. Any additional structures that may be added will be secondary to the existing structure and will serve to enhance the Mill Avenue experience.

In terms of securing finance for such a project, the goal is to build a partnership between private and public capital. The project also hopes to utilize varying financial incentives from both the national and state level.

This project is at its genesis, and it is believed that it may take 3-5 years after the initial planning and development are complete. Its location and age subject the site to maintenance and a historical inquiry, so these factors could prolong any development.

Agenda Item 7 –Victim Awareness Campaign – Public Space Signage Update – Commissioner Jeanette Costa

The development of the public space signage is progressing. Commissioner Costa is in continuous contact with Susie Steckner over the design and distribution. The goal of distributing it across Tempe by October (Domestic Violence Month) is still on track.

Agenda Item 8 –Discuss and Plan Department of Child Safety Presentation

-Commissioner Tinsley discussed her experience reaching out to various state and local agencies, including the Department of Child Safety (DCS). The experience demonstrated to Commissioner Tinsley various issues with communication between agencies in Arizona. Moreover, Commissioner Tinsley believes that some current structures that lead victims directly to their local police department may hinder victims' willingness to seek help.

-Commissioner Tinsley did find the assistance from Mesa and Scottsdale representatives helpful. They mentioned their centers' participation in a state-wide meeting of advocacy centers as a way for agencies to interconnect with different practices. Still, while it seems natural that DCS would attend these meetings, they do not.

-There is hope that DCS can be present at the upcoming Tempe Advocacy center.

-The Commission hopes that it can visit a local advocacy center to gather more information on their practices and their connections with intra-city departments.

Agenda Item 9 – Family Advocacy Center Update and Discussion

As of June 9, the COT has officially approved leasing a local facility that will serve as Tempe's Advocacy Center. The desire is to have the center fully functional by October, but some services will be available sooner. Currently, the center is divided into two sections; one will be headed by Tempe PD and the other by Human Services. The former will be able to provide services sooner than the latter (its section requires major remodeling). The services that will be provided are already available.

However, the center's goal is to streamline the sometimes disjointed roles that different departments provide to victims of domestic abuse.

-the Commission can have a tour when greater remodeling is complete.

Agenda Item 10 – Discuss and Plan Future Strategic Planning Retreat

No definitive dates were given for the retreat

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Member Updates

No significant updates were given.

Agenda Item 12 –Future Agenda Items

Hybrid meeting July 19, 2022 – Conference Boardroom Tempe Library and Microsoft Teams

Child safety guest speaker

Victim Awareness Campaign – Public Space Signage Update

Agenda Item 13– Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Jeanette Costa moved to ADJOURNMENT the meeting

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commissioner Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley; Motion passed unanimously

AYES: Chair Mary O'Grady, Vice Chair Ilene Dode, Commissioners Margaret "Peggy" Tinsley, Josie Montenegro, Anastasia Stinchfield, Robin Nelson, and Bjorg LeSueur

ABSENT: Patricia Riggs, Mark Perkovich

Mary declared the meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM.

The next meeting will be on July 19, 2022.

Minutes Prepared by: Jorge Benavente

Reviewed by: Paul Bentley

Mary O'Grady, Chair
Tempe Family Justice Commission