

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission September 5, 2012

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on September 5, 2012 5:38 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Karen Adams, Joe Agins, Gary Johnson, Britney Scott Kaufman, Angela Lopez, Josephine McNamara, Russ Plieseis, Joe Pospicil, Julie Ramsey, John Sanborn, Scott, Smas, Bill Wagner, Michael Wasko.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Nancy Buell, John Chester, Ann Lynn DiDomenico, Robert Miller

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Pete DeMott,

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Guests Present: Councilmember Kolby Granville, Tony Grentz, Noah Ramirez

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Wasko called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: June 9, 2012

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the June 9, 2012 minutes and Commissioner McNamara seconded the motion. The motion passed with 12 yes votes and one abstention due to absence from the June meeting. Chair Wasko and commissioners welcomed Tony Grentz and his son Noah Ramirez as meeting guests. They explained that Noah was attending the meeting to accomplish one of his Boy Scout requirements.

Agenda Item 4 – Neighbor of the Year Application Proposed Edits

There was a significant amount of discussion pertaining to Neighbor of the Year Application edits. Commissioners wanted to ensure that edits to the application and the evaluation forms reflected their intentions when decisions were made during previous discussion at the commission retreat. Through continued discussion, they realized there were some areas that needed to be further considered and addressed.

The following changes were agreed upon:

- For the Property Beautification Awards, the ability to nominate projects consisting of ongoing yard upkeep efforts and/or holiday décor will be better emphasized. It's in the nomination form copy already but was overlooked by many. The evaluation forms

emphasis on projects needs a reminder note somewhere so future commissioners will remember this is an allowable category.

- **If** a Golden Shovel is awarded, the runner up nomination in terms of points would then receive a Property Beautification Award. (This will be more consistent and in keeping with giving out both a Neighbor of the Year Award and a Chuck Malpede Award.)
- The Property Beautification Evaluation Form will be amended to allow for one point for projects done recently/in the past year. Previously, these projects would have scored zero points for that specific criteria.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the changes as stated. Commissioner Sanborn seconded the motion and it passed with 11 yes votes and two abstentions.

Chair Wasko clarified that the two photos requested as part of the Alley Upkeep Award were intended to be two views of the alley area not necessarily a before and after picture. There was considerable discussion regarding having special consideration given and/or any points if a Solid Waste staff member were to submit the nomination. There were also questions regarding if that staff member would then be required to provide photos too. Ultimately it was decided that the nominations are about neighborhoods and impacts on neighborhoods and ideally should be initiated from neighbors. Commissioner McNamara made a motion that the copy referring to before photos be removed as well as the recommendation from city staff criteria, Commissioner Adams seconded the motion and it passed with eleven in favor and two abstentions.

Chair Wasko highlighted his suggested edit to designate the Chuck Malpede Award as the Chuck Malpede Distinction to help emphasize the importance of this award. Commissioners briefly discussed it and expressed their preference for it to be labeled the Chuck Malpede Award of Distinction. Commissioners also confirmed that there will always be a Neighbor of the Year Award given. In addition, there may be a Chuckie Award for one outstanding NOTY candidate. If the Chuckie is awarded, the runner up in terms of scoring would become the Neighbor of the Year Award winner. Commissioners agreed that all Chuck Malpede candidates must have three years of service to their neighborhoods, Chair Wasko will add this criteria to the upper section of the evaluation form. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the edits to the application, Commissioner Adams seconded it and it passed with 11 yes votes and two abstentions.

Elizabeth reminded commissioners of the need to select a Neighborhood Workshop and Awards date with pending print deadlines looming. The choices were Saturday, April 6 or Saturday, April 13. (She noted that with both Spring Break and Easter falling in March 2013, it's best not to host an event then.) Commissioners chose Saturday, April 13.

Agenda Item 5 – General Plan 2040 Community Working Group

Staff had limited information to share at this time. Anyone interested in serving on the General Plan 2040 Community Working Group must complete an application for review. NAC cannot select the participant. Meetings are tentatively going to be held on the 2nd Wed. of each month with duration of 6-7 meetings. Elizabeth agreed to forward specific information to all commissioners as it becomes available and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Benchmarking and Goals

There was brief discussion regarding this topic. Commissioner McNamara inquired if the goals and benchmarks are still relevant and what are we going to do with the information collected? Chair Wasko stated that the goals have been reviewed and approved and should be followed through. The initial deadline is December 2012. He reminded the commissioners of Goal 3 and Goal 4 requesting they report an issue or suggested improvement and follow up with the group regarding what they did and how it went.

Agenda Item 7 – Adopt A Park

Chair Wasko distributed a handout regarding a September 4 meeting with Edith Ross and the opportunity for the commission to adopt the Mill Avenue Park located on the SE corner of Mill and Rio Salado. This park is a small park and tasks would likely include picking up trash, raking and maybe some occasional tree trimming. He suggested that the first clean up could be in October or November. Commissioner McNamara made a motion to adopt this park and to schedule a clean-up activity, Commissioner Agins seconded the motion and it passed with eight yes votes and four abstentions. Commissioners agreed to arrange for a Saturday, November 3 clean up activity.

Agenda Item 8 - Proposed Agenda Items for October 3, 2012

- Commission Goals and Benchmarking
- Commission Purpose, what topics should we be going to Mayor/Council with?
- Impact of fraternity row closures and fraternities moving into neighborhoods

Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist