
Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission February 5, 2014

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on January 8, 2014 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, Nancy Buell, Cole Hickman, Kiyomi Kurooka, Josephine McNamara, Robert Miller, Jon Mulford, Bill Munch, Russ Plieseis, Julie Ramsey, Joaquin Rios, Scott Smas, Bill Wagner, Christopher Ware.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Arlene Chin, Nancy Lesko

City Staff Present: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager, Ken Jones, Finance and Tech Director, ken_jones@tempe.gov, 480-350-8504, Cecilia Robles, Finance Service Manager – Budget/Tax, cecilia_velasco-robles@tempe.gov, 480-350-8350, Nancy Ryan, Community Development/Project Management Coordinator, 480-350-8096, nancy_ryan@tempe.gov

Guests Present: Jack Escobar, Tempe Resident

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Welcome and Introductions of New Members

New members Cole Hickman and Joaquin Rios were welcomed to the group. All members noted their name and zip code.

Agenda Item 4 - Consideration of Minutes: December 4, 2013

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the December 4, 2013 minutes and Commissioner Ware seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 – Nominations and Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

No additional nominations were offered at this meeting. Commissioner Smas made a motion that Vice Chair Miller be elected the Chair and Commissioner Plieseis be elected the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ware and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – City of Tempe Budget Overview

Ken Jones provided a Budget overview presentation along with an update on the city's current financial status. He explained that the fiscal year for the city runs from July 1 thru June 30. One of the primary purposes of the budget is to restrict spending for the year and to create annual spending limits.

The operating budget controls the day-to-day operations of City departments (half of this funding comes from sales tax revenue) while the capital budget controls expenditures to purchase, build, improve or expand the City's infrastructure and capital assets. The fund structure includes:

- General Fund (80% of spending takes place here, PD and FD, etc), Special Revenue
- Special Assessment Funds
- Enterprise Funds (Examples: Water, Wastewater, Golf)
- Capital Projects (planned by the City Council, based on need and projected funding) and Debt Service Funds

The City uses cash and issues tax-exempt bonds to fund projects, bond elections provide authorization only. The secondary tax levy is deposited into the Debt Service Fund and restricted to payment of debt issued for capital improvements. Challenges that exist include the expiration of the temporary sales tax on June 30, 2014, shifting economic conditions, the need for the supplemental budget to maintain or improve programs and services and the issue of competitive employee compensation.

Capital Budget Issues include: underfunded capital maintenance/replacement, debt management/cash funding, stabilized secondary property tax and ongoing state reductions to Highway User Relief (HURF) funding. The consequences due to the economic downturn are still being felt and managed. There were a variety of questions and comments and members gave Ken and his staff kudos for their transparency. Ken encouraged members to attend one of two forums about the budget which will feature a more comprehensive presentation and additional time for questions.

The public forums will be held:

- Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 6-8 p.m., in the community room of the South Police Substation, 8201 S. Hardy Drive.
- Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6-8 p.m., in the Don Cassano Room on the second floor of the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St. (Parking is in the city garage on the south side of Fifth Street, directly across from the Transportation Center.)

Agenda Item 7 – Character Areas Public Involvement Process and Schedule

Nancy Ryan described the public involvement process and schedule for the initial two character areas of Kiwanis/The Lakes and Corona/South Tempe. The project purpose is to provide a community-directed planning process and guiding document that will assist in identifying, promoting and establishing the desired community character for defined areas of the City gathering input from those who work and live there. A profile of each area is being prepared now in anticipation of the upcoming meetings and a variety of tools for gathering input will be utilized for each of these character areas over the course of 12 months depending on what participants indicate they want.

Commissioners had the following questions and comments:

- What is the final take away?
It could be a poster or map rather than a document
- Is there a website?
Tempe.gov/characterareas
- Thank you for acknowledging that Tempe extends south beyond Baseline Road!
- Concern was expressed regarding perception that the policy is to maximize development into every square inch of city and that might not reflect what current residents want.
- How do we ensure this doesn't end up on a shelf or minor attention only is paid to this?
Who are these suggestions for?
This will become a factor to be considered when evaluating future projects by Development Review Commission, Hearing Officer and Mayor/Council. There will be more design and character-related information available to inform decisions regarding character and aesthetics.
- The bigger issue is the policy stand regarding high density housing.
Defining character includes both what you want and what you don't want.
- This process would have been ideal working towards General Plan Update.
- You'll get lots of input but ultimately what comes of it and how will it be used?
Character areas will use input on what change is and is not desired, and what should be preserved.
- Frustration was expressed with how development decisions are reached by Mayor and Council.
- Like the General Plan update, it seems like a lot of effort amongst staff and citizens and nothing happens or changes.
Community input did influence the General Plan. For example your input helped inform and change the radius of notification in the General Plan. We are continuing to work towards the 20 minute city concept. This is a new planning effort at the neighborhood scale, and participation will result in local impacts. Your participation is important.
- Density concerns and greater desire to control of how city develops was expressed repeatedly at General Plan meetings. The process was great but which tools are going to be utilized? What do you do when you see something going up in my neighborhood that just doesn't fit. We need a policy, not just ideas and documents.
- Will the ratings of neighborhoods done by Code Compliance staff interface with this?
It is one of the variables in the background research. If code compliance is an important issue to the neighborhoods in the character area, then it will be discussed.

Agenda Item 8 – Tempe Involving the Public (TIP) Manual Edits Update

Significant editing including substantial refinement and deletions has been taking place based on the input from NAC members and involved staff. City of staff and Private Developers will have addendum documents as recommended rather than the all in one approach of the first document. Commissioners indicated their agreement that this is moving in the right direction. Neighborhood Services anticipates having an updated draft for review at the March meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – 2014 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning Update

Staff shared that the location of this year's April 5 event has been moved to the Tempe History Museum to accommodate greater capacity. Prior to the Awards presentation, the Mayor will be

delivering the first State of the Neighborhoods address. A building character theme has been identified and the following four workshops will be offered:

- **Tempe has abundant character** – Join Amy Douglass, Tempe History Museum Manager, on a behind-the-scenes tour. Learn about some of Tempe’s more colorful periods and interesting items the museum is carefully preserving and looking after. Also, hear updates about the museum’s new and innovative programming.
- **Neighborhood Character Starts at Home** – Dave Maza, Neighborworks Instructor and local business owner, will lead a dynamic workshop on how your home shapes, confirms, or destroys your neighborhood’s character. There will be plenty of tips and ideas to help you and your neighbors enhance your homes and increase your street’s appeal.
- **Kiwanis/The Lakes Character Area – Defining Character on a Grand Scale**. Join Hunter Hansen, of Tempe’s Community Development, as he shares research of the **Kiwanis/The Lakes** Character Area. Identify your favorite places and activities that make Kiwanis/The Lakes Character Area special, as well as opportunities for change and weaknesses that may need improvement. This is the second meeting of five to define the desired character and influence the appearance, amenities, future development and services for this area.
- **Corona/South Tempe Character Area – Defining Character on a Grand Scale**. Join Nancy Ryan, of Tempe’s Community Development, as she shares research of the **Corona/South Tempe** Character Area. Identify your favorite places and activities that make Corona/South Tempe Character Area special, as well as opportunities for change and weaknesses that may need improvement. This is the second meeting of five to define the desired character and influence the appearance, amenities, future development and services for this area.

New this year will also be a Food Truck festival immediately following the workshops. Both participants and the general public will be encouraged to stop by and join in this community picnic opportunity. Commissioners expressed understanding that staff needed to move forward with event planning and looming print deadlines but also expressed frustrations that commissioner reappointments were not addressed sooner in order to allow a January meeting and more time for member input. They also recommended a Neighborhood Leadership training workshop offering as last year’s was so well executed and received.

Agenda Item 10 – Board and Commission Review

Commissioners were supportive of the recommendation to reduce overall commission size from 21 to 15 members. Moving forward, they strongly requested that Mayor and Council vote on reappointments and new members in a timely manner to avoid lack of quorum issues and confusion.

Agenda Item 11 – Arizona Open Meeting Law

Commissioners directed staff to again follow up with City Attorney and City Clerk to inquire when they will have a presentation ready to share. The materials found on the City Clerk’s website are insufficient on their own and as interpretations vary widely, they requested to hear directly from the appropriate staff.

Agenda Item 12 – Proposed Agenda Items for March 5 or Future Meeting

- 2014 Neighborhood Awards Nominations Review

- 2014 Neighborhood Awards and Workshop Update
- TIP Manual Update
- Help 2 Others Program Description
- Character Area Update?

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.?

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Manager