



Minutes

City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee

April 10, 2007

Minutes of the City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee held on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 3:30 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Member Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

City Staff Present:

Debbie Bair, Sr. Mgmt. Asst.
Neil Calfee, Deputy Comm Dev Mgr
Angel Carbajal, Police Commander
Jim Gaintner, Asst. Fire Chief
Kate Hanley, TCC Exec Dir
Shelley Hearn, Comm Rel Mgr
Cliff Jones, Fire Chief
Jayson Matthews, TCC Mgmt Asst
John Osgood, Deputy Pub Wrks Mgr
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Tom Ryff, Police Chief
Chris Salomone, Com Dev Mgr
Marc Scott, Asst Fire Chief
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Dir

Guests Present:

Joe Pospicil, NAC member
Stephanie Salazar, ASU
Angel Stewart

Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Discussion of Code Enforcement in Trailer Parks

Neil Calfee summarized that code enforcement in trailer parks is a unique situation.

- Neighborhood and Property Enhancement Code and the Fire Code apply, but the Building Code doesn't apply.
- Codes are generally written for single family structures or traditional buildings.
- From a neighborhood enhancement standpoint, outdoor storage is a challenge.
- Staff attempt to enforce the codes fairly and balance life safety.
- Enforcement is a challenge and abatement is more difficult than with single family homes.
- Attempt to keep a baseline level of enhancement and maintain safety.

Councilmember Shekerjian stated that she had toured some City trailer parks and she noted safety issues. Since the same codes don't apply, she asked what staff does systematically to ensure safety and equal enforcement for all trailer parks. Many of the residents would have difficulty finding other homes

Fire Chief Cliff Jones responded that staff conducts systematic and uniform fire code inspections throughout the community.

Marc Scott stated that the Fire Code is an industrial and commercial code and, although it doesn't address single family homes, it does address fire safety. A year ago, the Fire Department received a FEMA fire prevention safety grant which funded the smoke detector program for mobile homes. There are 2600 mobile homes in Tempe, and two volunteers went through every mobile home park. They contacted over 900 occupants, left information at the remainder of the homes, installed 326 smoke detectors, changed more than 100 batteries in existing detectors, and installed 30 carbon monoxide detectors.

Councilmember Shekerjian noted that this was a one-time grant and asked what could be done on an on-going basis

Mr. Scott responded that this program has been extended into the rental property area since Council passed an ordinance many years ago to allow the Fire Department to address smoke detectors. There are many off-shoots of this program and it is beneficial to everyone.

Kate Hanley added that mobile homes are affordable housing stock and several years ago she and Neil Calfee worked on a project to look at the inspection timeline. The inspection rate was slowed to coincide with the number that could be relocated. They determined how many people could be relocated from Apache Boulevard and support services were placed in the communities to facilitate relocation. It is important to be concerned about the health and safety of the children. This is a very vulnerable population.

Councilmember Shekerjian summarized that it is also important to be concerned with the liability of the City and codes must be enforced.

Agenda Item 2 – Update on the Development of Southeast Quadrant Fire Station

Fire Chief Cliff Jones summarized that the need for the southeast quadrant station was first identified in the early 1990's. At that time, the station was forecast to be completed by 2000 and was to be Phase 3 of a three-part fire station location plan. Phases 1 and 2 have been completed. This station is critical to provide services. The last addition of a fire company was twelve years ago, so there has been no increase in fire department response resources since that time. At that time, the annual call volume was 11,800 calls, compared to a current level of 19,000 calls per year, or a 58% increase with the same resources. With only one "first response" fire company south of Guadalupe Road, almost 40% of the City is served by one company. Chandler provides second level response. At last week's Council CIP budget meeting, the southeast quadrant station was approved for the upcoming five-year CIP.

Councilmember Arredondo asked what that means to the Hardy station.

Chief Jones responded that in terms of a replacement for the Hardy station, it would not improve service delivery. It would, however, improve conditions for firefighters. To build a station on Hardy would mean building a new support services facility, which includes their mechanical maintenance and warehouse. As soon as that could be completed, a new station would be built on the two contiguous properties.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that Council wants to support public safety. He suggested looking at replacing the truck at Station #1. When Tempe Marketplace opens, there will be an added burden.

Chief Jones responded that Station #1 has only one pumper truck. His primary concern right now is replacement trucks. He is also concerned about an "infill" company and the possible need of an additional resource at that station. His plan would be to activate that company this coming budget year which would provide a two-year window until that station was finished. The infill company could then absorb some of the additional call load.

Agenda Item 3 – Discussion of Enforcement Signage in Alleys

John Osgood showed a sign regarding strict enforcement in alleys currently used in the Hudson Manor and Lindon Park neighborhoods and noted that several modified versions of the sign are used in various parks. The signs could also address alley issues, such as illegal dumping, graffiti, scavenging, etc. The signs do not commit the Police Department or Public Works to increase enforcement in the area, but rather advertise that there are statutes regulating behavior in alleys and violations will be enforced.

Councilmember Shekerjian asked if any data has been collected from places where the signs have been posted.

Angel Carbajal responded that this sign was set up in the Hudson Manor neighborhood about five years ago in response to concerns brought to the Crime Prevention Unit. The intent was to be a visual deterrent and Officers don't have any hard data. He further suggested that these signs be used sparingly.

Mr. Osgood showed another example of a sign dealing with the issue of illegal dumping.

Councilmember Arredondo stated that it would be important that staff determine the recommendations for neighborhoods and alleys for posting. He would direct staff to present their recommendations to Council, but added that if the signs are shown at the Council meeting, everyone will want one. A memo to Councilmembers was suggested.

DIRECTION: Staff directed to meet with Chief Ryff and Shauna Warner to determine other neighborhoods or alley areas for posting and collect data.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Resources for Unmet Human Services

Kate Hanley summarized the unmet human service needs in preparation for the supplemental budget discussion on April 12th.

- Senior services for current and changing Tempe population, especially affordable housing for seniors.

- Youth prevention activities.
- Meeting the demand for services at North Tempe Multi-Generational Center.
- Need for low-income affordable housing for families, individuals, seniors and those transitioning out of domestic violence and homeless programs.
- The overall increase in costs to provide human services.

Prior to last year's supplemental budget, the human services budget had been kept level for about five years during a period of dramatic increases in costs of resources.

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Community Council Update

Kate Hanley summarized upcoming events:

- Tempe Youth Showcase, April 15th at 1 p.m.
- Mayor's Disability Awards, April 26th at 3 p.m.
- TCC's 35th anniversary and volunteer reception, May 2nd at 5 p.m.
- TCC Board Retreat Council Reception, May 4th at 5:30 p.m.

She added that this is the last Saturday for the Earned Income Tax Credit and noted that the program has been very successful. She will also be working with Police Chief Ryff on the SACA grants due April 17th.

Agenda Item 6 – Selective Enforcement Motorcycle Squad Update

Police Chief Ryff recognized Angel Carbajal, who will be promoted effective May 1st to Assistant Chief assigned to the Patrol Operations Division. The motorcycle unit will be combined with the patrol unit under uniformed services.

Angel Carbajal summarized that the Selective Enforcement Motorcycle Squad (SEMS) addresses traffic safety based on neighborhood traffic complaints. For February and March of 2007, 32 complaints were received. Officers spent 72.8 hours working the complaints and 212 violations were issued.

Chief Ryff added that these officers are the first responders. Officers are not taken off the street and sent into the neighborhoods. Their primary responsibility is to respond to neighborhood calls for services.

Agenda Item 7 – Loud Party Ordinance Enforcement Review

Angel Carbajal summarized that the Party Patrol is a squad of officers working overtime in order to supplement officers during high volume party times. Between August 18, 2006, and March 31, 2007, the patrol responded to 823 calls and issued 353 response notices, 113 parking citations, 29 Crime Free Multi Housing cards, 39 field cards, with 20 arrests. Loud Party calls are down about 15%. Exceptional incidents are also tracked and he cited several neighborhood incidents since April 2nd.

Councilmember Arredondo commended staff and noted that citizens need to hear the positive.

Councilmember Shekerjian commended Chief Ryff for his officer selections. She also commended Sgt. Fran Santos for her support with constituent issues.

Councilmember Arredondo agreed and asked Chief Ryff to pass along his thanks for Sgt. Santos' feedback and service.

DIRECTION: Staff was directed to make the same presentation at the next IRS. Chief Ryff was also asked to introduce the three new Assistant Chiefs at the same meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Police Department Update

Police Chief Ryff announced the grand opening of the new police facility on Apache Boulevard on May 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The facility will house 250 officers and employees. He thanked Council for their support.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Chief Ryff to make sure high schools and junior highs, as well as the businesses in the area, receive posters announcing the grand opening.

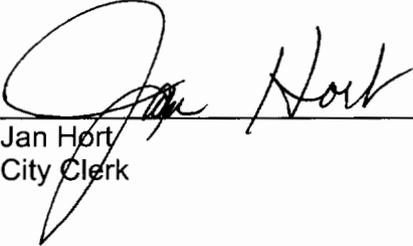
Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Arredondo asked Shauna Warner to make color copies of the work plan for all committee staff. The work plan will be coded showing completed items in yellow and scheduled items for the May meeting in blue. After the May meeting, the committee will not meet until September.

The next meeting will be on May 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shauna Warner



Jan Hort
City Clerk