



Minutes City Council's Transportation & Affordable Housing Committee September 25, 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Transportation & Affordable Housing Committee held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 3:00 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Shana Ellis, Chair
Vice Mayor Hut Hutson

City Staff Present:

Neil Calfee, Dep Comm Dev Mgr
Dawn Coomer, Sr. LRT Planner
Kathy Gasperich, Council Aide
Mary Helen Giustizia, Sanitation Superintendent
Don Hawkes, Water Util Mgr
Craig Hittie, Affordable Hsg Coor
Glenn Kephart, Public Wrks Mgr
Jayson Matthews, TCC Mgmt Asst
Jyme Sue McLaren, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Oliver Ncube, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Amanda Nelson, Comm Outreach Mktg Supvr
John Osgood, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Shelly Seyler, Traffic Engineer
David Tavares, Environ Health & Safety Supvr
Amber Wakeman, Govt Rel Dir
Carlos de Leon, Dep Public Wrks Mgr

Guests Present:

Don Cassano, Transportation Commission
Beth Fiorenza, TCAA
Erica Perez
Brandi Mendoza
Sue Ringler, TCAA
Emily Ryan, AZ Multihousing Association

Councilmember Shana Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 –Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item 2 – Proposed Scope and Potential Work Plan

Councilmember Ellis summarized that the Mayor has suggested a realignment of the Council committees based on discussions at the Council Summits over the summer.

- The suggested new committee name is “Transportation, Housing and Environment Committee.”
- One of the recurring themes was a focus on the environment and sustainability and the suggestion has been made to place it under this committee.
- It was also suggested to change “affordable” housing to “housing.”
- An eighth item was added to the Committee scope: “Application and development of cost-effective, environmentally sustainable programs, including green-building standards, recycling programs and resource and waste reduction programs.”

Councilmember Ellis stated that Council directed the committees to bring the scopes back to the next Issue Review Session for discussion of any suggestions for changes or additions. She asked for suggestions on changing and updating the previous work plan.

Carlos de Leon stated that since many of the transportation items have been completed, there would be flexibility to add something new.

Vice Mayor Hutson added that many of the committees overlap. He suggested removing everything that has been completed, leaving the remainder on the list, and then tweaking the new information.

The following housing items were proposed: “Planning, development, coordination and implementation of affordable and workforce housing concepts and programs, including overseeing coordination of spectrum of services targeted at moving individuals and families from homelessness to home ownership.” Councilmember Ellis added that this is basically the same as before, and no changes were suggested.

Neil Calfee stated that with the outcome of the upcoming Affordable Housing Forum, some changes might need to be made. The scope is broad enough, however, to remove “affordable” from the committee title.

Councilmember Ellis added that although the Forum is titled “Affordable Housing Forum”, it will cover more than affordable housing. She further asked about the light rail, regional planning, and additional transportation elements.

Glenn Kephart stated that there is flexibility to work on all of those items.

Jyme Sue McLaren suggested adding to the work plan the evaluation of options for transportation in the downtown area. Several issues have arisen relating to parking and potential remote parking opportunities, downtown development standards and how our street network is designed, and an evaluation of a street system to identify the characteristics to be carried on each street.

Don Hawkes added that the addition of the environmental element would eventually involve four departments—Development Services, Community Development, Public Works and Water Utilities. It could easily fit under other committees as well. Staff would be pleased to work with this committee, but would intend to share the information with any other committee.

Councilmember Ellis asked if the verbiage was acceptable.

Mr. Hawkes responded that because it is broad, it should work.

John Osgood introduced Mary Helen Giustizia, Sanitation Superintendent, who is responsible for the recycling programs, including the multi-family and commercial programs. Staff is particularly interested in the waste reduction aspect. The City is very liberal with solid waste disposal and, for example, many people don't know that material can be taken free of charge to the transfer station on weekends. "Pay-per-throw" is a concept used by many communities throughout the country.

Mr. Kephart added that the sustainable building program isn't really off the ground yet, and that's a huge item.

Chris Anaradian added that Development Services and Public Works have been talking over the past year about the theory, so they would welcome the opportunity to put something into practice. There is a difference between building practices and "green-building standards" and he recommended verbiage to rather specify "planning and building practices." Development Services desires to achieve a balance between encouraging a diverse and healthy economy and encouraging investment in the community while still incorporating practices for the long term that could benefit everyone. "Green building" means many things from material suppliers to how the building is designed and operated. "Planning" could be something as simple as encouraging density. It would be great to be able to have a process to begin to look at it.

Mr. Kephart added that an environmentally sustainable program, including green-building standards, is a work item in itself. It may be too large to combine with the recycling programs, but would be better as a separate item.

Councilmember Ellis suggested an item of current standards, improvement upon our recycling program, and marketing what we have, and a separate item for upcoming programs that will require a lot of work.

Mr. Anaradian clarified that it can be marketed collectively, but it would be great to have a group or a document that supports what we already do and don't talk about enough, what we could do with a little more money, and some things that other cities do that would be a commitment to take us to the next level. There's probably room to bring it all together somewhere.

Mr. Kephart added that they merge eventually.

Councilmember Ellis suggested that on the work plan it could be broken down in a way similar to how the transportation and housing is broken down. Mr. de Leon is in contact with each department to see which elements of the work plan should be put on the agenda each month. The affordable housing piece was in the "infant" stage a year ago and it has come a long way. Hopefully, that will happen with the new elements. It is important to be conscious of staff time so we try to focus on just a few items at each meeting.

Vice Mayor Hutson added that most of the items on the Arts & Community Services Committee, for example, were completed with the opening of the Arts Center, so the Mayor reshuffled the committees. The environment issue could be a stand-alone item, just like the OPEB issue could

be a stand-alone item for the Finance, Economy and Veterans Affairs Committee. It just needs to be worked into the mix.

Councilmember Ellis clarified that there was a consensus that the eight items under the proposed scope of work are acceptable, with changing “green-building standards” to “planning and practices.” By adding the environment piece to the work plan, she suggested having a representative from each of the four departments meet to develop their items and then the group will tweak it at the next meeting.

Mr. de Leon asked if there are any transportation items to be added.

Councilmember Ellis added that the lagging left turn issue continues to surface. A new study has been done, and if there is new information, it should be added.

Vice Mayor Hutson suggested leaving items on the work plan that are still open. Staff should also look at the Mayor’s recommendations and bring back any that should be added to the work plan.

Councilmember Ellis agreed.

Mr. de Leon added that as part of last year’s process, staff submitted the work plan to the Transportation Commission for their input. He asked if staff should do that this year and bring it back to the committee at the next meeting.

Councilmember Ellis agreed.

Mr. Kephart added that staff should also compare this to the CIP budget and adjust some of the wording. For example, some of the light rail items would change to “operation” this year and any other CIP items should be added as necessary.

Councilmember Ellis asked about the housing tasks. One of the items was to provide a forum for dialogue with the community and, although a date has been set, it shouldn’t go off the list. The wording may need to be tweaked, however. There has also been a change in the affordable housing strategy.

Mr. Calfee agreed that most of it will involve tweaking of the wording, since the items are not completed. There won’t be any major changes, however. After the forum, staff can return to the committee with suggestions in November.

Councilmember Ellis asked Mr. de Leon if he was willing to continue as “point person”.

Mr. de Leon responded that he would be willing. He suggested having someone else serve as the point person on the environmental issues.

Councilmember Ellis suggested that after clear direction is received from Council at the October 4th IRS, staff could determine who should serve.

Agenda Item 3 – Affordable Housing Summit

Craig Hittie summarized that the Affordable Housing Summit (Forum) will be held on Saturday, October 20th, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.,

- This forum will be the first of ongoing forums to discuss different elements.
- This forum will focus on the non-profit community-based partners working together more effectively on resources.
- Invitations will go out this week.
- The meeting will be open to the public and will focus on education and outreach.
- The agenda will include a welcome by the Mayor.
- Councilmember Ellis will present the ongoing efforts of the City, current activities, and accomplishments including the entire spectrum of affordable housing from homeless prevention through workforce housing.
- A question-and-answer session will be held with the public and each non-profit partner has been asked to present a short summary of their projects.
- A roundtable discussion will be facilitated by an ASU professor to discuss development of better partnerships and the possibility of refocusing their missions to find their niche.
- The goal is to begin momentum for the non-profits to work together with quarterly meetings, elimination of barriers, etc.

Councilmember Ellis added that Vice Mayor Hutson had previously suggested not trying to cover everything in one day, so the focus of this forum will be on the providers. There are many providers outside Tempe's borders interested in providing services in Tempe and we want to urge the providers to determine their niches, open up communication, and see how they can help our residents. This is just the starting point and hopefully issues will surface for future forums.

Agenda Item 4 – Battery Collection and Disposal

Don Hawkes summarized that it is important to note that most batteries are not recyclable, yet they must be disposed of properly depending upon the materials of the batteries. The alkaline batteries are not considered hazardous and may be disposed of in municipal landfills. The exotic battery types (ni-cad, Li-ion, mercury, lead, etc.) contain metals that are regulated by law and must be disposed of by incineration or recycling. He outlined issues for consideration. Staff will return to the committee in October with possible options.

Councilmember Ellis asked if staff will work with the schools to develop a plan.

Mr. Hawkes responded that staff will find a contact at the schools and have dialogue initially to see how interested the schools are what they are willing to do. He introduced Oliver Ncube, Deputy Public Works Manager, and David Tavares who supervises the Environmental Health and Safety workers, including the Household Products Collection Center.

Councilmember Ellis asked for a summary of events leading up to this plan.

Mr. Hawkes summarized that a citizen described an interaction he had with the Household Products Collection Center. He had collected a large number of batteries from church members and had brought them for disposal. There was a policy that the collection center collects household hazardous waste in Tempe. By definition, if collected by a church, the church could go beyond the borders of Tempe and staff was stringently defining what could be dropped off at the center. After this issue came up, staff looked at the policies and decided to place programs

in place to provide outreach to churches and other service groups for some recycling collection focus. Staff needed some time to get up to speed on getting the word out to our collection center personnel, provide extra storage, make some website changes, etc. Staff projects they will be ready to go by November 1. Further, Councilmember Shekerjian suggested a program to involve schools for drop-off of batteries.

Councilmember Ellis asked if staff was working with the Education committee on this plan.

Mr. Hawkes responded that they are currently only working with this committee.

Agenda Item 5 – Speed Limit Changes

Shelly Seyler summarized that staff regularly reviews and makes changes as necessary to the speed limits in Tempe. With the implementation of light rail and to create consistency, staff is suggesting changes in the northern portion of the City, as well as a few changes in the southern changes of the City. Staff requests feedback prior to moving forward to Council for adoption of the proposed changes.

Councilmember Ellis asked if lanes were taken away from the streets impacted by light rail.

Ms. Seyler responded that those streets did lose lanes.

Councilmember Ellis asked what Phoenix is doing on Washington Street where light rail will be located.

Ms. Seyler responded that these proposed changes match what Phoenix has instituted. She continued that since this is an ordinance change, will involve a first and second public hearing.

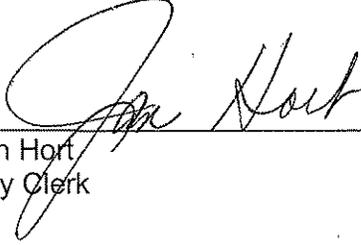
DIRECTION: Move forward to Council in October.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- Housing Forum Report
- Battery Collection and Disposal
- Transportation Update on bus stop and pullout program
- Work Plan
 - Chris Anaradian added that staff will report by the end of the year concerning building plans and sustainability and on what is being done now and what could be done.
 - John Osgood added that last spring, Council approved the PM10 5% reduction plan which affected the Development Services, Community Development, Public Works and Water Utilities Departments, and now is a good time to see where we all are.
 - Chris Anaradian added that Development Services will be moving forward to adopt a new building/energy code. He will talk to the Interim City Manager to determine his preference for staff support.
 - Councilmember Ellis asked staff to let her know what to say at the Council meeting regarding the Scope of Work.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Carlos de Leon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Hort", is written over a horizontal line.

Jan Hort
City Clerk