Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
June 2, 2021

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams platform

(MEMBERS) Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney, Nicholas Weller and Zoe Stein (late arrival).

(MEMBERS) Absent: Maureen Eastty

City Staff: Laura Kajfez, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Ambika Adhikari, Community Development-Principal Planner, ambika_adhikari@tempe.gov; Shelly Seyler, Interim Community Development Director, shelly_seyler@tempe.gov; Steven Methvin, Assistant City Manager, steven_methvin@tempe.gov; Lieutenant James Sweig, Police Department

Guests: Helen Bonow, Nicole Muratore

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Moulton Belec

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance Roll Call
Present: Hannah Moulton Belec, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Christopher McCabe, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Jana Lynn Granillo (joined after via phone), Melanie Larimer (arrived after), Michael McLendon and Zoe Stein (arrived later)

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment
None.

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 5, 2021
Motion: Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the May 5 minutes as presented.

Second: Vice Chair Larimer

Result: Approved by a unanimous vote of those present - 12 to 0

Commission Member Ayes: Hannah Moulton Belec, Jana Lynn Granillo, Diane Harden, Barb Harris, Matt Heil, Melanie Larimer, Christopher McCabe, Michael McLendon, Daniel Schugurensky, Joel Stern, Kevin Sweeney and Nicholas Weller.

Absent: Maureen Eastty, Zoe Stein (arrived following vote)

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation and discussion on Character Area – 1 Papago/North Tempe planning

Ambika Adhikari, Community Development-Principal Planner, noted that eight different character areas have been identified in Tempe. Plans have been completed for five, Character Area-1 Papago/North Tempe (CA-1) is currently in the planning process. Character Area 1 plan is the portion of the City north of the 202 Freeway. A Character Area plan is non-regulatory with a scope intended to provide a high-level vision and policy plan advancing both General Plan goals and Council priorities.

Character Area 1 defining elements include:

- History
- Design aesthetics
- Desert landscape
- Open spaces
- Papago Park
- Cross-cut canal
- Landmarks (Eisendrath House, Sandra Day O'Connor

Ambika provided a brief overview of respondent data to date regarding home ownership, mobility, preference for the enhancement of amenities and land uses and wish list items.

CA-1 Kick Off meetings were held in mid-March followed by two public meetings at different times on May 11, 2021. The "Dot.ocracy" survey identifying resident priorities opened on May 11 and will remain open through June 30, 2021. Also in June, two in-person pop-up meetings will be held at the Papago Park Ramada on June 14 (6 to 7 pm) and 26 (9 to 10 am). NAC members were invited to complete the survey, put comments in NAC meeting chat, email Ambika or other listed staff directly and to come to a pop-up if interested. The DRAFT plan is anticipated to be completed by Fall/Winter of 2021 with an additional round of public outreach, revisions and City Boards and Commission review, followed by City Council decision on the final draft plan anticipated by late 2021 or early 2022.

Member questions and comments included:

- How does this plan fit in with other plans and investments?
  Each Character Area plan is unique to that area and is the first Character Area Plan for that area. They are not regulatory nor do they come attached with investments. The plans are more about compatibility with General Plan (updated every ten years) and with resident identified priorities.
- Regarding Tempe Town Lake – is it included? What about tall buildings that are already there? What is the distinction between shade category and heat management – aren't those categories somewhat duplicative?
  Design criteria from April 2021 online survey summary results indicated a split preference for low height buildings amongst some respondents with others being ok with tall buildings. There is indeed overlap and commonality to some elements, that is the nature of a Character Area plan. CA-1 is north of freeway 202, and thus the areas south of the Tempe Town Lake are not included.
- Any surprises?

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Many things are pretty standard like the importance of Papago Park and desire for open spaces. Typically, high rises are not seen as desirable, this area would like some.

- Were there any open-ended questions in the survey?
  Yes, on the first survey. And in all meetings, we ask for any additional preferences of priorities that residents may have.
- How do people vote for preferences?
  Dot.ocracy asks folks to prioritize. Each participant gets a total of ten dots. They can put all of their ten dots on one area of emphasis if desired or spread them out on varied priorities. It will be done online, but at the pop-up meetings, respondents can also physically vote for their preferences.

<u>Agenda Item 6 – Speeding/Street Racing in Tempe</u>
Lieutenant James Sweig noted that the mission of Tempe Police Department is to reduce harm and enhance trust in Tempe. Five key initiatives feed into this including Traffic and Multimodal Safety. This Police Department Traffic Bureau work encompasses the support of Traffic Engineering efforts combined with purposeful education and enforcement.

The five top crash factors are:

- Distracted driving
- Impaired driving
- Aggressive driving
- Speeding
- Inclement weather

During the onset of covid-19 and as a result of the uncertainty of illness and potential staffing levels, enforcement was reactive. Now, enforcement has returned to a proactive state. From January through April 2021, proactive enforcement of street racing and car meet ups along the north side of the 202, Rio Salado Parkway, Curry Road and Mill Avenue took place resulting in over 150 arrests. Violations included: criminal speed, reckless driving, DUI, stolen vehicle as well as weapons and narcotics issues.

Lieutenant Sweig emphasized that Tempe's neighboring cities are all experiencing similar issues with individuals and car clubs gathering at various locations to race from there or to meet in order to plan in-person (rather than using social media) to race at alternative locations. Recently, Lakeview Drive has been closed on Friday and Saturday nights to discourage gathering and racing there or elsewhere and the involved Police Departments are communicating and sharing information. Alternative strategies and prevention tactics are also being explored with Traffic Engineering such as the creation of rougher road surfaces.

The top five intersections for injury collusions and the top five intersections for fatalities are also being identified as areas of particular focus with proactive strategies such as increased education, awareness and use of tools like Selective Enforcement Motorcycle Squad (SEMS).

NAC member comments and questions included:

- Rio Salado Parkway and Lakeside Drive has ongoing issues with eastbound speeding and racing – not just Friday and Saturday nights

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- Our Rio Salado Parkway HOA members are concerned about lack of seen enforcement, residents feel PD is not eager to come out and take a report
  It was noted that sometimes unmarked vehicles are used for this purpose. Please report concerns so that they can be tracked and followed up on.
- Why not place cameras on the streets where people are convening to race?
  Not budgeted for previously. Cameras have been used around AZ Mills for car thefts with some success but that vendor did not allow for movement of cameras. Could be a possibility with new budget.
- What about pedestrians crossing streets looking at their phones/peds being distracted?
  Education and enforcement details are coordinated every year with ASU. There are also Welcome Walks to various neighborhoods surrounding ASU to provide info. and recommendations for returning students and ped and bike safety reminders, etc.
- I am extremely against peds being prosecuted against.
- What is the racial breakdown of your arrests over the last year?
  COT PD does not currently collect that information. Working with e-ticketing which will allow for that to be reported in the future.
- Love the efficiency that would provide but it's critical and remiss not to have a breakdown of past arrests, particularly in this racial climate.
- What is the average punishment (fine, vehicle impounded?) for street racing?
  Tempe doesn't have an ordinance or city code allowing for seizure of vehicle for criminal speeding. There are a number of different punishments and variables depending on the nature of the violation(s) and whether there are prior violations, etc.
- What is criminal speeding?
  20 miles per hour over speed limit.
- Maybe a NAC conversation with Traffic Engineering could be a future meeting agenda item.

<u>Agenda Item 7 – Keep Tempe Beautiful, Joe Forte</u>
Joe Forte described the main focus areas of Keep Tempe Beautiful currently as litter clean up and recycling. Most have been a one and done type of park clean up activity. Future efforts will hopefully encompass community gardens, general cleans ups and beautification such as murals.

Joe is working to establish connections, build relationships, identify single points of contact and help launch performance of ongoing maintenance and adoption of parks, paths and possibly roadways. He envisions Keep Tempe Beautiful spearheading the initial efforts with tools, equipment and volunteers and then having neighborhood leaders or groups in place to carry it forward.

Chair Moulton Belec advised that NAC members are working to put together a list of engaged neighbors and NAC Working Groups are currently focused on communication and the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant program. The possibility of NAC members participating as a group in a future volunteer opportunity when weather is cooler was also mentioned.

<u>Agenda Item 8 – 2021 NAC Retreat Planning and Preparation</u>
Elizabeth re-confirmed that NAC members selected August 14 as the retreat date through the Google poll. Retreat hours are anticipated to be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and coffee and light breakfast refreshments will be provided. The Tempe History Museum

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community room has been confirmed as the in-person location with social distancing in place and a maximum of 20-25 attendees inclusive of staff, speakers, NAC members and any guests. The retreat will also be available virtually and is anticipated to be through the Microsoft Teams platform.
Ideas for the agenda included presentations by both working groups regarding what has been done so far and plans for the next six months. The retreat can also provide the opportunity for a deeper dive on specific subjects. The grant program was mentioned.

Members were reminded there is no July meeting and the August regular meeting will not be taking place as the August Retreat will take its place.

<u>Agenda Item 9 – Neighborhood Advisory Communication and Grants Working Group updates and recommendations for review and discussion (Possible Action)</u>
The Communications Working Group met at Commissioner Sweeney's home for their May 14 meeting, members expressed appreciation for this opportunity to connect in-person. Initial responses from NA and HOA contacts to the opt in ask for the NAC list have been favorable. Staff clarified that some contacts have no current information on file (can be for a variety of reasons including moves/deaths/step downs of prior leadership, NAs in dormant status, etc.) It was also noted that some HOAs have historically chosen to list only their Property Management firm contact information rather than individual Board members.

Chair Moulton Belec shared that a NAC member will be participating in the 2021-2022 Grants Review Committee meeting on June 7 and that NAC member Matt Heil had volunteered. Chair Moulton Belec then requested the meeting minutes include the request process. At the May 5 NAC meeting when this ask came up through the Grants Working Group, Shauna advised that she would look into it. In a subsequent NAC June 2 agenda planning meeting held virtually on May 18 with Chair Moulton Belec, Shauna Warner, Elizabeth Thomas and Laura Kajfez present, Shauna advised this insertion of an outside the city staff participant was not going to be available this grant cycle as there was no heads up provided to applicants nor involved staff and this would represent a sizable process change but could certainly be considered and implemented for the 2022-2023 Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant cycle. Following this conversation, Chair Moulton Belec contacted Mayor Corey Woods to share her concerns. Assistant City Manager Steven Methvin then contacted and spoke with Chair Moulton Belec further about this ask and the decision was made to add a NAC member to this year's Grant Committee Review.

NAC members encouraged Commissioner Heil to take good notes and to consider how the rubric is used, how requests align with city goals, why one applicant is chosen over another, equity and inclusion and areas for improvement. Commissioner Granillo emphasized that NAC is working to build capacity and interest in neighborhoods and identifying ways to increase interest in the grant program and other initiatives like public health.

Chair Moulton Belec noted that the Grants Working Group notes forwarded out June 1 also included a link to a letter being composed for Mayor Woods regarding current areas of focus and challenges. She advised that Nich had provided a number of edits. He noted that the ask needs to be more clear. Chair Moulton Belec encouraged members to provide their input and advised she wants to gain more consensus.

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Agenda Item 10 - Proposed Future Agenda Items

The meeting packet materials included a Future Agenda Items document. No additions were discussed at this meeting.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas and Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

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