

**Neighborhood Advisory Commission  
Business Committee Meeting Minutes**

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<b>Meeting Date:</b> 10/23/07	<b>Meeting Time:</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>Meeting Location:</b> Mills End - 310 S. Mill Ave
<b>Commissioners Members Present:</b> Michael Wasko, Kevin Kaesberg		
<b>Guests:</b> None		
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Michael Wasko		
<b>Staff:</b> None		

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**Meeting start:** 5:36 p.m.

**Experiencing downtown Tempe**

Though only a meeting of two, there was acknowledgement that downtown Tempe is perceived as great for young, college-age folks, and there seems to be few choices otherwise. Cafe Boa, House of Tricks, Grilled Expedition, are some of those choices available. A wine bar and jazz club would be of interest to an older crowd, or other types of restaurants that are unique enough that one would venture into downtown to dine there.

Downtown's accessibility was seen as an issue with availability of parking, traffic, and use of coin-fed meters. Light Rail could be a big benefit, but there is uncertainty to how much it will be utilized. Orbit is a good option presently.

Discussions of downtown seemed to identify two social groups-those that prefer the urban downtown environment and the choices available within walking distance, and those that prefer the freedom to drive and park at their destination, and if plans change, leave and drive to another destination.

The simple answer to all of the above would seem to be downtown must offer more unique, quality choices. New developments appear to be going that way but they are still more than a year away.

**Businesses outside downtown**

What is the current health and success rate of small businesses? How does the COT Retail development department operate, and provide support to small businesses? What is COT doing in mid and south Tempe? Are they doing enough? Do they need input from the NAC, or what can the NAC offer them? We didn't have any answers here.

**Meeting adjourned:** 6:45 p.m.