Tempe

Minutes
Neighborhood Advisory Commission
March 4, 2009

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on March 4, 2009, 5:35 p.m. – 7:05 p.m. at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Don Calender, Pete De Mott, Jimmye Dubuy, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Ira King, Susan Knudson, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, Jeffrey Sheppard, William Wagner, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Erik Anthony Aldrete, Tom Catlaw, Greg Ellison, Joochul Kim, Don Peyton, John Sanborn, Jason Short.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, 480-350-8096, nancy_ryan@tempe.gov

Guests Present: None.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order
Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment
There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: February 4, 2009
Commissioner Calender moved that the February 4, 2009 minutes be approved. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Veterans' Memorial Update
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager, distributed handouts with Tempe Veterans Memorial concept renderings. She noted that the project name is changing to Veterans Memorial at Tempe to reflect the desire to be inclusive of all veterans, rather than only those who were born in or have resided in Tempe. This broad approach will also allow for more collaborative partnerships and expand fundraising opportunities to a wider audience. The memorial will be in Tempe Beach Park. Three distinct areas for reflection and remembering those who have served will be created including:

- Veterans Parade, eighty silhouette panels representing veterans from every service across history in full dress and battle fatigues marking a processional rise along a west wall of the old Ash Avenue road head leading into the park from the parking lot.
- Overlook and Visitor's Plaza, the Overlook utilizes the remaining south abutment of the historic Tempe Ash Avenue Bridge. Visitors can admire the view and then descend by stairs or ramp to the Visitor's Plaza where a Visitor's Information Center will be located under the Overlook.
- Court of Service, a 100' diameter plaza paved with a five pointed star of Arizona made of flagstone. The center will house five sizable rough boulders, each stone representing one of the five services – Coastguard, Navy, Marines, Army and Air Force. Ten flag poles circled by bench seating surround the stone court.

Fundraising efforts are ongoing. NAC members praised the inclusiveness and the ambitiousness of the project and requested periodic updates regarding the progress of the fundraising efforts. At least one of the elements will be in place by the anticipated timeframe of November 11, 2010.

Agenda Item 5 - Selection of Neighbor of the Year Awards

Neighborhood Services received seven nominations for Neighbor of the Year Awards. Of these, five were individuals and two were couples. No group nominations were received this year. One additional nomination was received that could not be considered because the nominee had previously been a recipient two years ago.

Members shared their evaluation form input and briefly discussed whether all nominees should receive public recognition and a notebook and certificate with the Chuck Malpede winner getting a basket too as in previous years. Alternatively, the award presentations could be limited to the Chuck Malpede of the Year Award and Neighbor of the Year Award winners only. The decision was made to recognize the Chuck Malpede winner as well as the top ranked Neighbor of the Year Award winners only. The remaining nominees will receive a letter from the Mayor congratulating them for being nominated along with an invitation to attend the event and encouragement to participate in the workshops.

Commissioner Knudson moved that Linda Knutson received the Chuck Malpede Neighbor of the Year Award and that Mark Lymer, Gary and Pam Schrack and Bob and Dee Haver receive Neighbor of the Year Awards with the remaining nominees being acknowledged with a letter from the Mayor. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Event brochures were distributed and commissioners were reminded to remember to register themselves for workshops if they plan to attend. Staff will discuss event volunteer needs at the April meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Committee Recommendations on City of Tempe Budget Balancing Proposal and Possible Impacts on Neighborhoods

The Green/Sustainability Committee was the only committee to meet. They recommended that the NAC not get involved in specific recommendations.

The Mayor and City Council held the second Budget Balancing meeting on March 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Council had reviewed the Budget Balancing Proposal provided by City Manager Charlie Meyer and noted some ideas that they were particularly concerned about with regards to impacts and requested these suggested cuts be revisited. Areas for additional review included: Code Compliance, retain part time code compliance inspectors and one of the full time staff targeted for elimination, retain Community Services Care 7 counselor, retain part time ADA Specialist, keep Parks and Recreation coordinator positions, keep Police Department mounted unit and decrease the number of over hires suggested for elimination and save three custodial positions. Should any of these changes be made, savings from another source will need to be identified. The next Budget Balancing meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th from 1:30-4:30 p.m. All are welcome and employees and members of the public can also visit the www.tempe.gov website where there is a link to comment about any of the ideas being considered and or to share additional suggestions.
Commissioner Knudson moved that the following statement be sent to Mayor and Council from the NAC, "We were heartened to see that the Council's priorities reflect what we believe to be priorities for neighborhoods in areas such as Code Enforcement, Police Department, Fire Department and Parks and Recreation." Commissioner Calender seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports and Consideration of Minutes

A. Codes Committee - The Codes Committee did not meet.

B. Green/Sustainability Committee

The Green Sustainability Committee met on February 17 at the Connections Café at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners present discussed the desire to identify a few specific green issues needing attention and plan targeted follow up. Proper disposal of pharmaceutical and over the counter drugs will be one of the issues addressed first. Commissioner Knudson's research indicated that leftover drugs should be dropped off at the Tempe Hazardous Waste site or secured in a plastic bag and thrown away. Many people are unaware of the risks to the water supply of dumping drugs in the toilet. The committee will pursue the most appropriate means of communicating this information such as through pharmacies (who will not accept remaining medication due to storage and liability concerns) and schools so that children can help educate parents and grandparents. NAC members agreed that having Hazardous Waste staff attend a future meeting to provide an overview of their program would be worthwhile.

C. Affordable Housing Committee

The Affordable Housing Committee did not meet.

D. Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee did not meet.

Agenda Item 8 – Council Committee Reports

Lisa Roach provided a brief update on the Affordable Housing Council Committee meeting she attended. Applications for the Housing Board are being accepted through March 16, 2009.

Agenda Item 9 – Electronic Distribution of Agenda

Shauna explained that Commissioner Calender suggested this option as a way to reduce paper, copying and postage costs. Postage for each NAC packet mailing runs about $30.00. NAC members agreed to the concept adding that staff should determine which meeting packets work best for electronic distribution and which might be better mailed.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Agenda Items for April 1, 2009

- Selection of Annual Retreat Date and Agenda
- Proposed Zoning and Development Code Amendments presentation
- Budget Balancing updates
- Committee Reports
- Council Committees
- Neighborhood Workshop and Awards update

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Prepared by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist