



Minutes City Council's Education Partnership Committee May 18, 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the City Council's Education Partnerships Committee held on Monday, May 18, 2009, 3:30 p.m., in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Joel Navarro

City Staff Present:

Kathy Berzins, COT Social Services
Travis Dray, Dep Parks & Rec Mgr
Peggy Goldberg, Comm Svcs
Michael Greene, Central Svcs Admin
Kate Hanley, TCC Exec Dir
Jan Hort, City Clerk
Lucy Morales, Sr Mgmt Asst
John Osgood, Dep Public Wrks Mgr
Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Lynette Stonefeld, TCC, Communities in Schools
Jay Taylor, Fleet Dir
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director

Guests Present:

Sharon Doyle, TIE & TUHSD Foundation
Zita Johnson, TUHSD
Barbara Khalsa, Rio Salado Community College
Catherine Mayorga, Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Ross Robb, Kyrene School District
David Schauer, Superintendent, Kyrene Elementary School District
Marty Svorinic, Pinnacle Education
Art Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District

Councilmember Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and everyone introduced themselves.

Agenda Item 1 – Experience Corps

Peggy Goldberg summarized that this program is an early literacy tutoring program specifically engaging community volunteers ages 50 and older.

- The program began in October of 2006 with generous funding from the Virginia G. Piper Foundation on a four-year grant which will end in December of 2010.

- The program started in 3 Tempe elementary schools with 15 volunteers, and today it is in 6 schools with 50 volunteers. There are 30 volunteers on a wait list to start in the fall.
- The program works with 550 students, and the volunteers have contributed about 15,000 hours of service.
- This is a one-on-one literacy tutoring program. Volunteers meet with the same four to six students twice a week for the entire school year.
- It consists of tutoring plus mentoring and volunteers are screened and undergo rigorous training. The volunteers form a strong bond with their students.
- The partnership with TD3 has been wonderful and tutors feel they are part of the school team.
- The group has been seeking additional corporate and foundation funding.
- They have received Americorp funds so 15 of the volunteers can receive an Americorp stipend. Beginning this coming year, new Americorp-stipended volunteers will receive a \$1,000 education award that can be transferred to a family member.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Lynette Stonefeld and Kate Hanley to try to help sponsor more children. He suggested trying to increase from 50 to 55 volunteers.

Kate Hanley agreed.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Kathy Berzins to send him a memo in the next two weeks outlining what the program is doing and noting that they are looking for corporate sponsors. The goal is to increase the number of tutors.

Councilmember Navarro asked which schools are involved.

Ms. Goldberg responded that they are working in Arredondo, Aguilar, Holdeman, Meyer, Scales and Thew.

Councilmember Arredondo asked if there were any Kyrene schools within the Tempe boundaries that could be involved.

Ms. Goldberg responded that there could be with increased funding. It requires between \$7K to \$9K per school.

DIRECTION: Grow the number of volunteers, look for corporate sponsors and bring in a Kyrene school.

Councilmember Navarro asked why the program focuses on K-3 students.

Ms. Goldberg clarified that the program is geared toward early literacy. She added that the Tempe Diablos have been generous.

Barbara Kahlsa added that, building on the success of Experience Corps, Rio Salado College was invited to submit a proposal to Civic Ventures for \$25K to support 50+ workers to re-career as teachers in preschool through 12.

Agenda Item 2 – Tempe Elementary District Partnership with the City and TUHSD for the use of Facilities

Art Tate summarized that part of their response to the economic times was to look at all of the school buildings.

- Evans School is being closed and repurposed and their strategic planning committee recommended also looking at Getz, the preschool for handicapped children because there was extra room there.
- For Evans, they are entering a partnership with Tempe Union High School District for Compadre High School to expand, as well as a private non-profit preschool called "Next Horizon," so an IGA will be done with the High School District and a lease with the private non-profit organization.

- At Getz School, an RFP was issued and the City won the bid for the childcare there, so there will be four portables housing a childcare center. The Elementary District gets a better price for its employees for childcare.

Councilmember Arredondo commended Dr. Tate for his leadership in doing this. Dr. Tate created a partnership with the High School District that is a real win for Compadre.

Dr. Tate added that the Elementary School District will move out at the end of June and Compadre will move in the first of July.

Councilmember Arredondo suggested having Tempe police officers attend the next neighborhood meeting to reassure those parents that the types of students coming will not be what they might envision.

Shauna Warner stated that the area was not organized as an association, but she will work with Dr. Tate on the upcoming public meetings Compadre will be holding to have officers attend. Dr. Tate explained the IGA specifies that two or three meetings per year are held with the community.

Agenda Item 3 – City of Tempe Summer Partnerships with Tempe Schools

Travis Dray summarized the partnerships with the Tempe Union High School District, the Tempe Elementary School District, and the Kyrene School District.

Councilmember Arredondo added that this was previously removed from the budget but he and Councilmember Navarro urged the rest of the Council to agree that these partnerships and these youth were very important.

Mr. Dray continued that the partnerships provide a great platform to reach into the lives of many participants. It includes everything from partnering with local non-profits to allow free swim lessons for students who attend Aguilar and Frank Schools, to prep leagues for girls softball, to \$15 a month unlimited golf at both City golf courses, to graduation nights, to indoor camps to allow coaches to interact, to ACAC which allows for those who don't make varsity sports in the middle schools to continue playing, to wrestling program, etc.

Councilmember Arredondo noted the weight rooms which are open at three of the high schools and asked about the adult fitness program.

Mr. Dray responded that the weight rooms at Corona del Sol, McClintock and Tempe High are for student summer use to enhance their fitness. In addition, there is a year-round adult fitness program at McClintock High. The City is fortunate that the schools allow this partnership because the City does not have the facilities to engage all of the youth and community members.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that the public can also go to the Westside, Escalante, and Northside Multi-generational centers.

Mr. Dray added that the Kiwanis Recreation Center also has a fitness center. This creates more options within the community.

Councilmember Navarro asked about Marcos de Niza.

Mr. Dray responded that Marcos would typically be involved, but there is construction currently going on.

Councilmember Arredondo reminded everyone that this is for boys and girls. He asked staff to keep sending a strong message to Council after the summer that these partnerships are valuable and that the message continues to be spread.

Agenda Item 4 – Fuel Sharing between City of Tempe and School Districts

Jay Taylor summarized that there are two potential concepts to address this question. First, staff is in the process of finalizing an addendum to the existing IGA with TD3 to use the fuel facilities at the East Valley Bus Maintenance Facility.

Councilmember Arredondo asked if there was a reason that Kyrene or the High School District could not be included.

Mr. Taylor responded that this particular aspect utilizes the City's contract, so whoever would share that contract at this point would pay according to the established contract prices.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that it could be less than what they are paying.

Mr. Taylor agreed.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that if the superintendents choose, they may call Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Taylor continued that currently, there is an existing contract that was built around certain considerations to include a fuel security card system for tracking, and the stipulation that the successful vendor would supply not only at large bulk sites but small bulk sites and keep all of them at 80% readiness in case of an emergency.

Councilmember Arredondo clarified that the City stands ready to work with the other two. It is just a matter of them asking.

Mr. Taylor added that going into the future, staff has been examining the possibility of rewriting the contract at the end of the renewal period around a new set of criteria which would better suit the needs of a wider interest group.

Councilmember Arredondo asked that Mr. Taylor provide contact information to the school districts.

Councilmember Navarro asked how far out they buy fuel.

Michael Greene responded that the initial contract was a two year term and will expire in December. The pricing is based on the Opus index on a weekly basis.

Mr. Taylor urged anyone interested to contact him.

Agenda Item 5 – Agency Review and Unity Grant Funding Update

Kate Hanley summarized that the TCC has level funding and they did not get the opportunity for supplementals. Their program was cut 10% the first year and 8% the second year, and one staff person was cut, for a total of \$200K.

Councilmember Arredondo added that to do that was not the right thing to do, and that is why level funding was restored.

Ms. Hanley added that all cuts were internal administration and they asked each of their agencies to respect what the City was going through with budget constraints. They were about \$300K over and ended up with about 49 programs and one new program, a mentoring program for highly at-risk young girls at Fees Middle School. There were 40

community volunteers who worked on the review, of which 13 were new volunteers, and each donated an estimated 20 hours of service. She provided a list of the allocations which showed that more money this year went into basic needs. As the stimulus money rolls on and more CDBG money comes to redevelopment, they are expecting to get some money that will go directly to the agencies.

Ms. Hanley continued with the Unity Grant process.

- This is a partnership with the City and the Human Relations Commission, and TCC does the administration.
- This is an on-going program in its eighth year to help the high schools carry out the community goals through the Human Relations Commission and their priorities.
- Four high schools submitted applications. Compadre has submitted an application in prior years, but did not submit one this year.
- The grant's intent is that the entire school in some way be included. They were asked to include a member of the HRC at their events and to provide a summary to the HRC at the conclusion of their program.
- They prioritized schools that had a club with ongoing activities.
- They would like to see skill development and opportunity to practice and engage young people in using those skills.
- The broader goal is an appreciation for the gift of diversity.

Ms. Hanley continued with SACA grants.

- The grants have not yet come to Council. They have been reviewed and scored and sent to the Police Command Team before going to the Attorney General's Office.
- The programs must be anti-gang, anti-drug and the TCC added the goal of staying in school.
- Two of the programs did not meet the criteria for anti-gang and anti-drug.
- There were 9 programs funded, including Grad Night, for a total of \$30K.

Agenda Item 6 – Underage Drinking & Drug Abuse Strategic Planning Process Results

Lynette Stonefeld summarized that Tempe's Underage Drinking and Drug Abuse Prevention project has a goal of looking at the issues and the resources. A 33-member committee worked on this for six months and the strategic plan was submitted to Magellan last week. A "best and final" conference is scheduled this week which should provide funding.

- In summary, the community looked at the issues around underage drinking and drug abuse.
- At all ages, underage drinking is increasing among youth in Tempe, as is marijuana and prescription drug use.
- Most young people are getting alcohol from their families or other adults.
- Drinking is done mostly in private residences.
- One goal will be to develop a marketing campaign to help educate adults on their responsibility to young people and not providing access to alcohol.
- Recommendations:
 - Increase availability of prevention counselors, especially at high school level.
 - Create a continuum of prevention activities for youth ages 5-18 (funding requested from Magellan to partially address)
 - Expand Peer leadership activities to empower youth to make changes in community norms (funding requested from Magellan)
 - Expand educational outreach to parents, including expanding No Parent Left Behind to middle school parents (funding requested from Magellan)
 - Develop media strategy to increase awareness of youth alcohol use (funding requested from Magellan)
 - Begin work on a state and local policy changes such as a keg registration ordinance to limit minors' access to alcohol ((funding requested from Magellan)

- Launch a community leadership campaign that incorporates the principles reflected in character education.

Ms. Stonefeld added that prevention counselors are not eligible for Magellan funding, however, prevention activities in the elementary and middle schools can be supported, and funding has been requested. Tempe's Committee for Youth, Families and Communities has merged with this planning group and beginning in June will be meeting as one committee and working on the strategic plan goals. The strategic plan will be published within three or four weeks.

Agenda Item 7 – Nike Reuse a Shoe Outreach to Schools

Lucy Morales summarized that Tempe is the only city in the State that is an official collection site for Nike Reuse A Shoe.

- This program collects used tennis shoes to produce rubberized court surface.
- In 2008, the City shipped 50,000 shoes which were collected over four years and staff would like to accelerate this program.
- Kiwanis Park has a new rubberized surface at the tennis court.
- The City had an opportunity to apply for a grant with Arizona Recycling Coalition, a State grant of the National Recycling Coalition.
- Staff secured that grant and proposes to expand the Nike Reuse A Shoe program with more community involvement. The best fit for that would be Tempe schools. Staff hopes to bring environmental awareness to the students.
- This program is a sustainable solution economically for the City as well as Nike, and is an important transition into being "green."
- Last year, East Valley Institute of Technology students designed a coloring book.
- Staff also suggested the use of the Education Recycling Information Center (ERIC) at the schools. Whichever school raised the most shoes, ERIC could be available. The vehicle is equipped with exhibits.
- Staff is working with Nike to develop a trophy for the three school levels: elementary, middle and high school. Public Works team would deliver the containers and be responsible for collecting those containers and provide educational materials and posters.
- This program will launch in September. Currently, there are 2,000 shoes ready to be shipped, and the target is to increase that to 5,000.
- The program promotes environmental literacy.

Councilmember Arredondo asked Ms. Morales to send a reminder to the President of each of the School Boards and to the superintendents within the next two weeks.

Agenda Item 8 – Papago Park/Rio Salado Ad Hoc Committee Public Outreach

Sharon Doyle summarized that Papago Park is in the process of a master plan development. She is the chair of the Tempe ad hoc committee for the oversight of this master plan. Tempe has one-third of this park and as it undergoes a plan for changes, they want everyone's input. Tempe will have three separate meetings on May 30, June 30 and July 30, which will be advertised through a variety of methods.

She asked the committee for ideas on how to best get this information out to families and students. She provided flyers for the first meeting and flyers that outline the aspects of the regional partnership. A website at www.discoverpapagopark.com provides a survey that can be taken on line. They want to hear input. The master plan will be developed by September. Since school is almost out, they are asking the Parks Department to distribute flyers as people register.

Agenda Item 9 – Future Agenda Items

Councilmember Arredondo stated that the next meeting will have a similar agenda to make sure the committee is doing what we said we would do. The next meeting will be in August.

Councilmember Arredondo added that he will prepare a letter to share with the Council that will sum up what has been accomplished. He will share that with the superintendents prior to it going to Council.

Agenda Item 10 – Announcements

Councilmember Arredondo stated that Rio Salado is the largest community college in the State with over 60,000 students. He suggested that although the August meeting will be at this location, the October meeting should take place at the college.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner

Jan Hort
City Clerk