

Minutes of the Joint Dinner Meeting of the Tempe City Council and the Downtown Tempe Community (DTC) held on Monday, October 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., Tempe Transportation Center, Don Cassano Room, 200 East fifth Street, Tempe,

**Minutes
Joint Dinner Meeting
Tempe City Council and
Tri District School Boards
October 5, 2009**

Arizona.

Tempe Councilmembers Present:

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Councilmember Ben Arredondo
Councilmember Joel Navarro
Councilmember Corey D. Woods

Vice Mayor Shana Ellis
Councilmember Mark W. Mitchell
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

Tempe Staff Present:

Jan Hort, City Clerk
Charlie Meyer, City Manager
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Admin

Judy Morgan, Asst City Attorney
Jeff Kulaga, Assistant City Manager

Tri District School Board Representatives Present:

Rochelle Wells, Tempe Elementary
Bill Munch, Tempe Elementary
David Schauer, Kyrene School District
Steve Adolph, Tempe Union High
Ross Robb, Kyrene School District
Mary Lou Taylor, Tempe Union High
Sherri Connell, Tempe Elementary
Ellen Shamah, Kyrene School District

Robin Arredondo-Savage, Tempe Union High
Art Tate, Tempe Elementary
Jim Lemmon, Tempe Elementary
Janis Merrill, TUHD, TD#3, Kyrene
Karen Arredondo, Tempe Elementary
Zita Johnson, Tempe Union High
Michell Hirsch, Kyrene School District

Meeting convened at 6:21 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 – Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Hallman announced the presence of the Vice-Mayor and Councilmembers and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item #3 Status Report

City of Tempe – Mayor Hallman stated that City leadership is in the process of re-evaluating the City of Tempe's 2010/2011 fiscal year budget, which is facing a \$12 million shortfall. The state budgetary shortfall is \$1.5 billion, which may adversely impact monies currently allocated to municipalities. Although Tempe has been fortunate in avoiding employee layoffs to date, that may not be the case for the 2010/2011 budget.

Mayor Hallman left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Shekerjian reported that 12 new businesses will be opening in the next two months. She also voiced optimism about the Market on Mill event that is held on Thursday evenings. This would be an ideal opportunity for schools to have musical performances and to exhibit photography work. Another new program is the community garden, which is another opportunity for school involvement and support.

Councilmember Navarro stated that even though the economy is struggling, it also presents an opportunity to streamline and refine processes.

Tempe Elementary School District – Karen Arredondo stated that 22 of the Tempe District 3 (TD#3) students have been labeled at performing plus or higher. There has been a heightened focus on achievement. Principals have been given resources to encourage scholastic enhancement and reduce pressure at administrative levels. The most recent successful school bond election facilitated the renovation of several schools. City officials were thanked for allowing school administrators to house buses on City property during those renovations. Educating school administrators on how to effectively deal with the flu epidemic is underway.

Dr. Tate stated that they are going out to bid for performance contracting in an effort to maximize solar/energy savings and to potentially quality for stimulus funding.

Scales School qualifies for a new APS solar energy installation program that would result in a rebate to the school.

A TD#3 principal was honored with the Rodell Exemplary Award, which is noteworthy.

There is an upcoming GAP conference whereby 1100 people will be using the light rail system.

Kyrene School District – Ross Robb stated that 22 out of 25 schools are excelling. The remaining three schools are categorized as high performing institutions. There has been a mild decline in enrollment.

Budgetary problems exist. \$2.5 million of unrestricted funds were used for this year's budget. With those funds, administrators made some pre-payments to ease next year's budgetary projections. However, the 2010/2011 budget projections are bleak. Administrators are looking at a potential override election.

Mr. Robb thanked City leadership for hosting this event and their hard work during these challenging economic times. Fostering partnerships is one way to ease these burdens. Collectively utilizing/bidding for legal services, printing, homeless services and fuel procurement are some of the creative ways that partnering with the City is helping to stretch dollars.

Partnering is not just about money – it's about shared resources as well. Social service supplies and facilities are an essential element in maximizing how comprehensively the community is being served. The Kid Zone Program and police resources have also been part of this partnering effort and very much appreciated.

Tempe Union High District – Mary Lou Taylor stated that this has been the roughest budget year ever, with a reduction of 6.3% in salary/benefits. Fortunately the bond override election gave Tempe Union an extra \$4 million in funding. The goal is to get 59% of expenditures directly into the classroom.

Student achievement remains the number one priority of administrators. Preparing students for their next phase of adult life is imperative. The 2010 graduating class of the district has 38 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists.

Tempe Union has partnered with South Mountain Community College (SMCC) on bio technology that allows Tempe Union students the ability to take dual credit classes at SMCC. Marcos de Niza (MDN) is partnering with the ASU WP Carey School of Business to create a business academy. The purpose of this program is to provide advanced opportunities for

MDN students that are interested in becoming business majors at ASU. Special workshops, career exploration and dual credits will be a part of this new opportunity.

Zita Johnson praised City leadership on the free bus pass program and the ease of how to acquire those bus passes. That, combined with the Orbit transit system, is another amenity that is encouraging the use of public transit throughout the community.

Councilmember Mitchell thanked school officials for their participation and acknowledged the importance of these partnerships and the value that they bring Tempe.

Councilmember Navarro added that maximizing community involvement is the key to sparking creativity during these tough economic times.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Use of School Fields

Councilmember Arredondo stated that it is essential that children have access to school yards, especially during economic downturns. Parks and schools are safe places for children to recreate. Councilmember Arredondo encouraged school representatives to work with their respective superintendents to make school yards accessible for children to enjoy. Closing parks and schools should be avoided, as long as there is some type of oversight to ensure that safety is paramount. There are existing agreements that address the use of these facilities. It would be most appropriate for the City Manager to work with district superintendents so that facility usage can be maximized. Charlie Meyer commented that it might be appropriate for an umbrella agreement to be designed to address issues of access, lighting, liability, etc., and work with each individual district on amendments to that umbrella agreement so that it is tailored to meet the needs of each school, as well as the community.

Mr. Robb mentioned that the Multi-Gen Center has partnered with Laird School with very positive results. Another area that has garnered attention is the square footage of public parks and police patrol accessibility. Re-thinking how public facilities are designed so that police surveillance is not hindered is a new approach.

Vice-Mayor Ellis announced that the minutes will be publicly posted, once they have been finalized.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Prepared by: Kay Savard
Reviewed by: Jan Hort

Jan Hort, City Clerk