

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Meeting February 6, 2008

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on February 6, 2008, 5:30 p.m. at Apache Boulevard Police Substation Community Room, 1855 East Apache Boulevard, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Tom Catlaw, Don Calender, Greg Ellison, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Ira King, Susan Knudson, Alex Podressoff, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Jeffrey Sheppard, Jason Short, William Wagner, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Erik Anthony Aldrete, Pete De Mott, Faye Farmer, Bill Weigele.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director, Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Hansen, Planner II, Redevelopment/Special Projects, hansen1@tempe.gov, 480-350-8763, Neil Calfee, Deputy Community Development Manager, Redevelopment/Special Projects, neil_calfee@tempe.gov, 480-350-2912.

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: January 9, 2008 Meeting

The January 9, 2008 minutes were considered for approval. Commissioner Calender moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Development Approval Process

For information only. Presentation by Neil Calfee on the submittal and public process development projects must go through to obtain City approval. Two handouts were distributed. The first, an example staff summary report regarding the Campus Edge project located at 922 E. Apache Boulevard, the second, a portion of Section 6 of the Zoning and Development Code.

Neil explained that for any development project the first step involves a staff level review to examine the project, verify that it is functional/works as proposed and to identify any major obstacles (such as the inability of a trash truck to get in and out as designed). This preliminary review also provides the opportunity to familiarize the applicant with the requirements of the Zoning and Development Code, the General Plan and other relevant city policies.

The second step is the Approval Process which varies greatly depending on the nature of the project and whether rezoning and/or General Plan amendments will be required. Applications involving public hearings necessitate mailed notification of all property owners within 300' of the subject property. For projects containing more than one parcel, or phases of a larger project, the three hundred foot measurement must be taken from the perimeter of the entire project.

Neighborhood meetings are required for: projects involving variances, development plans when noted, planned area development overlay districts and major modification to an approved plan or condition. Meeting notices must be mailed out to property owners at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing date. A red and white sign or signs must also be posted on the property.

A question came up with regards to lot splits and potential rezoning in a specific neighborhood, Neil encouraged commission members to follow up directly with Development Services. A concern about the appearance of uploading zoning without proper planning processes was noted. Neil explained that certain areas have overlays such as the one along the rail corridor allowing for additional density and added that the base zoning in downtown is largely being rezoned. Any formal rezoning requires a formal process.

Agenda Item 5 – Urban Open Space Plan Update

For information only. Mayor and Council initiated the Urban Open Space Plan in 2006. Hansen presented a detailed overview and power point of the draft Urban Open Space Plan prepared by the consultant, Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (PPS). This plan encompasses significant input from several public workshops involving downtown area residents and community as well as one year of detailed research with numerous staff from various departments and diverse stakeholders. The complete presentation is available online at www.tempe.gov/comdev/urbanspace.htm.

This plan is intended to be a working and functional document which highlights the importance of creating and preserving a sense of place, social atmosphere, and those hard to define quality of life elements. Growth in the downtown area necessitates that thoughtful decisions be made now to build upon what exists and further create a dynamic and seamless system of public spaces for the future.

Tempe's Mill Avenue District and Town Lake are already recognized as being successful in many respects but they could be much more so. Hansen explained the power of ten concept where each destination should offer at least ten possibilities or activities for visitors to observe or participate in and so on.

The Development Review Commission and Downtown Tempe Community have already started embracing plan terminology and implementing some of the strategies. This includes the acceptance of the Placemaking concept which takes into consideration physical, social and cultural issues when planning public spaces. Comments on the Plan can be submitted directly to Hansen or through the website and are due end of March.

Agenda Item 6 – Neighborhood Workshop/Neighbor of the Year Update

Elizabeth Thomas gave an update on staff progress coordinating the Neighborhood Workshop and Neighbor of the Year program. Speakers for each of the four workshop topics recommended by the Outreach Committee have been confirmed and each participant will be encouraged to select two of the four offerings. Event details continue to be worked on and outreach materials have been drafted and are being laid out.

Staff noted they had secured Dr. Rhonda Phillips of ASU as the keynote speaker. Commissioner Wilson moved that Harry Mitchell be the keynote speaker at the Neighborhood Workshop and Neighbor of the Year Awards if print deadlines could still be met. Commissioner Calender seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 9 in favor, 6 against.

Agenda Item 7 – Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature Update

For information only. Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature was held on January 17, 2008 at the State Capitol. Vice Chair Wasko and Commissioner Calender attended and felt it was a good event. Commissioner King attempted to attend, but could not find parking. Neighborhood staff shared the need for more parking with the event organizers and apologized to Commissioner King for the inconvenience.

Agenda Item 8 – Committee Reports

A. Business Committee

Chair Wasko reviewed the minutes (see Attachment A)

B. Codes Committee

There was no meeting.

C. Outreach Committee

There was no meeting.

D. Transportation Committee

There was no meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Leave of Absence Request

Commissioner Farmer has requested a leave of absence as she is expecting a baby. Commissioner Calender moved that Commissioner Farmer be granted a leave of absence through July. Commissioner Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Commission Vacancies

There is currently one vacancy on the Commission, for zip code 85281. Commissioners should encourage interested parties to apply.

Agenda Item 11 - Proposed Agenda Items for March 5, 2008

- Committee Reports
- Neighbor of the Year Selection
- Mobile Home Relocation Policy
- Change for Change

Agenda Item 12 - Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Prepared by:
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director