

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission Retreat June 13, 2009

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) retreat held on June 13, 2009, 8:40 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. in the Don Cassano Community Room, Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

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

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Tom Catlaw

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Eric Anthony Aldrete, Michael Wasko

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: May 6, 2009

Commissioner Calender moved that the May 6, 2009 minutes be approved. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Recap of Past Year’s Commission Meetings

Commissioners reviewed the previous year’s meeting discussion highlights as well as actions taken and accomplishments. Rental Housing related issues were noted as an ongoing concern. Shauna Warner stated that a task force such as the Ad Hoc Rental Housing Task Force is typically a targeted effort in place for a limited period of time to look closely at one large issue rather than an ongoing committee or commission. She added that the topic of rental housing falls under the scope of the commission and researched recommendations can be forwarded for consideration by Mayor and Council at any time.

As with other broad issues, different groups such as the Quality of Life Council Committee are considering rental housing and related issues as an ongoing work plan item. Commissioner Roach mentioned that she is still interested in NAC pursuing establishing a Friends of Tempe Neighborhoods group to assist elderly and disabled residents with residential upkeep and code violation concerns. Commissioners agreed that some type of grass roots effort would be necessary to coordinate such a program. The pending merger of Residential and Commercial Code Compliance will also result in some opportunities to explore and address these issues further.

Additional comments shared included the following:

- Need more things with teeth, more impact
- Are Mayor and Council satisfied with our work? How do we know?
- Following and tracking of issues that are identified needs improvement

- Still need to prioritize and focus efforts
- We are the eyes and ears of neighborhood trends
- Solutions as well as issue identification need to be offered
- Don't want to artificially act on things, want to bring more polished ideas forward
- Not sure we should judge ourselves by what gets forwarded to Mayor and Council, many things are forwarded to staff and followed up on and changes are implemented that way
- Recommendations are not mandates
- Narrow our focus but leave room to react to unexpected situations
- Neighborhood Workshop and Neighbor of the Year Awards are good, visible accomplishments
- Need to concentrate goals and limit subcommittees, too many don't have a quorum
- Identify 1 or 2 large issues to address, use subcommittees to do research or have each subcommittee identify one goal to pursue and then run through NAC
- We are all volunteers

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion and Benchmarking of Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Purpose and Goals

Chair Kaesberg initiated a discussion regarding commission purpose and goals. He stated that he looked at the 2008 Community Attitudes Survey as a starting point for identifying common/collective resident concerns. It was noted that Tempe rates very high when compared with other cities in nearly all categories yet there is always room for improvement. Chair Kaesberg recommended that all issues be looked at taking into consideration the impact or implication for neighborhoods.

After significant additional discussion, the following goals for prioritization of commission time and effort were identified:

- Rental Housing related issues
- Friends of Tempe Neighborhoods
- Alley and property maintenance
- Neighborhood Workshop and Awards
- Education
- Affordable Housing

Commissioner Wagner moved that the suggested goals be approved. Commissioner Calender seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – Transportation Center Tours

Elizabeth Mieth, Administrative Assistant II, Transit and Regional Services provided commission members with a facility tour of the Tempe Transportation Center. Handouts noting building features were distributed.

Agenda Item 7 – Review of Committee Structure, Membership, Goals and Accomplishments

Commissioners looked to the previously defined goals to address committee work and agreed to keep the membership of each remaining committee to five. Three members present will constitute a quorum. As always, all commission members will be welcome and encouraged to attend. Staff will confer with City Clerk regarding usage of assigned alternates should a vote need to be taken.

The suggestion was made to rename the Codes Committee to Neighborhood Enhancement and include alley and property maintenance along with codes issues. Commissioners Kaesberg, Wagner, Dubuy, Sanborn and Kim agreed to serve.

Commissioner Knudson made a motion to dissolve the Green/Sustainability Committee into the Outreach and Education Committee. Commissioner Calender seconded and it was approved by all. Committee members include Commissioners Knudson, King, Calender, Wilson and Sheppard. Commissioner Wasko was not present but may also want to serve. Shauna will look into the possibility of designating alternates to serve on committees.

The Affordable Housing Committee will remain intact. Members are Commissioners Roach, Hall, DeMott and Catlaw.

Commissioner Calender made a motion that the committees be accepted as described, Commissioner Roach seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. It was suggested that the committees meet prior to the August 5 Commission meeting and come forward with committee names, chairs and work plans. Commission members requested a member contact list be passed around at the August meeting so any updates or edits can be made.

Agenda Item 8 – Proposed Format and Agenda Items for August 5, 2009 Meeting

- Loud Party Ordinance Update
- Committee Reports
- Future Agenda Item
- Mayor's hot topics (could be in person or in an email)

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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