

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission October 7, 2009

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on October 7, 2009, 5:34 p.m. – 7:10 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Tom Catlaw, Don Calender, Pete De Mott, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Joochul Kim, Ira King, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, Jason Short, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Jimmye Dubuy, Maureen Decindis, Susan Knudson, William Wagner.

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Eric Anthony Aldrete, John Sanborn, Jeffrey Sheppard.

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist, Ryan Levesque, Senior Planner, Planning, 480-858-2393 or ryan_levesque@tempe.gov

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: September 2, 2009

Commissioner Calender moved that the September 2, 2009 minutes be approved.

Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 – Discussion of Proposed Zoning and Development Code Amendments Part II

Ryan Levesque described the Part II amendments to the Zoning and Development Code which address changes for both guest quarters and freeway signage. These proposed amendments were discussed at the September 22 Development Review Commission (DRC) Hearing. The DRC reviewed the consideration of guest corners on various sized lots along with a map pertaining to same. Based on staff's initial proposal, the DRC recommended the following changes:

- Change the minimum lot size permitted for guest quarters from 10,000 to 15,000 square feet.
- Add the words "at or above grade" for determining 50% of the main building's gross floor area.

There was significant discussion pertaining to why a lot size limit was recommended at all versus allowing guest quarters at any residence that can be in compliance of set back requirements. There were also some concerns mentioned about the unintended consequences of allowing guest quarters such as creation of additional rentals. Ryan explained the provision that prior to issuance of a building permit, a real covenant shall be recorded with the land restricting the use of the guest quarters from being rented or leased. The City of Tempe shall be parties to such covenant and the covenant will be binding to all subsequent owners is intended to help address that.

Commissioner Calender made a motion for the Neighborhood Advisory Commission to support the changes proposed by the Development Review Commission. Commissioner Pospicil seconded the motion. The motion passed with 7 members in favor, 3 members against and 2 abstaining.

Ryan then described the freeway signage amendment as a code amendment change proposed to restrict locations of “freestanding off-premise freeway signs” by establishing distance criteria requirements. Specifics were provided in member packets. Commissioner Calender made a motion to support this sign amendment which was seconded by Commissioner DeMott. The motion passed with 10 members in favor and 2 members against.

Shauna agreed to prepare a statement to be forwarded to Planning staff for enclosure in the report that he will be delivering for the October 22 City Council meeting when action will be taken.

Agenda Item 5 – Consideration of a Leave of Absence for Commissioners Kim and Wagner

Due to successfully rearranging his class schedule, Commissioner Kim removed his request for a leave from consideration. Commissioner Wagner’s written request was read and considered. Commissioner Hall made a motion to approve Commissioner Wagner’s leave request for the October, November and December meetings. Commissioner Calender seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6 – 2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards Planning

Commissioner Wilson briefly described the proposed workshop offerings noting that the six ideas needed to be narrowed to four. After further discussion and votes taken on each workshop idea, the following four were chosen:

- Online neighborhood networking
- Block watch revisited
- Buy Tempe – it all comes back to you
- Friends of Tempe neighborhoods

The above noted titles are working titles that will continue to be refined. The What’s New with Tempe in Motion proposed workshop topic can likely be handled as a table or booth outside the workshop classrooms. Staff will also look into if ERIC (Education Recycling Information Center) can be on site. In addition, the concept of a mini farmers market and/or purchasing breakfast refreshments from farmer’s market vendors will also be explored.

There will be no separate keynote speaker for the 2010 event. Mayor Hallman and City Council can present the Neighbor of the Year Awards and then lead into the theme of neighborhood strengthening by briefly touching on the Capital Improvement Projects in the works as well as the importance of community building activities and gatherings and the impact of buying local.

Commission members briefly reviewed the existing Neighbor of the Year Award application and discussed whether to allow group nominations. There was consensus that the Chuck Malpede Award should go to individuals only and that the application should better reflect this intent. After continued discussion, the collective decision was made to keep the application as is for this year and then based on applications received later meet to discuss and review if group applications or awards should be allowed in the future or not.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Friends of Neighborhood Concept

The formation of a 501(c)3 is underway. Kudos were offered to both Commissioners Roach and Wilson for their above and beyond efforts to expediently get this new program put together and off the ground. Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed in more detail at the November meeting when likely more information than that provided in the commissioner packet is available.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion of Mayor Hallman’s Neighborhood Hot Topics

The following three hot topics were noted by the Mayor in no particular order –

1. alley maintenance
2. graffiti
3. proactive code compliance

There was general agreement that the hot topics provided by the Mayor be further looked into and addressed by the commission. The Codes Committee will be the starting point for same.

Elizabeth agreed to follow up on who oversees paint sales and what enforcement if any regarding sales to minors is taking place. As much of the local graffiti is noted to be caused by school age children, this was determined to be of interest.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports and Consideration of Minutes

A. Codes Committee – The Codes Committee met on September 15 at the Connections Café. Chair Kaesberg referred commissioners to the minutes provided in the packet for review. Commissioner Calender made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Housing Committee – No meeting was held since the last commission meeting.

C. Outreach Committee – The Outreach Committee met on September 22 at the Connections Café. The meeting activities and minutes were largely covered under Agenda Item 6 – 2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards planning. Commissioner Calender made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Roach seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 – Council Committee Reports

No report provided. Quality of Life Council Committee agenda was enclosed in commissioner packets.

Agenda Item 11 – Proposed Agenda Items for November 4, 2009 Meeting

Committee Reports
2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards
Solid Waster Code Revisions
Rental Sales Tax License Update
Eisendrath House and Campus for Sustainability Update/Presentation

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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