

Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission June 5, 2010

Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on June 5, 2010, 8:30-12:00 p.m. at the Sandra Day O'Connor for Civic Discourse, 1230 N. College Avenue, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present: Don Calender, Tom Catlaw, Maureen Decindis, Pete De Mott, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Joochul Kim, Ira King, Josephine McNamara, Leonard Montenegro, Jacob Nojourni, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Bill Wagner, Woody Wilson

(MEMBERS) Excused Absences: Jason Short, Michael Wasko

(MEMBERS) Unexcused Absences: Jeffrey Sheppard

City Staff Present: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Mark Vinson, Principal Architect, Community Development, 480-350-836, mark_vinson@tempe.gov, Richard Bond, Water Conservation Specialist, 480-350-2627, richard_bond@tempe.gov, Dawn Coomer, Senior Transportation Planner, Community Development, 480-350-8550, dawn_coomer@tempe.gov, Wulf Grote, Metro Light Rail, Director of Project Development, 602-322-4420.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

There was none.

Agenda Item 3 – Tour of Eisendrath House

Richard Bond provided an overview of the Green Line's current state explaining what led up to the extensive re-vegetation projects over the past three years. The 60" transmission main water line replacement project (provides water to North Tempe) impacted Papago Park desert vegetation and the subsequent decision to move the Sandra Day O'Connor House to the impacted area provided additional reasons to re-vegetate both the Green Line area and the landscape around the house as well. The goal was to restore the Greenline area to as close to its natural state as possible. This was accomplished through the efforts of Boy Scout volunteers and contractor services. The Boy Scouts have planted small saguaros and trees, moved rock, lined paths and helped to clean and thin vegetation. Larger saguaros and trees were added by contractors.

Mark Vinson led NAC members on a tour of the grounds and a portion of the interior of the Eisendrath House. Built in 1930 as a winter residence for Rose Eisendrath, widow of the wealthy Chicago glove manufacturer, the home was designed and built by Phoenix architect and contractor Robert T. Evans. The house is the largest remaining and best-preserved Pueblo Revival style house in Tempe and was constructed of adobe brick, rarely used in a two-story building.

The city of Tempe acquired the property in 2003. The Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation is working to secure funds for its restoration. Restoration will allow the Eisendrath House to serve the public both as a reminder of Tempe's past as well as the first historic property to achieve a Gold Lead Example of sustainability.

Agenda Item 4 – Consideration of Minutes: May 5, 2010

Commissioner Calender moved that the May 5, 2010 minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention due to absence.

As new members were present, each commission member provided their name, occupation and zip code.

Agenda Item 5 – South Corridor Study Update

Wulf Grote discussed the Tempe South Project Update distributing handouts for reference. He noted that Light Rail has been operational for 1.5 years with twenty miles of track and growing ridership.

Many different route options and technologies were studied to analyze how to better connect the southeast valley to the light rail starter line. To date, the two highest performing high-capacity transit options identified are the Rural Road Bus Rapid Transit and the Mill Avenue Modern Streetcar.

The Bus Rapid Transit option would travel on Rural Road to connect with north Chandler ending at the Chandler Fashion Center. An extension with a Park and Ride Lot at Loop 202 and Kyrene is also being considered. Lower regional and local sales tax revenues have elongated the timeframe for Rural Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) from 2015-2016 to beyond 2026. However, this option retains recommended status and funding will still be sought in the hopes of making it happen sooner.

Modern Streetcars are electric rail systems that typically operate at street level in urban environments and feature frequent stops. The Modern Streetcar option has funding available and is hoped to be operational by 2017. The route would travel on Mill from the existing light rail starter line to Mill and Southern Avenue. (Ash Avenue north of University has recently been added as a possible alignment option for consideration as a result of public inquiry.)

Some commission members expressed concern about the annual expense of operations and maintenance for the Modern Streetcar concept. Others commented that this area and the populations noted are already being served with bus service, light rail service and orbit buses. Wulf Grote commented that were Modern Streetcars to be added, they would likely attract some non-bus riders and that some services would be reallocated to other areas to avoid duplicity. Dawn Coomer commented that because the studies and the funding take so long the hope and anticipation is that the economy is improved when operations and maintenance costs come into play. She added that if the funding doesn't go to Tempe, other area cities will likely get this opportunity instead.

Public meetings are being held in both Tempe and Chandler to gather public input. The Tempe meeting is on Tuesday, June 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. Commission members were encouraged to attend and to invite their neighbors to join them.

Agenda Item 6 –Recap of Past Year's Commission Meetings

There were no comments offered initially. Eventually, the creation and start up of the Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors (TNHN) was held up as a significant accomplishment with kudos to Commissioners Wilson and Roach. The support for the United Way Housing First model was also noted. The success of the 2010 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards was also noted.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Opportunities for Neighborhood Improvement

There was significant discussion regarding what are the group's priorities and how neighborhood improvement should be defined. The following topics were identified as needing to be explored further and/or items to learn more about:

Ongoing Code Enforcement (home based businesses/businesses in communities)
Home based business license requirements
Look at peer cities residential code enforcement – what enforcement tools do they have?
Satellite Workshops
Attendance at Development Review Commission, Hearing Officer and Board of Adjustment meetings – What are the wholistic policies that inform their decisions?
Bringing forth proposed changes to Zoning and Development Code vs. waiting for staff to do so
Outreach to HOA's and NA's
Simplify reactivating a Neighborhood Association
Energize a dormant HOA

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion and Benchmarking of Neighborhood Advisory Commission

Purpose and Goals

The question was posed if the commission goals are in concert with Mayor and City Council goals. With the new Council member coming on in July, the City Council will be determining Council Committees and their goals and priorities later.

Goals and Priorities Expressed -

Community Building, How to help residents help themselves

Historic Preservation

Tempe Involving the Public Manual Update and Outreach

Continue to Improve Neighborhood Workshop and Awards

Water Rates Outreach

Recycle Bins in Shopping Center

Utilities – How they impact resident life, rate increases

Pride Program – gift cards or thank you notes for improving your property or keeping it up

Alley and property maintenance

% of alleys that have been improved

Interwork area coordination and communication (silos, territories, loopholes)

Prospective volunteer opportunities

Agenda Item 9 – Review of Committee Structure, Membership, Goals and Accomplishments

After some discussion, the Commission agreed to keep five members per committee with 3 constituting a quorum. The following committees and committee members were identified:

Outreach Committee – Commissioner Wilson Chair with Commissioners Hall, King, Decindis, Catlaw and Caleder serving as members. Commissioner Wasko was named as the alternate.

Quality of Life/Neighborhood Enhancement/Codes Committee – Chair to be determined with Commissioners King, Pickett, DeMott and Pospicil serving as members.

Budget/Finance Committee – Chair Kaesberg as Chair with Commissioners Roach, Sanborn and Leonard as members. Chair Kaesberg expressed a desire to look at what are the real impacts of the Budget cuts versus what the city believes will be the impacts.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to accept the above noted committees with the members as named and the number of members as five, Commissioner Calender seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Agenda Items for August 4, 2010 Meeting

- **Volunteers in Policing**
- **City Volunteer Program**
- **Adopt A Park**

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director