

## **Minutes Neighborhood Advisory Commission August 4, 2010**

**Minutes of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission (NAC) held on August 4, 2010, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., at City Hall, 31 E. 5th Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:** Don Calender, Maureen Decindis, Andy Hall, Kevin Kaesberg, Ira King, Josephine McNamara, Leonard Montenegro, Michael Pickett, Joe Pospicil, Lisa Roach, John Sanborn, Bill Wagner, Michael Wasko, Woody Wilson.

**(MEMBERS) Excused Absences:** Tom Catlaw, Pete DeMott, Joochul Kim, Jacob Nojoumi, Jeffrey Sheppard, Jason Short.

**City Staff Present:** Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director; Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist; Tanya Chavez, Community Outreach/Marketing Coordinator – Neighborhood Services, 480-858-2215, tanya\_chavez@tempe.gov; Christine Kling, Volunteer Coordinator – PD, 480/350-8780, christine\_kling@tempe.gov; Mike Reichling, Fire Inspector, 480/858-7235, michael\_reichling@tempe.gov; Denise Rentschler, Community Outreach/Marketing Coordinator – Community Services, 480/350-5209, denise\_rentschler@tempe.gov; Edith Ross, Project Coordinator, 480/350-2952, edith\_ross@tempe.gov; Mary Anna Bastin, Senior Social Services Coordinator, 480/350-5190, maryanna\_bastin@tempe.gov.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

Chair Kaesberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment**

There was none.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Minutes: June 5, 2010 Retreat**

Commissioner Calendar moved that the June 5, 2010 minutes be approved as written.

Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention due to absence.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Introduction of Tanya Chavez, Neighborhood Services**

Shauna Warner introduced Tanya Chavez, the newest member of the Neighborhood Services team as a result of the recent reorganization process. Tanya has worked for the city for over nine years serving in both the Public Works/Transit area as well as Community Relations with an emphasis on Transit. Tanya's main focus and primary responsibilities will be to help coordinate public involvement efforts pertaining to Transit and Water projects. She will also serve the needs of the Neighborhood Services office in a back up capacity when Elizabeth and Shauna are out or need additional assistance.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Overview of City Volunteer Programs**

### **Volunteers in Policing – Christine Kling, Police Department**

The Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program dates back to 1989 and currently has 140 volunteers helping in all bureaus. These volunteers contributed 13,113 hours to the department in 2009 and their varied and capable efforts enabled sworn officers to be more prepared as they begin their shifts and to more expediently be back on the streets policing and patrolling after incidents occur.

Christine provided a broad overview of the many volunteerism opportunities available through the Police Department. The volunteer opportunities she highlighted included: motorist services, bagpipe band volunteers, mounted patrol, facility tours, internal affairs, records, crime prevention and photography. Christine encouraged NAC members to consider volunteering themselves and/or to share this information with friends, neighbors and family members.

She noted that volunteers often reside in Tempe but there are many who serve this community in the PD and in other work areas who do not reside here. Now more than ever the city will be relying on volunteers to help with the many tasks that need doing to keep the various departments strong and thriving.

Ira King inquired if there is a suggested age range for motorist services volunteers. Christine indicated as long as the volunteer can enter and exit a vehicle and be prepared to provide assistance, they will be welcome. She added that all PD volunteers are asked to make a 4 hour commitment per week and to agree to one year of service.

### **Community Emergency Response Team - Mike Reichling, Fire**

To date over 300 residents have participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Mike Reichling explained the distinction between an emergency which is an every day event (i.e. 3000 calls to FD in July 2010 alone) and a disaster which is an ongoing situation such as a storm with significant aftereffects which may include loss of power, flooding and trees down.

The Community Emergency Response Team Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. (There are 133 first responders in the FD, at any one time only 1/3 are immediately available working their shift.)

The CERT training offers a hands-on simulated experience and is designed to teach participants resiliency and how to be prepared for at least 72 hours. The attendees are then encouraged to support emergency response agencies by signing on to serve as an official community emergency response team members thereby taking a more active role in community emergency preparedness and/or to take this information back to their neighborhood, church group, civic organization, place of business, family etc. and formulate their own supply kits and plans.

The CERT skills participants learn can also apply to daily emergencies. The September edition of Tempe Today (the water bill insert newsletter) will detail the specific contents to include in your family's kit. The website at <http://www.tempe.gov/fire/emergencypreparedness> also lists this information.

### **Adopt A Park – Denise Rentschler, Community Relations and Edith Ross, Parks and Recreation**

Denise Rentschler and Edith Ross explained that there are 48 parks in Tempe, almost one park within a half mile of every residential area. The newest program being launched is the Adopt A Park program which allows neighborhood groups, clubs, non-profit organizations and businesses to Adopt A Park helping to extend the efforts of Parks and Recreation staff to keep it clean and tidy and maintained. Parks and Recreation is asking for a 1-2 year commitment with a minimum of a quarterly cleaning. Duties are not limited to but may include cleaning of park furniture and playground, trash pick up, raking leaves and sand areas, trimming bushes and reporting any vandalism or unsafe conditions. Thus far, five parks have been adopted with a sixth park expected to be adopted soon. Depending on the size of the park, the needs of the park and the volunteer group schedules, one park could be adopted by several groups. Initial priority will be given to those neighborhood or homeowners associations who are in closest proximity to the park. Parks and Recreation is working in concert with Neighborhood Services on outreach to association chairs to make them aware of this new program and the opportunities involved.

Commissioners inquired if individuals could participate. Denise and Edith noted they would be happy to give the interested individual the contact names and numbers for any group leaders who had signed up to see if they could join that group for clean up activities. They added that the Adopt A Park program is in addition to any larger, one time or annual clean ups such as Tempe Cares or the now annual A Mountain spruce up. They endeavor to identify project ideas and locations and try to accommodate whenever possible all interested groups and/or individuals that they can accommodate.

NAC members expressed their interest in further exploring and pursuing adopting a park as a commission. Chair Kaesberg requested that members come to the September meeting prepared to discuss the matter further with each asked to come forward with a park they would like to adopt and a reason why. Staff agreed to follow up with Edith and Denise to verify which parks have already been adopted and to clarify which parks are most in need of attention.

### **City Volunteer Program – Maryanna Bastin, Community Services**

Maryanna emphasized Tempe's commitment to volunteers and volunteerism with multiple and varied opportunities for all ages and interests. Last year over 135,000 volunteer hours were donated to the city. This is equivalent to having an additional 62.5 employees. The volunteer efforts are more important than ever now that so many work areas have lost employees and could use assistance with required maintenance and tasks. The average volunteer commitment needed is 2-4 hours per week.

In addition to significantly helping our organization, volunteerism offers volunteers many intangible rewards such as a greater sense of purpose, increased community involvement, career exploration opportunities and a closer connection to local government. NAC member suggested that a volunteer opportunities session at the annual leadership workshop should be considered. Commissioner Wilson, Outreach Committee Chair agreed and suggested that the slogan/tagline - Tempe has a NAC for community might be a good fit for the commission and/or the workshop.

### **Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Neighborhood Advisory Commission Goals and Review of Committee Structure, Membership and Goals**

Due to meeting time constraints, there was only limited discussion regarding the commission goals. Members noted concerns about small or lack of attendance at committee meetings and debated whether the existing committees were appropriate. Commissioner Wasko briefly described the concept of hot teams which could potentially operate as ad hoc committees. This would perhaps more allow for more flexibility than establishing two to three committees which would exist for the entire year even though they may or may not have timely or time sensitive topics to discuss. The hot teams could be more fluid and would be intended to lead to an action, a deliverable, a decision

or a referral within a 3-6 month window. Further discussion on this concept will take place at upcoming meetings. Shauna noted that hot teams will still be subject to opening meeting law provisions including public and accessible meeting spaces, agendas, meeting minutes, quorums, etc.

For now, the Commission agreed to keep five members per committee with 3 constituting a quorum and to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Commissioner McNamara agreed to be added as a member of the Quality of Life Committee. Additional members are still needed for the Budget/Finance Committee.

**Agenda Item 7 – Proposed Agenda Items for September 1, 2010 Meeting**

South Corridor Study Update (if an update is ready)  
Volunteer Needs in Neighborhood – Adopt a Park  
2011 Neighborhood Workshop and Awards planning  
Committee Structure

**Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist

Reviewed by: Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Services Director